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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: STORM DRAIN ART PROJECT CALL FOR ARTISTS

The streets and sidewalks of Lynchburg are connected to the James River by a network of over 15,000 stormwater drains. Whenever it rains, all the water—and whatever else is in the drain, including trash, oil, gasoline, and natural debris—is carried directly to the James River. In order to raise awareness about the importance of stormwater drains in keeping the James River clean, Lynchburg Water Resources and the James River Council for the Arts and Humanities (JRCAH) are inviting artists to submit designs for storm drain art in downtown Lynchburg.

Seven locations have been selected throughout downtown Lynchburg and artists are invited to submit paintable designs that embody one of the following themes:

- Stormwater Pollution: “Only Rain Down the Drain;”
- Environmental Protection: Why clean water is important for everyone;
- James River/Lynchburg Ecosystem: Local wildlife/habitat, natural beauty.

Artists are encouraged to think of creative ways to translate one of these themes into artwork that will reflect the importance of keeping our storm drains free of dirt, trash, oil, grease, pesticides, fertilizer, pet waste, and other contaminants. Additionally, the phrase “Only Rain Down the Drain,” must be incorporated into the design.

Entries must be submitted by June 30, 2018, for consideration. An independent panel of judges from the City of Lynchburg and JRCAH will judge the entries and select up to seven winning designs. The winning artists will be announced in July, and artists will have until August 31, 2018, to complete installation of their artwork. Lynchburg Water Resources will supply all approved paint, as well as a \$150 stipend to each artist.

To learn more and to submit a design, please visit the project website at <http://www.jamesriverarts.net/storm-drain-art-project>.

For more information, please contact Jes Gearing, Department of Water Resources, at (434) 455-4251 or jes.gearing@lynchburgva.gov.

Our Job is Clear!