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For Immediate Release

Caleb Neelon to Paint an Ed Emberley-inspired Mural in the Cambridge Public Library

CAMBRIDGE, MA – – The Cambridge Public Library (CPL) is pleased to announce that the Cambridge Public Library Foundation, with support from the Margret and H.A. Rey Curious George Fund, has commissioned a mural in the Children’s Room at the Main Library. Muralist Caleb Neelon will paint a mural inspired by the work of celebrated artist and children’s book author, Ed Emberley. Work will begin on January 7, 2019. The public is invited to view the installation process.

Ed Emberley grew up in Cambridge and studied at the Massachusetts School of Art (now Massachusetts College of Art and Design) in Boston and the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. He has written and illustrated over 100 books, including his popular how-to-draw books for children. Emberley is a recipient of the Caldecott Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a children’s book illustrator, for *Drummer Hoff*, a 1968 collaboration with his wife, Barbara.

Caleb Neelon was inspired to become a muralist when he visited Germany and was moved by the graffiti and murals on the Berlin Wall. Neelon made a name for himself in the global graffiti scene under the name SONIK and his murals and artworks can be seen in city streets and exhibitions throughout the world. Neelon's portfolio of recent activity includes studio artwork, cultural diplomacy projects through the U.S. State Department, curatorial work at museums, and projects bringing artwork to hospitals. Neelon has authored or collaborated on over two dozen books, including HarperCollins’ 2011 landmark, *The History of American Graffiti*, co-authored with Roger Gastman, and a 2014 coffee table book of Ed Emberley’s drawings written in collaboration with designer, Todd Oldham, titled *Ed Emberley*.

“The Cambridge Public Library is honored to have work by Caleb Neelon inspired by Ed Emberley in the Children’s Room. The childhood experiences of many of our patrons and their children were influenced by Ed Emberley’s illustrations and we are excited that we will now have a tribute to Ed’s work on display in the Children’s Room, where it will inspire a new generation of children,” said Dr. Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries for the City of Cambridge. Julie Roach, the Manager of Youth Services agrees. “Our patrons love Ed Emberley’s books and we are thrilled to celebrate his art in this way,” Roach said. “We hope children and families will visit the Children’s Room in January to see the mural as it is being painted and to make some art of their own.”

The installation can be viewed in the Children’s Room, third floor of the Main Library (449 Broadway), during the following hours:

Monday - Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, from 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

About the Cambridge Public Library:

The Cambridge Public Library opened in 1889 and serves the community of Cambridge, Massachusetts. It provides free access to information for over 105,000 Cambridge residents and provides an engaging community space for innovative events and programming.

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