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Chicago Loop Alliance unveils *CityScape* artwork on State Street banners August 1

First public art commission for Chicago-based artist Nate Otto coincides with CLA's monthly Pop-Up Art Loop gallery walk

CHICAGO (July 25, 2013)—**Chicago Loop Alliance** (CLA) unveils *CityScape*, a vibrant series of imaginative metropolitan artworks by Chicago-based artist **Nate Otto**, on State Street banners on Thursday, Aug. 1. CLA commissioned Otto, a Columbia College Chicago graduate, to showcase his preexisting artwork on the banners, which adorn lamp posts north from Congress Parkway to Wacker Drive. *CityScape* is a continuation of CLA's ongoing work to activate public space downtown using art, design and technology, and will remain on display through Nov. 1, 2013, in celebration of the myriad artistic events in Chicago this fall.

Otto was previously a featured artist in CLA's **Pop-Up Art Loop** program, a year-round initiative that draws attention to available retail storefronts through vibrant temporary art galleries open to the public. The *CityScape* unveiling coincides with CLA's monthly **Pop-Up Art Loop gallery walk** on Aug. 1 from 5-8 p.m. This free, self-guided tour of the many new art exhibits throughout the Loop includes complimentary wine and a Smilebooth photo booth. For a complete list of current galleries, visit www.PopUpArtLoop.com.

"Along with Chicago Loop Alliance's recent activations of public space in the Loop, Nate's inventive paintings add to residents and visitors' sense of discovery and enjoyment," says CLA Executive Director **Michael Edwards**. "We've always been committed to enlivening the Loop experience, which is a key factor in driving economic development."

Chicago Loop Alliance's recent public activations include *Float*, a 2500-square-foot mural on the façade of the historic Century Building (202 S. State Street), and *The Gateway*, a placemaking experiment on the State Street median south of Wacker Drive.

"The city is what I see every day, and the places I construct are a filtered reflection of this environment—my landscapes are imagined and not representational," says *CityScape* artist **Nate Otto**. "On State Street my work can literally become a part of the landscape that it celebrates. I am deeply honored to have my work so prominently displayed in the heart of the city I love."

Otto studied art at the University of Kansas and the Art Institute of Chicago before graduating from Columbia College Chicago. His artistic vision was formed by art brut, the Chicago imagists, comic book art, street art, abstract expressionism, color field painting and graphic design. He aims to make art that is accessible but not easy, simple but not vacant, fun but not weightless, and colorful but not garish. Otto taught art to adults with developmental disabilities at Misericordia for many years, which greatly influenced his art and his worldview

Chicago Loop Alliance is a member-based business organization that represents Chicago's most dynamic mixed-use district—the Loop—and advocates for the rapidly growing central business area. CLA is focused on promoting and uniting Loop businesses and organizations to support one another in creating a vibrant, flourishing Loop where people live, work and play. For more information, please visit www.chicagoloopalliance.com.

The **Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation** is a nonprofit corporation that develops, supports and promotes artistic, cultural and public events that benefit businesses, individuals and stakeholders within in the service area of Chicago Loop Alliance.

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