“When we decided to move forward with painting Wanáȟča, we did so with the understanding that our experience would be altered by the impacts of COVID-19. We made the decision to follow our timeline and create for our community because we understood that our intention in creating this mural has always been rooted in showcasing triumph over adversity. Our message grew stronger and our mural became a space for people to find comfort during this uniquely difficult moment in our collective lives. The pandemic has created so much grief and worry and uncertainty for so many. Coupled with the rising racial tensions throughout the US, our reality has begged us to expand our emotional capacities in order to truly see one another and to connect on a basic human level; which is exactly what art has consistently asked of us.”

- Reyna Hernandez (Ihanktonwan Dakota)

Lead artists pictured from left to right: Amber Hansen, Elizabeth Skye (Oglala/Hunkpapa Lakota), Reyna Hernandez (Ihanktonwan Dakota), and Inkpa Mani (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)

Other artists who helped (not pictured): Jenae Porter and Sonia Perea-Morales

*Picture taken during dedication ceremony for Part 1 in 2019.

Follow this Indigenous-led team and see Part 2 of this community-based mural project at: www.facebook.com/vermillioncommunitymural