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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF SAGINAW AND THE GREAT MURAL PROJECT PAINT-A-THON EVENT**

**September 18, 2020 SAGINAW, MI** – The public is invited to join the Great Mural Project and the City of Saginaw on Saturday, September 26 from 10am to 10pm for the Great Mural Project Paint-A-Thon Event along the intersections of Court Street between Michigan and Fordney Avenue.

This project will enhance the three intersections along Court Street with colorful asphalt paintings in the intersections and crosswalks. 7 local artists will be creating the three asphalt mural designs throughout the day on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The seven artists have collaborated closely over the last month with a diverse committee of local leaders to create asphalt art that celebrates the diversity in the Saginaw community. The public is invited to join the artists to help create a portion of the murals! **Those who participate will be entered in a drawing for a free Ipad.**

For those who chose not to participate, everyone is invited to come out and watch the asphalt transformation, listen to live music and enjoy a delicious meal from local restaurants. Talented local musicians will be performing throughout the day including Joe Bonham, BADLND, The Fireside Wake, Green Greens and DJ Daniel McCall. Several local restaurants in Old Town will be providing free samples for a limited time throughout the day for guests to enjoy. Everyone is encouraged to support the many local businesses in Old Town that will be open for the event on September 26. Social distancing guidelines will be implemented and face masks are required when inside local businesses.

The Paint-A-Thon Event is made possible through the funding received from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative Grant. The \$25,000 grant was awarded to the Great Mural Project in July of 2020. Through this grant and the art it creates, the group hopes to remake Saginaw streets, improve public safety, inspire people, attract visitors, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Laura Mettam, one of the hired artists commented on the project, “To be one of 16 U.S. cities awarded a generous grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to facilitate these murals is an exciting accomplishment for Saginaw. Additional support from The City of Saginaw and The Great Mural Project will help make this a true community event by inviting the public to witness the transformation of the streets during the Paint-a-Thon event. I’m thrilled to be a part of this project, and I’m happy that the City of Saginaw continues to demonstrate a strong interest in joining the ranks of other communities around the world where public art is embraced and celebrated.”

The city will be closing Court Street from 7 am on Saturday, September 26 to 5 am Monday, September 27 to provide adequate time to complete the murals to and for the paint to dry. Detour routes will be provided.

Come join us--enjoy some delicious food, listen to some great music and check out these local artists as they create a Saginaw masterpiece--**Saturday September 26th 10am to 10 pm!**

To learn how you can get involved with the Great Mural Project, visit

<https://www.greatmuralproject.com/>

For additional information about the Asphalt Art Initiative, visit [Asphalt Art Initiative](#).

#### **ABOUT BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES**

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