

The Town of Blacksburg is continuing a public arts program centered around local water heritage and water quality. Building on the success of last year's program – Blacksburg will be seeking design concepts from local artists to adorn some selected storm drains around town – with a mission to raise awareness about the choices (and changes) we can all make to restore the health of our local impaired waterways.

Artists ages 18+ are invited to submit storm drain designs by **Friday, March 20, 2020** at 11:59PM. Town staff will review the submissions and select the final choices.



COMPLETED 2018 STORM DRAIN MURAL ON CLAY STREET
ARTIST: MICHAEL ST. GERMAIN

Selected artists will be offered a **\$350 per location** stipend for installing their work. The Town will supply a maximum of 5 colors of paint¹ at no cost to the artist, along with some incidental supplies (drop cloths, tape). Brushes and all other supplies must be provided by the artist.

¹ For durability of the work, the artists will be required to use a particular type/brand of outdoor and pavement-appropriate paint. Selected artists will be directed to a local paint store where they may choose their desired colors.

DESIGN PROPOSAL

YOUR ARTWORK SHOULD ADDRESS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

1. The Town of Blacksburg's Freshwater Heritage
2. The Protection of Stroubles Creek
3. New River Watershed's Natural Beauty: local wildlife, healthy habitat & natural beauty

DESIGNS GUIDELINES AND OTHER CRITERIA:

- Please use the template provided to propose design concepts. Be mindful that some changes to design may be required to accommodate the specific location. We encourage artists to submit a design that could be readily adjusted and/or scaled to match the specific dimensions of the site.
- Each storm drain is made of concrete with a metal manhole cover on top, or a slatted grate. On average, the drains measure approximately **10'** in length, **3.5'** in width at the short end.
- You may submit more than one design concept.
- Designs must be painted on the area surrounding the drain and must run to or incorporate the drain. The lip of the drain where it connects to the street is approximately 8" high. You may paint into the street up to one foot beyond the lip. Please use the template as a guide.
- Designs may not contain any business promotions or advertisements, websites or social media handles.
- Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, brands or trademarks or depictions of illegal activity.
- Designs may not incorporate any physical objects attached to the drains.
- Designs should be public friendly and address the program themes.
- If the final design differs greatly from the proposed design, the Town of Blacksburg reserves the right to remove the artwork.
- Multiple entries are allowed, and artists may indicate their preference for location, but Town Staff will make the final determination on which design goes where.

SELECTION PROCESS

Please submit the proposed piece in digital format, with sufficient detail so the selection team can discern aesthetic intent and proposed color scheme. All entries are to be submitted to the stormwater@blacksburg.gov email address. If your file size is greater than 5MB, then simply email the address above prior to submission and a link to an ftp site will be provided.

Winning artists will be selected by **March 27, 2020**. All proposals will be evaluated on integration of themes, artistic merit, clarity of messaging, and storm drain integration.

PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

- Artists will be notified on or before **April 1** if they have been conditionally selected as a winner (pending signing of artist agreement).
- Painting can begin in **May**, as soon as Virginia Tech graduation events are complete.
- All painting must be completed prior to **July 31**.
- Upon completion of approved artwork, artists will each receive a **\$350 per location** stipend.

PROJECT RULES & REGULATIONS

TOWN RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Town of Blacksburg will clean and prepare each surface for painting. Note: it may not be possible to fix all cracks, so artists should plan to incorporate surface imperfections into their design as needed.
- The Town will supply a maximum of 5 colors of a non-slip, pavement-grade paint at no cost to the artist, along with a clear sealant and some incidental supplies (drop cloths, tape). Note: Brushes and other supplies must be provided by the artist at their own expense.
- The Town will be responsible for application of a clear sealant upon completion of the mural.
- The Town of Blacksburg Public Works will provide traffic cones and other safety measures to protect the artist from vehicular traffic as appropriate on the designated painting days.
- The Town staff will coordinate painting days and times with artists.
- Town will erect temporary signage to direct pedestrians away from area on painting days and coordinate with adjacent property owners and businesses to minimize disruptions.

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Artist will take reasonable precautions to ensure they are visible and out of the path of vehicular traffic while painting and are not creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians.
- Artist will communicate with Town staff on their preferred painting windows well in advance to allow adequate time for surface prep as well as sidewalk closure signs and barricades.
- In order to minimize disruption to pedestrians and vehicular traffic, artists are expected to complete their work **within 4 consecutive business days**, provided there are no weather delays.
- Artist should plan for variable weather conditions, and be prepared to postpone work during rain events. Artists should wear appropriate clothing and stay hydrated.
- Due to their adjacency to the street, most of storm drains are in exposed, unshaded locations. Artists are strongly encouraged to begin work early in the morning to avoid excessive heat.
- Artist will take precautions to ensure no paint is spilled into storm drain inlet or surfaces outside of paintable areas. Artist will properly dispose of waste/rinse water (i.e. not on ground or down storm drain).

INDEMNITY

Each artist agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Blacksburg from any loss or damage, any and all third party claims, demands, actions, legal fees or costs for which the Artist is legally responsible, including those arising out of negligence, willful harm, or crimes by the Artist or the Artist's employees, agent or subcontractors. This "hold harmless" agreement shall survive beyond the term of the Artist's service contract.

The Town of Blacksburg will not be liable or responsible for any bodily or personal injury or property damage of any nature that may be suffered by the Artist, their employees, agents or subcontractors in the performance of this Project, except to the extent of any negligence or misconduct on the part of the Town of Blacksburg.

VANDALISM AND MAINTENANCE

Artists should understand that the finished works will be on working drains and that time and weather will eventually cause artwork to fade. While the Town will provide a clear vandal-resistant varnish, artists should also be aware that the Town of Blacksburg cannot prevent vandalism to said artwork. Artists must accept the possibility that their artwork may be altered, removed or damaged at any time after completion.

COPYRIGHT

Each artist further grants the Town of Blacksburg the following exclusive rights:

(a) Reproduction (including electronic images) for fundraising, educational and promotional purposes.
(b) The right to remove the artwork (or sections of the artwork) from the site for any reason, including but not limited to:

- Endangerment of public safety
- Damage to the drain (including vandalism) requiring repair or maintenance
- Replacement or maintenance of the drain

QUESTIONS?

Kafi Howard, Town Engineer	khoward@blacksburg.gov	443-1354
Carol Davis, Sustainability Manager	cdavis@blacksburg.gov	443-1617
Will Lattea, Energy & Environmental Specialist	wlattea@blacksburg.gov	443-1618