



## News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Local “Artivism”: DIB and Dixon School of Arts and Sciences Partner for Downtown Storm Drain Art Project

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**PENSACOLA, Fla.** (September 28, 2020) — Storm drains can become hot spots for the illicit dumping of grease, cigarettes, paint and other pollutants, and a new project launched by the Downtown Improvement Board aims to reinforce the important message that “only rain belongs in a storm drain.” The Downtown Pensacola Storm Drain Mural Project was inspired by similar projects in other cities and is a collaboration between the DIB and Dixon School of Arts & Sciences. Over the course of several afternoons this week (between 12:15-2pm, weather permitting), Dixon scholars will create colorful, small-scale outdoor murals on seven storm drains located in the Jefferson Alley. On Tuesday and Wednesday, they will sketch the outlines of their original designs and lay down the base coat, and by Thursday they will begin filling in the colorful designs.

“Our Dixon scholars are ‘artists’ — they not only express themselves creatively, but also feel it’s important to bring awareness to environmental issues that we face today,” said Lisa Puzon, Dixon art director. Dixon School of Arts & Sciences aims to provide creative experiences for its scholars, and the storm drain project ties directly to one of its educational philosophy pillars, *Experiential Learning*, by bringing the scholars out of the classroom and into the community and allowing them to apply their academic skills to address a real-world problem.

The Downtown Improvement Board regards the project as the opportunity to draw attention to the importance of protecting local waterways and the environment in a creative way. “It’s exciting to present a project that brings engaging works of art to downtown Pensacola, while demonstrating how our local students are making a positive impact on the community,” said Walker Wilson, DIB executive director. “Our hope is that this project will inspire other neighborhoods and districts to launch similar projects in partnership with schools and organizations.”

To learn more about Dixon School of Arts and Sciences, visit: [www.dixonschoolota.org](http://www.dixonschoolota.org).

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### **About the Pensacola Downtown Improvement Board**

The Pensacola Downtown Improvement Board (DIB) is a dependent special agency funded by a tax levy on properties within its district boundaries. The district consists of 44 blocks that encompass the urban core of Downtown Pensacola, an area that was proclaimed “**Florida’s Best Place**” during a vote conducted by the American Planning Association’s Florida Chapter. The DIB is guided by a five-member Board of Directors comprised of downtown property owners and business people, plus one ex officio member each from the Pensacola City Council and Escambia County Board of County Commissioners. To learn more about the DIB and all that is going on in Downtown Pensacola, visit [www.downtownpensacola.com](http://www.downtownpensacola.com).

Photo by Karla Ent:

Ms, Lisa Puzon, Aiyana Dixon, Meya Dunn, Jayde Jenkins, Angel Sessions, Zanaya Chase, Shamaria Jones, Ava Saldivar