

Call for Artists

Storm drain murals to help protect water quality



Application Deadline Aug. 21, 2020

Application packages and more information are available at the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Office located at 500 Idaho St., Pine Bluff or by contacting Kevin Harris at klharris@uaex.edu or by phone at 870-543-1033.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran Status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

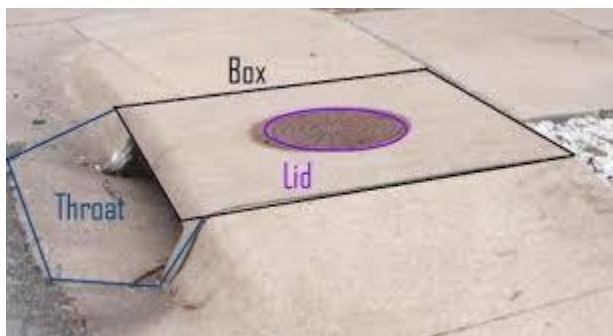
Upstream Art of Southeast Arkansas – Call for Artists – Application Packet

What is Upstream Art? Upstream Art is an educational program that utilizes art to communicate the function and importance of storm drains. Area artists paint semi-permanent murals on storm drains with messages to explain that the water that enters the storm drains gets discharged untreated directly to streams, bayous, canals, and lakes. The purpose of Upstream Art is to draw attention to the discreet concrete and iron infrastructure with the hope that the observers will stop and think about where the water flows after it enters a storm drain. If residents understand that stormwater flows untreated to streams, bayous, canals, lakes, and eventually the ocean, they will become more conscious of potential pollutants that can enter those waterways and, in turn, change their behavior to minimize possible pollutants. This project, along with the involvement of our vibrant art community is unique and has a positive impact in protecting our water and increasing sense of place and quality of life in the communities where the program is conducted.



What are we looking for? There are numerous storm drains identified for the 2020 project that will be part of the open call for artists. A committee of staff, local artists, and representatives from the art community will select designs from those submitted. Each art piece will be approved by the appropriate individual for the municipality where the art is to be located. Keep in mind the messages we are trying to convey as you create your design – that storm drains lead to bayous, streams, canals, and lakes. **All designs must have the message “drains to bayou, lake, or river” in English somewhere in the art. If the message is not included in the art, the words will be stenciled next to the art.**

Art Parameters: Each artist is challenged with incorporating the physical storm drain structures into their art piece. The general size of storm drains are 4' to 6' feet, but this will vary on a drain by drain basis. All artwork should remain within the confines of the storm drain structure. This is the concrete that immediately surrounds the opening (or throat) of the storm drain and the concrete box around the lid. The lid is the metal manhole cover that is used for municipal storm drain access. The city has allowed access to paint the throat of the drain (which may allow a three dimensional component) but the art can't extend into the street. It is strongly encouraged that each artist visit the site of the storm drains before designing their art. Art must be tasteful and original. Please include the storm drain physical components (lid, throat, etc.) into your drawing so we can see the way in which the art connects to the storm drain. Feel free to attach any reference photos or swatches if you find it would be helpful including other pieces that you have created.



What to expect? Storm drains will be power washed before the project begins. The artist will also be given clear coat sealant to put on before and after the painting is done. Acrylic paints in basic colors will be provided. Once the storm drain murals are completed, photos of each drain will be taken. These photos, along with the artist's mounted bio, will be displayed at local gallery spaces across the region. A brochure will be created using the photographs and artists' names and distributed throughout the year. Artists may be called upon for media events such as interviews or photo opportunities. The artwork is anticipated to last anywhere from 3 to 5 years.

Please provide:

1) a sketch (minimum size 8 ½ x 11 inches) of your design with this completed application,

2) a brief description of your piece, and a short artist's bio.

Design must incorporate the message "drains to bayou", "drains to river", or "drains to lake" in your design.

Upstream Art – Artist Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Website: _____

Are you a student? _____ **If so, where:** _____

You are welcome to supply portfolio work, resumes, and bios. If selected, each artist will be required to submit a bio for potential gallery showings and public announcements. Feel free to attach any reference photos or swatches if you find it would be helpful including other pieces that you have created.

Timeline:

Application due: Aug. 21, 2020

Artist will be notified: Aug. 28, 2020

Artists Training, Paint Pick-up, and contract signing:

6-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10 OR

9-11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12

Biography due upon completion of art

All art will be completed by Oct. 30, 2020

We have had the privilege of working with the artist community for many years and have always been delighted by the wonderful response from the artists and the community. Having the storm drains completed on time is of critical importance to the success of this project. We hope to provide a fun & informative experience to the community with your help. This important outreach event is dependent upon the volunteer efforts of our supportive and vibrant local art community. We appreciate your willingness and ability to meet all deadlines. Thank you so much.

Submit application to:

Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Office

500 Idaho St.

Pine Bluff, AR 71601

or

Email to klharris@uaex.edu