

THUMB COAST STORM DRAIN ART PROJECT



Public Art With An Environmental Message



Grace Mason

The Public Art

Nearly two dozen artists were hired in 2022 to create designs reflecting messages that help keep our rivers clean. Art includes messages like Only rain in the drain, Be the solution to pollution, and Keep it clean. This art, blended with education, helps understanding of where water goes that flows into a storm drain.

The Artists

Experienced and novice artists of all ages brought their art to life by painting the sidewalk and areas around storm drains to illustrate problems caused by trash and pollutants that get thrown into drains and end up in our rivers. Mentor artists were paired with youth artists to expose them to career and civic engagement opportunities.



Megan Strachan



Josie Dimick

The Locations

Murals were painted on 24 storm drains in St. Clair, Port Huron, and Marine City. Highly visible locations were selected near the St. Clair River shoreline to highlight the storm drain connection to the St. Clair River.

I've always liked the woods and conservation. There's so much more that we could do. - Eddie Lee, muralist

Why Storm Drains?

This art project not only beautifies Thumb Coast communities with unique art, but also sends a message that painted drains are a reminder to keep our waterways clean. The goal is to teach people through art to understand where water goes that flows into a storm drain for stewardship of our waterways. Murals painted on storm drains bring awareness that what goes into the drain ends up in our rivers. In this way, we are creating positive change that will help protect the environment, fish and wildlife, and drinking water.



Maxie Masters

2022 Project Funding

Funding for this project was provided by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County - Blue Water Arts Committee, the River Rec Teen Zone, and St. Clair Art Association. Thank you for your support!

I love being on the water so it's really important to me we keep our water clean. - Kayla Faust, 10th grade muralist



Amanda Watson

Phase 2 Partners Needed

We are looking for businesses, schools and neighborhoods who would like to get involved in the expansion of this project. Partners are needed to sponsor an artist or student to bring a storm drain mural to life in a community, on school property, or a business doorstep. For more information about Friends of the St. Clair River's storm drain mural project, contact Lydia@scriver.org.



Leslie Cieplechowicz