

STUDIOFOLIA TEAM

James Dinh (primary contact)

Tiffany Le

Thinh Nguyen

ADDRESS

12723 Park Street

Cerritos, CA 90703

TELEPHONE

562-841-2512

EMAIL

james@studiofolia.com

As a creative collaborative, we are excited to submit our qualifications for the mural project at Westminster Crossing. Our Studiofolia team is comprised of James Dinh, Tiffany Le, and Think Nguyen. Being Vietnamese-Americans, we all have strong familial and cultural connections to the City of Westminster. We have a vested interest in ensuring that the completed project will truly represent the voices of the community, while being meaningful, enduring, and aesthetically inspiring.

We are highly interested in the Westminster Crossing project because of the opportunity to use art as a placemaking tool to inspire residents and visitors, and to showcase the diverse community stories of Westminster. We would bring to this project experience with engaging the community in the creative process, completing artworks that have been applied to large-scale flat surfaces such as walls, as well as experience working with cities, developers, architects, and diverse socioeconomic and ethnic communities and age groups, including Vietnamese, Hispanic, and youth.

We have decided to apply as a team because we believe each of us would bring to this important project pertinent skills, experiences, and unique creative approaches. James works as a public artist, having completed commissions in California and out of state. In 2017, he completed a significant sculpture in Westminster titled "Of Two Lineages", located at the Asian Garden Mall. Tiffany is a Garden Grove-based illustrator who has exhibited in Orange County and led art workshops. Also based in Garden Grove, Think is an illustrator and textile designer, who has also worked as an educator and exhibited in Orange County.

All of us have been involved in various capacities with social-justice and community organizations that focus on Vietnamese American and other underrepresented communities. We have worked together in various capacities as volunteers for the Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA) based in Santa Ana. James served for six years as a board member of VAALA and currently directs the organization's youth-focused Gallery Beyond Walls program. Tiffany currently is involved with VietRISE, whose mission is to empower low-income immigrant communities in Orange County through building leadership, cultural empowerment, and civic engagement.

Currently, we are collaborating artistically on murals that are intended to be installed at the Advance Beauty College building on Westminster Blvd. For this project, we are teaming with United Way's End Homelessness Campaign to generate a theme based on the idea of "home". A design of ours is currently being considered for a mural at the City of Azusa Library.

For the Westminster Crossing project, James would take the role of creative director, providing the overall vision for the project, while managing the project to ensure that it will be completed within budget, schedule, and meet high standards. Tiffany and Thanh, being illustrators by profession, would provide the artistic vision and execution of the artwork. Since we all have experience organizing and teaching, we would all participate in leading workshops that we intend to hold as part of the Community Engagement Plan for the project.

For the Community Engagement Plan, we propose working with students enrolled in visual art classes at **Westminster High School**. As a readily accessible group, the students would provide a representative cross-section of the diverse communities of Westminster. The arts teacher at Westminster High, Daina Anderson, has initiated several mural projects on campus where outside artists were brought in to work with students. Therefore, she would be a great resource and already familiar with the collaborative process.

We would engage the students in 3 workshops that focus on 3 different topics with different learning outcomes. Each workshop could be 2 days each, with 3 hours per session. Depending on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic, our workshops could be done virtually if necessary.

Aside from informing the design of the Westminster Crossing murals, the workshops are intended to empower youth with technical and creative skills such as critical reflection and writing, observation and photography, and communication and creativity. Tiffany and James have led similar workshops as part of VAALA's Gallery Beyond Walls program.



Westminster High School mural project led by arts teacher and visiting artist

1ST WORKSHOP - ORAL FAMILY HISTORY

Skill: Students learn to record their personal and family history through writing.

Goal: Foster communication and connection between youth and older generations.



Gallery Beyond Walls workshop

2ND WORKSHOP - COMMUNITY OBSERVATION

Skill: Students learn to use smart phones as an expressive observational tool.

Goal: Encourage students to think about and capture what they interpret as representing their community (i.e., their family, neighborhood, sites).



Gallery Beyond Walls workshop

3RD WORKSHOP - CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

Skill: Using what was produced in the previous workshops, students learn to create small mixed-media artworks that combine text, photography, and illustration.

Goal: Use art as a powerful tool for communication.



