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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***The ABC's of Public Art* Book Available to Families, Teachers, and Mentors  
from The Arts Commission**

TOLEDO, OH – Free copies of The Arts Commission's book, *The ABC's of Public Art*, illustrated by local artist Merrill Rainey, are still available to interested families, teachers, and/or mentors of young children. The publication will also be distributed through literacy and outreach programs with a goal of having copies in the hands of thousands of 3 to 5 year-old learners.

Now in its second edition since 2012, *The ABC's of Public Art* is an alphabet book that features the City of Toledo's rich public art collection. Children will follow Artimus the Owl through a tour of Northwest Ohio to learn about an impressive collection of large-scale sculptures, murals and functional structures by noted artists from both our region and from around the world. As Artimus takes photographs of the works, he learns new words quite literally from A to Z.

To order your copy of *The ABC's of Public Art*, contact Nathan Mattimoe, Art in Public Places Director for The Arts Commission, at NMattimoe@[theartscommission.org](mailto:NMattimoe@theartscommission.org).

A [digital copy of the book](#) is available on [our website](#).

**About the Illustrator**

Merrill Rainey is an award-winning illustrator, designer, author, and paper engineer. His most recent books include *Color, Cut, Create • Dinosaur World*,

and *Color, Cut, Create • Horse Ranch* published by Odd Dot an imprint of Macmillan Publishing. Merrill is also the author and Illustrator for a new board book series with HarperCollins. The first book *Roar! I'm a Dinosaur* was published in July, 2022.

He works for many children's magazines like Highlights, Cricket, Ranger Rick, and Humpty Dumpty. He has served on faculty at the Highlights Foundation retreat center and is currently the illustrator coordinator for the Northern Ohio chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Merrill lives in Whitehouse, Ohio with his family. Visit him online at [littlerainey.com](http://littlerainey.com) or follow him on Instagram @littlerainey.

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For more information, contact The Arts Commission:  
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The Arts Commission is the longest standing arts commission in the state of Ohio, founded in 1959, administering the City of Toledo's One Percent for Art Program since 1977. The Arts Commission is supported in part by the Ohio Arts Council and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.