



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

AiPP Exhibit Highlight's SAAC's After School Art Partners Program

STARKVILLE, MS -

Starkville Area Arts Council is eager to announce the next Art in Public Places exhibit next Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by Chalet Arts. This exhibit will highlight SAAC's after school Art Partners program, which provides free extracurricular art enrichment activities to 4 sites across the Starkville area.

Classes, taught by Teaching Artist Gerard Woods, are provided by Starkville Area Arts Council at **no cost** to our current site partners:

- J.L.King Center
- Sudduth Extended Day Program
- Starkville Housing Authority's Goal Setters Program (located at Pecan Acres)
- Youth Explosion (located at Christian World Mission)

This program reaches as many as 100 youth each year in a broad cross section of the community. Art Partners supports creative exploration and thinking to help build well-rounded, bright eager minds. This program seeks to provide opportunities where access is often limited. AiPP (Art in Public Places) is SAAC's exhibit program that endeavors to bring art exhibits (for free) to the community. This particular show pulls together 2 programs to demonstrate the power of access and creative exploration.

Chair Allison Julien states, "We are so excited to share the works created by the students at these sites. It is the perfect opportunity to not only demonstrate the talent and creativity of the students, but also to provide an opportunity to connect the community with these amazing institutions through the talents and enthusiasm of its younger members."

"A future hope is to develop benchmarks and surveys that help identify the impact that Art Partners have on the participants, whether it measures their creative development, personal behaviors, confidence, or other factors," says E.D. John Bateman. "We hear enthusiasm from the sites and the teachers, so we know this program makes an impact. Now, we get to find ways to share it with the community at large."

The Art Partners AiPP Exhibit will run until July 8. Works on display in the lobby of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership.

About SAAC



STARKVILLE AREA ARTS COUNCIL



Now commencing its third decade, the Starkville Area Arts Council sponsors the Cotton District Arts Festival, runs various outreach programs, and awards almost \$25,000 each year in grants and scholarships throughout Starkville and Oktibbeha County in its mission to build a strong, creative, connected community through the arts. The Starkville Area Arts Council (SAAC) appreciates the support of the City of Starkville and the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Oktibbeha County, National Endowment for the Arts, Mississippi Arts Commission, Visit Mississippi, Del Rendon Foundation, 4-County Electric Foundation, Atmos Energy, and various local businesses and individuals. Additional information about SAAC can be found at www.starkvillearts.org.

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