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VILLAGE OF PHOENIX
SWEET MEMORIAL BUILDING
455 Main Street
Phoenix, New York 13135
Phone (315) 695-2484 Fax (315) 695-3311

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**LOCAL ARTIST AWARDED GRANT FROM CNY ARTS:
DESIGN IDEAS WELCOME**

The Village of Phoenix is pleased to announce that Brenden Backus, a local artist and business owner, has been awarded a grant from CNY Arts under the 2017 Individual Artist Commissions Program for the State Street Courtyard Project. Grants from CNY Arts provide support for the creation of new artwork with exceptional community involvement in the design process in Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego Counties that meet certain criteria. Funds are provided through the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by CNY Arts.

Mr. Backus will use the grant funds to create a one of a kind metal work of art to be permanently displayed at the courtyard on State Street. He will work with Village residents to develop a concept that pays homage to the Village's industrial past, the Great Fire of 1916, the rebirth of the community after the fire, and the Village's recent success revitalizing the Canal Waterfront District. Members of the community are invited to attend the Community Design Workshop to be held on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00pm in the Sweet Memorial Building located at 455 Main Street in the Village of Phoenix to learn about the grant funded project, meet Mr. Backus, and share their ideas for the artwork.

Mr. Backus will use the input obtained from the Community Design Workshop to develop two renderings for the project. Members of the community will be asked to vote on their preference of renderings during the month of July. Results of the vote will be tallied and Mr. Backus will fabricate the winning design. A ceremony will be held in September at the courtyard to unveil the artwork and officially welcome the public to the newly created State Street Courtyard.

For further information on this project, please contact Village Administrator Jim Lynch at 315 695-2484.