

July 22, 2022



SUMMIT, NJ - A new mural by artist Kevin O'Connell-- featuring bright flowers and the faux facade of a cottage -- now adorns a six-foot tall wall on Union Place located behind the Summit Diner and separating the Diner and the building that houses Pizza Vita.

Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) contracted with [O'Connell](#) and coordinated with Summit Diner owners Jimmy & Michelle Greberis to improve the appearance of the wall, which is made of cinderblock. The mural was just completed one week ago.

"While SDI is most recognized for the Summit Farmers Market, 'Family Fun Night' and other downtown events, the beautification of downtown Summit is also part of what SDI works on to create an atmosphere that people want to keep returning to, which in turn supports the wonderful businesses here," said SDI Executive Director Nancy Adams.

South Orange resident [O'Connell](#) is a renowned muralist with works all over the country. For more than 30 years, he has been painting letters and pictures on every imaginable surface, from billboards to brick walls, storefronts to stage flats, gallery walls to canvases, museums to kitchens. His years painting huge pictorial signs in the outdoor advertising industry taught him how to work at unimaginable scale and to satisfy the most demanding art directors in New York City.

Summit Downtown, Inc. has been working within its Design & Beautification Committee, with representation from Summit Public Art, for over a year to choose the artist and has been collaborating with O'Connell to determine the design of the mural.



In its day-to-day management of the downtown Special Improvement District, SDI works with the City of Summit on many initiatives while creating events to draw people downtown and marketing initiatives to promote the business district to the surrounding market. Summit Downtown, Inc. also just finished having more than 80 of the downtown tree wells replanted or embellished with more perennials to further beautify downtown, and SDI is also responsible for the market string lights that line the streets and cross Maple Street downtown.



Before