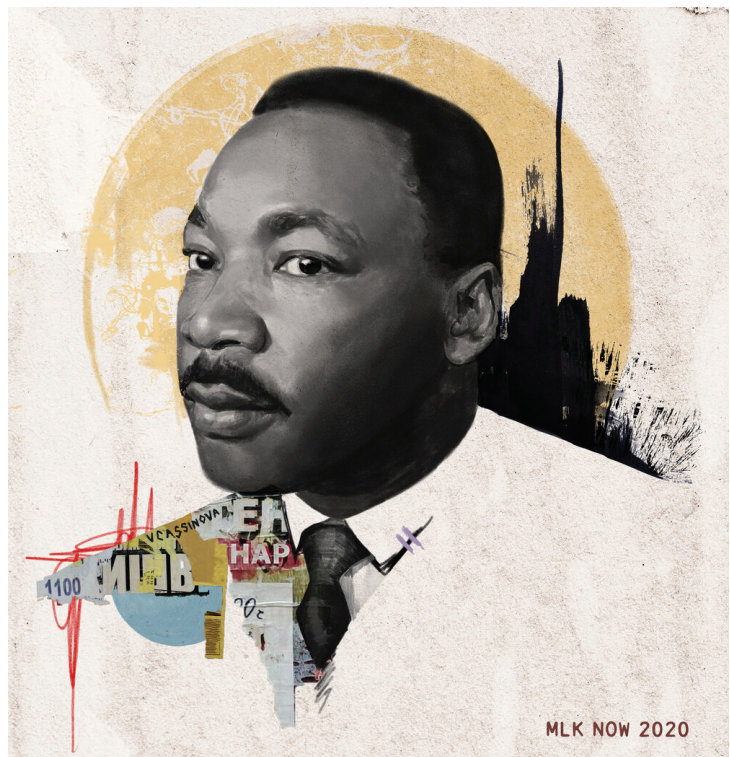
Gallery Beyond Walls workshop

The student-produced artworks will help to inform the content of the two large murals at Westminster Crossing. Our team will use these artworks as sources of inspiration that will tell us about important community stories, features, people, places, etc.

We hope the final mural design will show visitors the diversity of Westminster by showcasing the community's shared stories, such as migration, family, work, etc. Like the mixed-media works produced by the students, the murals would intermix text, photography, and illustration.



We envision the 3rd student workshop will result in mixed-media works similar to these done by illustrator Victoria Cassinova. The student artworks will then help us to visualize the final mural designs.



Though most outdoor murals are intended to communicate from afar like billboards, we envision the Westminster mural to work visually on both the scale of passing cars and walking pedestrians. As one of the intentions of the development is to enliven the pedestrian realm, the mural could provide human-scaled details that would reveal themselves only upon closer examination.

To that end, we envision the mural to be made up of smaller panels rather than single large panels. From afar, the small panels would together read as a bold, captivating singular image. At the same time, from a pedestrian's viewpoint, the small panels would be more like individual artworks hanging in a gallery. The idea is that of a Gallery Beyond Walls—artwork for everyone in the community.

Rather than creating a mural that is painted, we recommend fabricating the final design on powder-coated aluminum panels that could then be attached to the building walls. James used this light-weight material for the “Of Two Lineages” public art project in Westminster. This material is much more durable, fade resistant, and vandal proof than acrylic paint. The panels can be easily replaced if some were to be vandalized.

Rendering showing how the mural could be comprised of smaller panels. The artwork by Tiffany Le is shown for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be the proposed mural design.



James Dinh | Of Two Lineages | Little Saigon, City of Westminster

The artwork is a contemporary re-telling of the traditional Vietnamese founding legend of Lạc Long Quân and Âu Cơ. It celebrates the immigrant story about a people taking roots in a new land, yet connected to the ancestral land through myth, traditions, and family. Surrounding the central steel sculpture is a powder-coated aluminum mural of 100 portraits of everyday Vietnamese Americans, a collaborative project with the Vietnamese American Oral History Project of UC-Irvine.



James Dinh | Hope and Change | Coastal Communities Cancer Hospital, Ventura

Located at the street frontage of a hospital, the artwork panels were inspired by the mountain ranges that form the backdrop of many Southern California communities. The twelve panels form a continuous 50 ft-long landscape that expresses the changing of the seasons.



