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CREATED BY JO PACKHAM



City Taking Flight

By Jo Packham

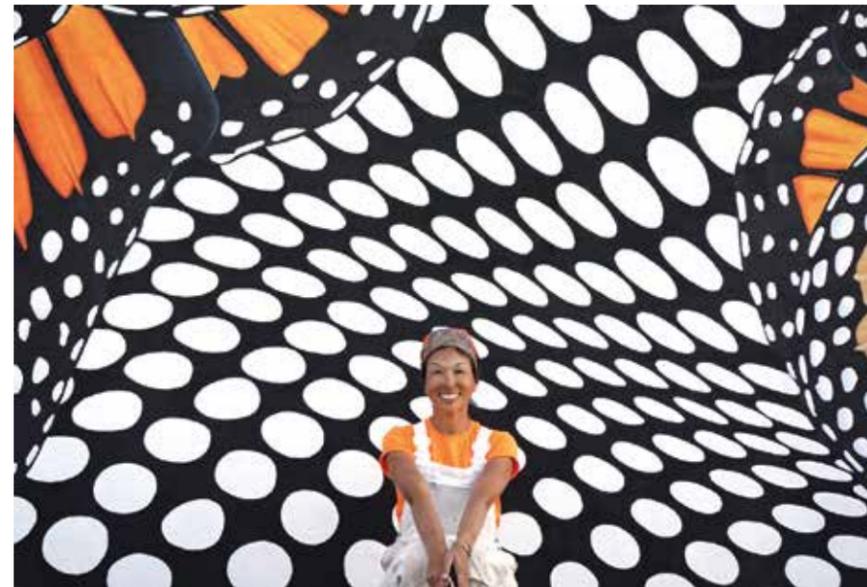
A dream, a visionary, an intertwined group of artists, a mixed assembly of entrepreneurs, a university, and a city have created an alliance to transform an inner city into the Nine Rails Creative District in Ogden, Utah. Thaine Fischer is the visionary, Nine Rails is the new Creative District which pays tribute to Ogden's history—as a storied railroad town with its connection to the Transcontinental Railroad and the infamous Historic 25th Street.

In 1927, Archie Bigelow unveiled the Bigelow Hotel and Garage. Over the years, the garage located almost in downtown Ogden was occupied by a variety of automobile-related businesses until it was ultimately abandoned in 1993. Over ninety years later, these two grand buildings are again celebrating together with their communities of both art and business.

Let me introduce to you The Monarch Building. The Monarch will be the epicenter of the Nine Rails Creative District and will be the future home to artisans, designers, and creatives of all types. The Monarch will offer restaurant, retail and event space, exhibit and collaborative space, and artisan and designer creative studios. The goal of the Nine Rails Creative District is to develop an epicenter for art and culture that provides opportunities for the creative community to live, develop, share and teach their diverse skills.

Why is the building in the middle of the Nine Rails Creative District lovingly and intentionally named the Monarch building? Because mural artist, Jane Kim has begun the process of painting a 2,000 square-foot mural on the

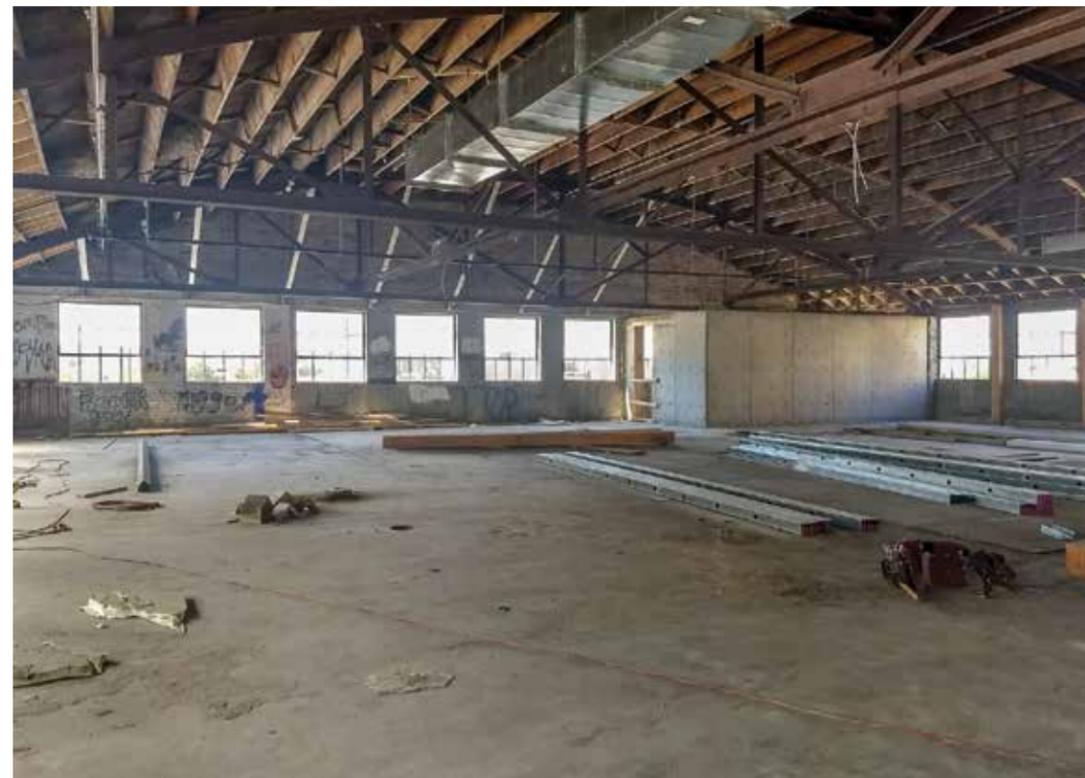




side of our building. Her project, Migrating Murals, focuses on bringing attention and paying homage to the beautiful Monarch Butterfly, whose migration pattern flows right through Ogden.

While other butterflies migrate not at all or very subtly, Monarch butterfly migration is a phenomenon that occurs each summer and autumn which some have called one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world. Western populations migrate through the Rocky Mountains to wintering sites in California. They arrive in November and then begin the trip back in March. Individual butterflies do not complete a round trip. Females lay their eggs for the next generation during the migration. Four generations complete the migration cycle.

Jane Kim is inspired by this phenomenon and upon learning about our own dream of expanding the art community in Ogden, approached Weber State University and Ogden City about making the Monarch her canvas for one piece of her project. The two were a perfect fit, not only because of the mural, but also the definition of the word meaning “the top or head” as Ogden is the heart of the Nine Rails Creative District. The Monarch will welcome cre-



atives, artists, designers, photographers, musicians, restaurateurs, retailers and entrepreneurs to a new collaborative home that will give flight to their inspiration.

To make creators and creative dreams come true it requires a sincere appreciation of the importance of art in all forms in all things...science, technology, business, and living. Ogden may be my town, but it is also one of many small towns across America that is realizing this newer generation wants to live, eat, work, play, and create in one space. No longer do they want to live in the suburbs, commute to work, or travel for entertainment. They are urban dwellers whose main focus is the “art of loving and living life!” We all have much to learn from them, and it is an honor to play a very small part in helping make all of our dreams in our town become our reality.

The photographs on these pages detail the beginning of an enormous project funded, not by a big corporation investing to make even more money, but smaller corporations in every category working together and investing in a life we dream of and a city that we love.

Upcoming columns will take you further along the journey to its completion and the realization of our dream.