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Newest Fry's Food Store to Feature Original Mural by Local Artist

June 21, 2017 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center, in partnership with Fry's Food Stores, commissioned Valley-based artist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus to create a mural within the newest Fry's Marketplace, located at 2724 Signal Butte Road in Mesa, Arizona. The store is scheduled to open with a celebration and ribbon cutting at 7 a.m. on Friday, June 24.

Submissions for the 12.5ft wide by 5ft high mural were requested from artists living and working in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The request for qualifications specified that the mural should "use local references to evoke a creative, uplifting feeling that encourages community and celebrates the spirit of the neighborhood." Fry's Food Stores awarded the selected artist, Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, \$7500 for the commission.

"Thomas was selected because of his connection to the community and his unique talent," said Bo Wachendorf, Art Project Manager, Fry's Food Stores. "He was able to convey the spirit of the neighborhood with an uplifting image of the surrounding landscape and capture a postcard feel."

Thomas is a full-time gallery artist and muralist with over 20 years' experience. He was born and raised on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community, and has lived in Mesa and other East Valley cities. He's exhibited his work in a variety of venues including Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Heard Museum, and has his work in the collections of The Philbrooke Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma and The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman, Oklahoma. He's currently represented by Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

His goal is to evoke the beauty of the nearby Superstition Mountains and Sonoran Desert that surround this Mesa neighborhood store, reflect the bold and dynamic colors found in our Arizona sunsets, and feature iconic symbols of the Southwest region.

"We were pleased to be a part of the process to identify a local artist to personalize the new Marketplace. This investment in and reflection of the community is a model we encourage and are proud to support," said Robert Schultz, Assistant Arts and Culture Director, City of Mesa. "We hope this collaboration inspires other area businesses to work together with local artists and arts organizations to bring the unique character of their geographic region to their stores."

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About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning

facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

About Fry's

Fry's Food Stores is headquartered in Tolleson, Arizona. The company employs more than 18,000 Arizona residents and operates 120 Fry's Food Stores (includes new store). Fry's has been serving Arizonans' with fresh food at famous low prices since 1960.

Fry's has many employment opportunities. For details about full and part-time opportunities, visit jobs.frysfood.com. *Join for a job – stay for a career!*

For more information about Fry's or ClickList, visit the company's web site at www.Frysfood.com. Fry's is a division of the Kroger Co. (Fry's also is available on Face Book, Instagram and Twitter.)