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GREAT MURAL PROJECT BEGINS WORK ON 'SAGINAW PRESENT' THEMED MURAL

Work has begun on a mural on the Bearinger Building at 126 N. Franklin in Downtown Saginaw to culminate in a reveal and celebration on Wednesday, August 23 from 5:30-8PM.

Pit & Balcony Community Theater, The Showdown and The Great Mural Project are partnering on this second mural of a pair of murals symbolizing Saginaw's Past and Saginaw's Present. A mural by Kevin Burdick featuring Civil Rights Activist and Saginaw Native Jim Letherer was installed on the same block at 301 E. Genessee earlier this summer.

"We are made up of many different cultures and skin tones. I view that as a major strength for our community," said Lead Artist John Vasquez. *"Any artists that approach portraits know that skin tones are universal and basically each of our skin tones is present in every skin type. Earth tones in general harmonize with each other in all of nature. We always view them as differences in the human experience, but we really are connected, just many shades of browns."* Kayla Peake-Trautner and DeVaughn Collins are also artists on this project.

"The funding for this project comes, in large part, from a Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) Community Partners grant," says Amy Spadafore, Pit & Balcony Managing Director and MACC Council Member. *"The Community Partners grant program is our newest and encourages arts organizations to build creative partnerships with other non-profits, businesses, and local government to determine what is unique and important to each community and share in the creative processes of arts and culture as a tool for exploring community change."*

This event is part of a summer rich with public art in Saginaw and across the region. Fifteen utility box murals will be installed in the City August 27- September 8th, culminating in The Showdown at the Old Town Saginaw Street Art Park on September 9th.

Since The Great Mural Project (GMP) was established in 2017, 25 murals have been installed in Riverfront Saginaw that bring color, creativity and economic development to the City of Saginaw.

Although the application for this year's projects has closed, Artists interested in being notified of future projects can sign up for the artist list here: <https://www.greatmuralproject.com/artists.html>

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