



July 26 2018

**Contact:**  
Jes Gearing  
Public Information Officer  
Department of Water Resources  
(434) 455-4251

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ARTSTORM FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR DOWNTOWN  
LYNCHBURG STORM DRAIN ART PROJECT**

Lynchburg Water Resources and the James River Council for the Arts and Humanities (JRCAH) are pleased to announce the following seven finalists for the ArtStorm Downtown Lynchburg Storm Drain Art Project (#ArtStormLYH):

- Susan Brown
- Valerie Dowdy
- Barbara Huntley
- Kristyn Kinsel
- Rebecca Ledingham
- Maxwell Manzano
- Marcia Smith

Each artist's original work will be painted on individual stormwater drains located throughout downtown Lynchburg in August 2018 and showcased during Get Downtown on September 7, 2018.

The goal of this first annual art project is to highlight the partnership between environmental stewardship and the arts in Lynchburg. "Teaming up with Water Resources to bring more public art to Lynchburg was a natural fit for us," said Jennifer Woofter, Board President of the James River Council for the Arts and Humanities. "By installing original art on storm drains, we help continue to make Downtown a vibrant and fun place to visit. Raising awareness about the importance of clean waterways is icing on the cake."

Each original storm drain mural will feature a theme inclusive of the James River, environmental protection, or stormwater pollution. With the overarching theme, "Only Rain Down the Drain," ArtStorm hopes to bring playful awareness to the need to protect our storm drains from litter, harmful substances (like oil, gasoline, fertilizers, or powerwashing chemicals), and debris (grass clippings, leaves, and gravel).

"Everything that goes down a storm drain goes straight to the nearest creek," said Erin Hawkins, Stormwater Program Manager for Lynchburg Water Resources. "By raising awareness of this issue we are protecting the water quality of our streams. No matter what draws us to the river, we each have a

role to play in keeping our streams clean and safe.”

The public is invited to view the artists at work at various locations throughout Downtown Lynchburg on Saturday August 11, August 18, and August 25. On September 7, during Get Downtown, the public is invited to vote for their favorite storm drain in the Fan Favorite competition at the Lynchburg Water Resources booth. The Fan Favorite will win a \$100 gift card to The Art Box in Downtown Lynchburg. Additionally, throughout August and the Get Downtown event, anyone who takes a selfie or photo of an ArtStorm drain and uses the hashtag #ArtStormLYH on Instagram will be automatically entered for a Downtown Lynchburg, JRCAH, and Lynchburg Water Resources gift bag.

To learn more about the project and to view the design sketches by each finalist, please visit <http://www.jamesriverarts.net/storm-drain-art-project>.

*Note to Media: An image of the finalist sketches is attached.*

*Our Job is Clear!*

