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Promo-Hobos Scripture, left, and Steven Gootgeld get ready for T-Dog.

# Promo Hobos bring hip hop and street art to Taos Plaza

By Rick Romancito

It could've been bad. Due to a miscommunication, street art by Promo Hobo outlaws that they installed on buildings at Taos Plaza was about to be taken down by town employees. Luckily, word went to the right people and the work was allowed to remain.

That was on Thursday (July 25), a little before the Hobos were supposed to debut not only the street art they worked so hard to complete, but also to showcase one of their youngest members, T-Dog, who planned to perform a rap before the regular Taos Plaza Live! show.

Finding a place for the Hobos has been a running theme in Taos ever since the artists stepped out to make bold statements in removable graffiti-style art on abandoned buildings and other public structures. In fact, before a Curator's Wall exhibition opened May 18 at the prestigious Harwood Museum of Art a threat to have them arrested was rumored. For what, no one could say, but since it didn't happen, the threat obviously was empty.

In an effort to make sure they fit into the Taos art matrix, the Harwood has also kept up a relationship with the art-

ists, a support it sees as beneficial to the community and to street art as an artform that museums all over the world are beginning to embrace, according to the museum's Director of Learning and Public Programs Rebecca Aubin.

Aubin was in charge of a Friday (July 26) reception for a large mural local youth created that was the culmination of an "Outdoor Messy Art" workshop supervised and inspired by the Hobos. There were 19 kids, ages 6-17, involved in the workshop, "a record for the Harwood," some of whom paid \$100 to attend, with the rest "on scholarship" thanks to the Faskin Fund, Aubin said.

The Harwood will continue to help the public understand the roots of this art form when it conducts a special panel discussion on Aug. 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. It will bring together the artists of Promo Hobo, art historians Richard Tobin and Debbie Vincent, Interim Taos Police Chief David Weaver and town of Taos Facilities Director Steve Kennebeck, who is in opposition to graffiti and street art in the town of Taos.

The discussion should be very interesting.

For more, call the Harwood Museum, 238 Ledoux Street, at (575) 758-9826 or visit [hardwoodmuseum.org](http://hardwoodmuseum.org).