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Ten High-School Fine Arts Students Participate in Jersey City Mural Arts Program, Earn Stipend While Contributing to Neighborhood Beautification and Development

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop announce today that the **Jersey City Mural Arts Program (JCMAP)** is now for the first time enrolling ten high-school fine arts students as paid apprentices through the Jersey City Summer Works (JCSW) program.

These ten youth will work alongside four seasoned artists over the course of eight weeks throughout the summer in creating four different public art displays, while also contributing to Jersey City’s lively arts and cultural community. The Summer Works Arts Program allows for local high-school students between the age of 16 and 18 to receive arts training, enrichment, and a financial stipend.

“This collaboration between artists and Jersey City’s youth highlights the different ways we can encourage youth to serve their city and the unique potential our arts community has,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Investing in our youth and community go hand in hand, so we’ve ensured that this program not only provides jobs, but also tells the story of Jersey City in an engaging and creative way.”

Among the diverse artists participating include: Hungarian-born mural artist Kati Vilim, Montclair-native mural artist Catherine Hart, Mana Contemporary Arts-based Bradley Ehrsa, and Alvin Petit, who also serves as the Bethune Center Director.

The first mural project provided youth with their first outdoor, large-scale mural experience with Kati Vilim, as a result of cooperation between JCMAP and a local neighborhood association, the Redstone Townhomes Neighborhood Association.

Now through August 1st, students will be working with Alvin Petit on an outdoor mural paying tribute to elders in the community. Working towards redefining negative stigma towards aging populations, the youth will transform photographs into an outdoor gallery. All photos have been provided by senior residents from the Greenville, Bergen Hill, and Lafayette sections of the city.

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In the final weeks of the summer, the program will afford these promising arts students the opportunity to collaborate with Bradley Ehram at his Mana studio on a group mosaic. The mosaic, which will be composed of 120 hand-painted ceramic tiles, will subsequently be displayed in a vacant lot on Martin Luther King Drive.

The program will conclude with Catherine Hart in creating a large-scale public mural at Terry Dehere Park on Garfield Avenue. Working with Catherine and local historian Cynthia Harris at the Jersey City Main Branch Library, students will undergo a course to learn about the intersection of art history and art placement in Jersey City neighborhoods.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ////