

## “REMEMBERING THE ROLLER RINK”

### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 26, 2011

**Winnipeg, MB** – On **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30** am the West End BIZ will be unveiling its latest mural project, “**Remembering the Roller Rink.**” Completed by artists **Annie Bergen and Marcus Bauer** under our award-winning mural program, this large-scale public art piece is the latest addition to the West End’s ever growing outdoor mural gallery. **The piece is located on the west wall of the West End BIZ office, at 581 Portage Avenue,** where the unveiling will take place. **The public and media are invited to attend.**

“*Remembering the Roller Rink*” pays tribute to the former **Winnipeg Roller Rink** which stood at the corner of Portage and Langside (across the street from the BIZ office), since the 1930’s. The aging building was torn down in 2007, but its wooden floor boards were preserved and incorporated into the new **University of Winnipeg Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex**, which now stands on the site. The roller rink building started as a livery stable, then served as an ice skating rink, followed by a storage facility, before becoming a year-round roller skating rink, believed to be the largest in Canada. At times the rink saw upwards of 1,150 skaters at a time packed into the building. Its popularity drew people from all over Manitoba and roller skating clubs would regularly meet there for dance skating, trick skating and lessons. The rink became a favourite place for all ages and a Winnipeg icon.

This mural depicts an interior look of the roller rink, capturing the fun and energy of the skating experience. The popular disco ball is incorporated into the mural using real glass and dance skaters actually stand out from the wall itself. This mural is a must see piece!

**A collection of Winnipeg Roller Rink memorabilia** will be on display at the unveiling and the former owner will be in attendance. West End BIZ **Executive Director, Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner**, recalls, “**I, like so many others in the city, spent many hours at that rink. It was a special time we all remember.**” The mural was commissioned by the West End BIZ, with **supporting sponsor University of Winnipeg.**

The West End BIZ Mural program is award-winning, having won the prestigious **International Downtown Association’s “Award of Distinction”** and named a Top Ten Attraction in Canada by **WHERE Magazine.**

The West End Business Improvement Zone (West End BIZ) is a non-profit organization committed to working with area business and stakeholders to enhance and promote Winnipeg’s West End.

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For further information or to arrange interviews or photo opportunities, please call Gloria Cardwell-Hoepfner, Executive Director, West End BIZ at 954-7900 or 290-WEST (9378).