

Alfred University alumnae to appear on WXXI, discuss involvement with Art Force 5

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ALFRED, NY – Two Alfred University alumnae will be guests on Rochester PBS television station’s “Need to Know,” where they will talk about their recent participation in an Art Force 5 project in Atlanta honoring that city’s first African American police officers.

Alexandria (Hoang) Hubbell ’10 and Mawia Elawad ’17 will be interviewed Thursday morning (Feb. 21) for the “Need to Know” program, which will be aired at 8 p.m. that evening. They will share their experiences working with the Art Force 5 in Atlanta and giving back to their home community of Rochester.

Hubbell and Elawad were among a group of Alfred University alumni who were in Atlanta Jan. 30-Feb. 1 to help lead an Art Force 5 project recognizing eight African American police officers hired by the city in 1948. Members of the community were invited to paint canvas tiles used to create mosaics depicting the eight officers. A group of Alfred University students traveled to Atlanta to take part in the project Jan. 15-17. Dan Napolitano, assistant dean of the Alfred University School of Art and Design, and Hiram Cray, Art Force 5 teaching fellow, accompanied both groups to Atlanta.

The completed mosaics were installed on the outside of the former Butler Street YMCA Building, which in 1948 housed the precinct for the city’s African-American police force.

A four-part show produced by the NFL Network, which features s Art Force 5, is scheduled to air this Friday, Feb. 22. The University will host a screening of the program, beginning at 9 p.m., in Holmes Theater, Harder Hall. The special edition of the NFL Network’s Emmy-nominated NFL 360 series, Impact & Influence, celebrates Black History Month and includes a segment on the Art Force 5 project in Atlanta. The segment on Art Force 5 was produced by Alfred University alumnus Trent Cooper ’92, a producer of original content for NFL Network.

Founded in 2006 at Alfred University, the Art Force 5 is a program that uses community-based art to inspire discussion on topics of equality and social justice. The organization has received national recognition for its unique diversity training and their interactive community-based art, and has a proven record of engaging communities through creativity. Art Force 5 was the recipient of nearly \$400,000 in state grant funding through the State University of New York (SUNY) Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) and Provost’s Performance Improvement Fund (PIF). The two-year grant is funding Art Force 5 projects over a two-year period, 2018 and 2019.