



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BETHESDA ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCES ARTIST FOR NEW MURAL PROJECT

August 24, 2020 (Bethesda, MD) – Bethesda’s “Paint the Town,” an initiative to promote public art murals in downtown Bethesda, will bring vibrant color in a new mural to downtown Bethesda. **The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, Bethesda Urban Partnership and Montgomery County’s Department of Transportation are thrilled to announce that Baltimore-based artist Megan Lewis has been selected to complete the mural.** The mural will encompass the front and right-hand side of the Montgomery County public parking garage located at 8216 Woodmont Avenue in downtown Bethesda.

Megan Lewis is a professional multidisciplinary illustrator and mural artist. Megan has embarked on major mural projects with the Baltimore Orioles, Target, Life Water, University of Maryland Medical System, Doritos and the Maryland Transportation Authority’s Baltimore Metro subway system. Her mural “Lady Liberty Please Know Thy Self” made national news with singer Alicia Keys on A&E’s *Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America*. She was a 2014 – 2015 Urban Arts Leadership Member of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (UALP) and a fellow/education assistant at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Lewis is also a teaching mural artist and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL.

Lewis was chosen by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District and Montgomery County’s Department of Transportation (MCDOT) from a talented pool of 50 artists from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia who applied for the opportunity. The request for proposals asked for a transportation-themed artwork and Lewis’ application included a project rendering which outlined her plans for the mural. Her concept features vivid, bright and colorfully drawn people commuting via bicycle, scooter, walking and more to their destinations.

The mission of the **Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District** is to create and implement arts and entertainment projects that contribute to the artistic, cultural and economic growth of downtown Bethesda. From award-winning theatre to independent films, downtown Bethesda’s Arts & Entertainment District is filled with inspiring artists and art venues. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District is managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc., and is the producer of The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards, Bethesda Painting Awards, Bethesda Fine Arts Festival, Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, Bethesda Film Fest and Play in a Day.

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Established by Montgomery County in 1994, the **Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. (BUP)** has grown from two full-time staff members to more than 35 employees working in maintenance, marketing, transportation management and administration. In its 25-year operation, BUP created Bethesda Transportation Solutions (BTS) in 2000, established the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District in 2002, took over management of the Bethesda Circulator in 2006, and opened Gallery B in 2011, Studio B in 2014 and Triangle Art Studios in 2018. For a closer look, please visit www.bethesda.org.

The **Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)** is committed to delivering the first-rate, multimodal transportation system that Montgomery County needs. We strive to create a well-functioning, balanced transportation system that uses our roads more efficiently and supports walking, bicycling and transit use. We build and maintain the transportation infrastructure; reduce traffic congestion; increase mobility; improve pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicle safety; provide transit and alternative transportation services; and promote access to our central business districts. None of this could be accomplished without the commitment and talent of our 1,350 outstanding employees who provide our community with the very best transportation network possible.

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