



Date: 07/07/2021

CITY OF MONROE DECLARES JULY 6, 2021, ROBERT SELDON DUNCANSON DAY

(MONROE, MI) – July 6th, 2021, is now officially known as ROBERT SELDON DUNCANSON DAY in the City of Monroe. The proclamation, which was introduced by Mayor Robert E. Clark with the full support of Monroe City Council, was read into the record and approved at the Tuesday, July 6th council meeting.

ROBERT SELDON DUNCANSON DAY brings awareness to and recognizes the life and achievements of one of Monroe’s most distinguished citizens. Born in 1821 in Fayette, Seneca County, New York, Duncanson grew up in Monroe, Michigan, and went on to be recognized as one of the best landscape painters in the United States, and one of the greatest Black American artists of all time. According to the Smithsonian, Duncanson was the “19th Century’s greatest western landscape black American artist.” His paintings are on display in major museums in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Additionally, he was an establishing member of the first Black American art colony in Cincinnati, Ohio and participated in the abolitionist movement by donating several of his esteemed paintings to support the effort to end slavery.

In honor of the bicentennial of his birth, the Robert Seldon Duncanson Committee will be hosting the ‘Duncanson Plein Air Paint Out’; four painting competitions celebrating Duncanson’s life and achievements. The events will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays in July. The dates are set for July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, and July 28th. Artists will compete for cash prizes (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) as they paint local homes, buildings, the River Raisin riverfront, Lake Erie, the River Raisin/Lake Erie harbor, parks, and people, both inside and outside the City limits. On July 28th, an overall grand prize from all four competitions will be chosen as “The Best of the West” and will be given a special award and recognition. Artist’s work will be judged and on display at Agua Dulce Cafe and Tea, 114 West Front Street, Monroe. Prizes will be awarded from artist entry fees and partially from sponsor donations. This is an ideal opportunity for these artists to share, describe, and teach small groups as they paint.

The aforementioned Robert Seldon Duncanson Committee is planning additional art events over the next 18 months honoring Duncanson. For more information on the ‘Duncanson Plein Air Paint Out’ event or other related upcoming events, please contact 734.693.3920 or pbarley@gmail.com, or visit the Robert S. Duncanson Facebook page: Robert S. Duncanson 1821-1872, Bicentennial/ Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan’s third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County.