



For Immediate Release

**Mental Health Awareness Month
Partnership Brings Art Infused Transit Shelters to Downtown Fort Smith**

May 9, 2024: As 64.6 Downtown begins the 4th Annual Levitt AMP Fort Smith Music Series, they are announcing the completion of their Art Infused Transit Shelter project with artist and Creative Coder, Sarah Ridgley. Ms. Ridgley's \$40,000 contribution to 64.6 Downtown was leveraged along with Federal funds dedicated to public transportation. The project was designed to promote mental health and mindfulness to engage more people to utilize the City of Fort Smith Public Transit.

Citizens utilize public transportation for a variety of reasons, whether by choice, circumstances or for environmental reasons. 64.6 Downtown Executive Director Talicia Richardson stated, "We are seeking to raise awareness and engagement of this local service by inviting people into the space through the incorporation of art." Students across the River Valley participated by submitting artwork that created safe, less intrusive spaces for those choosing to ride public transit. Their artwork was placed in 8 transit shelters, while Ms. Ridgley contributed 2 original pieces for a total of 10 new art infused transit shelters.

Ms. Ridgley stated, "By offering a platform for student artists to display their talents, we not only beautify our spaces but also foster sustained engagement and enthusiasm for the arts, as we celebrate and publicly share their work." In addition to experiencing the students' artwork on the transit shelters, their work is on display at Hidden Talent Fine Art Gallery & Restoration at 14 N 3rd St, Fort Smith, AR 72901 and available for purchase. 100% of the proceeds from each sale will be paid directly to the student artist.

Art Infused Transit Shelter locations

North 3rd at B St.
Garrison Ave. at North 8th St.
Grand Ave. at North 10th St.
Rogers Ave. at South 8th St.
Rogers Ave. at South 9th St.
Garrison Ave. at Gateway Park
Rogers Ave. at Gateway Park
South B St. at Court Building
Baptist Health front entrance
Lexington Ave. at South I St.

About 64.6 Downtown

64.6 Downtown is a non-profit organization created to act as a catalyst for economic development in downtown Fort Smith through creative place-making, events, property development and art with inspiring and engaging partners. For more information email Talicia@646downtown.com and visit www.646downtown.com

About Sarah Ridgley

Sarah Ridgley's work centers on investigating the materiality of pixels and exploring new techniques and ways of using code as a method of mark-making on a digital canvas. Using JavaScript to build her programs, she designs unique algorithmic brushes and rendering techniques to complete each series. All her work is the result of highly-ordered chaos. This means that she writes organized instructions to direct the code, but then introduces random parameters so that the computer can try out an infinite variety of results. Learn more at www.sarahridgley.com