Tiffany Le | Tragic Waters

A series that explores how the calamitous tides of their times render the stories of female figures.



Think Nguyen | The Only One That Was Willing

Completed for the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles (Illustration West 51)



James Dinh, Tiffany Le, & Think Nguyen | Proposal for Azusa Library mural



Thinh Nguyen | Evanescence



JAMES DINH (primary contact)

www.studiofolia.com
12723 Park Street
Cerritos, CA 90703
562.841.2512

EDUCATION

2002

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

1997

Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, University of California, Los Angeles

1991

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine

EXPERIENCE

2010 – present

Principal – Studiofolia, Los Angeles

2006 – present

Associate Landscape Architectural Designer – Orange Street Studio, Los Angeles

2002 – 2005

Designer – R|H|A|A, Mill Valley & San Francisco

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

2020

Equity Fountain public art, Helena, MT – completed

P. K. Yonge Developmental Research School public art, Gainesville, FL – current finalist

Veterans Memorial Park, Pendleton, OR – finalist

Inspiration Plaza public art, Fremont, CA – finalist

2019

Higuera Adobe public art, Milpitas, CA – commissioned artist

Little Saigon Park public art, Seattle, WA – finalist with Chau Huynh

Veterans Village Supportive Housing public art, Santa Ana, CA – finalist

Coffey Park public art, Santa Rosa, CA – finalist

2018

National Native American Veterans Memorial, Smithsonian, Washington D.C. – finalist

Depot Park public art, Santa Rosa, CA – commissioned artist

Woman's College tribute, Uni. of N. Carolina, Greensboro – commissioned artist

Art in Transit Program, bus shelter public art, San Antonio, TX – completed

Center for Recreational Excellence public art, Hobbs, NM – finalist with Michael Stutz

50th Anniversary public art, Lakewood, CO – finalist with Michael Naranjo

Public Safety Complex public art, Dublin, CA – finalist

JAMES DINH (cont.)

2017

Monument to the Braceros, Los Angeles, CA – finalist
 Of Two Lineages public art, Westminster, CA – completed
 Central Park Entrance Gateway, City of Fremont, CA – finalist
 Oak Knoll Creekside Entry Park public art, Oakland, CA – finalist
 End of Watch Police Memorial, City of San Jose, CA – finalist

2016

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services Public Art, La Verne, CA – completed

2015

LA County Sheriff's Memorial, LA County Arts Commission – commissioned artist

2014

Circles of a Ripple public art, Hacienda Heights Community Center– completed
 Santa Ana Japanese American Farmer Memorial, City of Santa Ana, CA – finalist
 Utah State University Eastern Central Instruction Building public art, Price, UT – finalist

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2019

Orange County Arts Awards Honoree: Achievement Award for Outstanding Artist/Arts Leader

2017

American for the Arts Convention Scholarship

2006

Post-Katrina New Orleans East Design Residency, New Orleans, LA

2002

Stone in the Landscape, stone masonry workshop hosted by Robert Murase, Gray's Bay, WA

TIFFANY LE
www.letealeaf.com
Garden Grove, CA

EDUCATION

2016
Master of Fine Arts in Illustration, California State University, Long Beach

2012
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, with a concentration in Humanities, Soka University

EXPERIENCE

2009 – present
Freelance Illustrator – Le Tea Leaf

2019
Mixed-media instructor – Illuminated Recipes, Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association

2013 – 2014
Multimedia Specialist – SYSPRO USA

2011 – 2012
Art Program Coordinator – Santiago Creek School

EXHIBITIONS

2020
Power in Numbers 5 – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

2019
Post-It Show 15 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Plants Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA
Cats Vs. Dogs Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA
ATLUS Art Exhibit 2019: Persona 5 Royal & Catherine: Full Body Showcase featuring Shigenori Soejima – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

2018
Post-It Show 14 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
NARUTO: The Tribute Exhibition – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
A Tribute Exhibition for Mulan's 20th Anniversary – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
Viet Stories: Recollections and Regenerations – Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Yorba Linda, CA
Sailor Scouts in Love – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA

TIFFANY LE (cont.)

