

**"Prison is where
relationships go
to die."**

Rebuilding Community & Decarcerating Art with Antonio Howard

Join us on Saturday, December 18 for a conversation with local artist, author and community leader Antonio Howard, joined by Erie Arts and Culture's Patrick Fisher. Antonio will discuss his approach to art, how it has been shaped by his experiences with the carceral system, and the importance of information access in prisons. Antonio was sentenced to life in prison at just 15, and began studying and creating art as a way to give voice to his experiences. If "prison is where relationships go to die" - the title of one piece by Antonio, exhibited by the Erie Art Museum in 2019 - then art is one way for incarcerated people to rebuild relationships and combat systematic isolation. Erie locals may recognize his work from the walls of the Erie Food Co-op



or the Manus Sunoco building. He is a pardon fellow for the Pardon Project of Erie County and an organizing member of Erie's Participatory Defense Hub. He also sits on the board of directors for the Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA, and is a 2021 recipient of a business start-up grant awarded by the Erie County Redevelopment Authority for murals by Antonio Howard, LLC. His work is currently on display on the first floor of the Blasco Library.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration required.

Saturday | December 18 | 1-3 PM | Blasco Peninsula Room