2017

Giant Robot Presents: Pop Totoro Mash Up – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA
 Alice in Winter Wonderland – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA
 Giant Robot Post-It Show 13 – Giant Robot 2, Los Angeles, CA
 Corgis in Cosplay – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA
 Mermaids & Macarons – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA
 Be Our Guest: An Art Tribute To Disney’s Beauty and the Beast – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Pokemon in Love – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA

2016

Ghibli & Friends – Honey & Butter, Irvine, CA
 Catching Sakura: A Cardcaptor Sakura Tribute Gallery – Comic Book Hideout, Fullerton, CA
 Giant Robot Post-It Show Twelve – Giant Robot 2, Los Angeles, CA
 Coaster Show – Nucleus Portland, Portland, OR
 Laika 10Yr Anniversary Exhibition / Halloween Party – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Official Tezuka 70th / Unico 40th Celebration – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Through Dangers Untold: A Labyrinth 30th Anniversary – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Tàu: Boat, Ship, Vessel, Craft – CSULB, Long Beach, CA
 Bartkira Nuclear Edition Book Launch & Exhibition – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Journey-scapes – FAAIM, Chicago, IL
 Power Rangers #0 Comic Launch / Official Tribute Exhibition – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

2015

Giant Robot Post-It Show Eleven – Giant Robot 2, Los Angeles, CA
 Generations: 40 Hues Between Black & White – OC Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA
 Spirit of the Wind: A Studio Ghibli Tribute Show – Rothick Art Haus, Anaheim, CA
 Hatsune Miku Dreams of Electric Sheep – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

2014

Giant Robot Post-It Show X – Giant Robot 2, Los Angeles, CA
 Moon Crisis: A Sailor Moon Tribute Art Show – Rothick Art Haus, Anaheim, CA
 A Tribute to Naughty Dog: 30th Anniversary – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

2013

Out of the Shire: A Tribute Exhibition to Middle-Earth – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA

THINH NGUYEN

www.thinhnguyenart.com

Garden Grove, CA

EDUCATION

2016

Certificate, Textile/Surface Design, University of California, Otis College of Art and Design

2013

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration, with Minor in Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude, California State University, Fullerton

EXPERIENCE

2018 – present

Associate Textile Designer – Wilmington Prints, Rancho Dominguez

2019

Guest Lecturer – Southern University of Utah

2017

Assistant Textile Designer – Spring Tex Group, City of Industry

2014 – 2016

Creative Developer & Art Instructor – Aspire Art Studios, Irvine & Cerritos

EXHIBITIONS

2020

Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles – Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art, Van Nuys, CA

2019

Post-It Show 15 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Plants Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA

Cats Vs. Dogs Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA

Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles – Swains HQ, Glendale, CA

2018

Post-It Show 14 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Plants Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA

Year of the Dog Show – Giant Robot Store, Los Angeles, CA

2017

Post-It Show 13 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles – Pop Secret Gallery, Eagle Rock, CA

2016

Post-It Show 12 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

THINH NGUYEN (cont.)

2015

12 Days of Star Wars – Pop Secret Gallery, Eagle Rock, CA
 Post-It Show 11 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles – Pop Secret Gallery, Eagle Rock, CA

2014

Post-It Show 10 – Giant Robot Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 2nd Annual Illustration Competition Show – TSU: Center Gallery, Fullerton, CA

2013

LIFELINE: A Solo Exhibition – CSUF Exit Gallery, Fullerton, CA
 Winter Exhibit: Emerge – VAALA Cultural Center, Santa Ana, CA
 Asian Pacific Festival Art Walk at the Newport Beach Waterfront Resort – Newport Beach, CA
 Juried Show by SixPack Projects – CSUF Annual Student Exhibition
 Springtime at the Arboretum: A Botanical & Landscape Watercolor Exhibition by CSUF Art Students
 1st Annual Illustration Competition Show – CSUF West Gallery, Fullerton, CA, 1st Place

2012

Juried Show for CSUF Art4Health – Healing in Disguise
 Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles – Gallery Nucleus, Alhambra, CA
 Juried Show by SixPack Projects – CSUF Annual Student Exhibition
 Juried Show by SixPack Projects – CSUF Annual Student Exhibition

AWARDS

2012 – 2013

Art Alliance Florence Milner Arnold Scholarship
 Accepted into the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles (Illustration West 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58)
 Creative Quarterly 39, 41: Runners-Up

2011 – 2012

Recipient for the Art Alliance Florence Milner Arnold Scholarship

2007 – 2008

Ryman Arts Program Alumni 2007-08