



NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTIFIER ARTWORK PROGRAM

**OCTOBER 17-19, 2020
TEENS TAKEOVER THE STREETS**

15 TEENS SUBMITTED 21 DIFFERENT ARTWORKS FOR CONSIDERATION

8 Teens ages 15-18 yrs have been selected:

VIRGINIA SCHOOLS Represented:

- Kellam High School (4)
- Grassfield High School (2)
- Henrico high School (1)
- Governor's School for the Arts (3) — *overlaps with other schools*

TOTAL SUBMISSIONS:

- 15 teens submitted 21 artworks for consideration

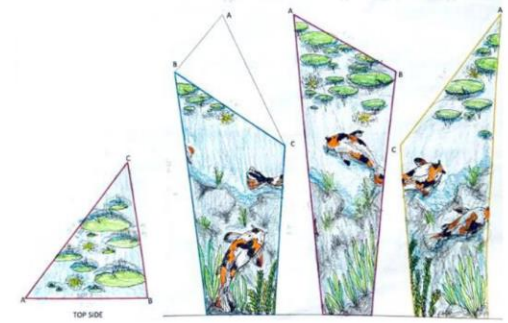
ViBe Creative District 19th Street Neighborhood Identifier Murals TEENS TAKEOVER THE STREET



Hanna Chou, Kellam High School



Grace Duford, Kellam High School



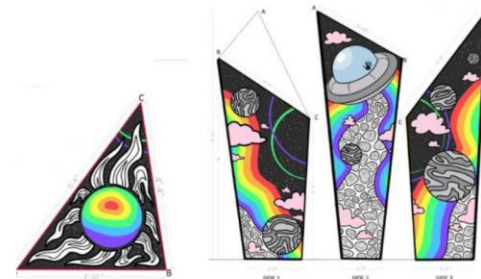
Caroline Foresta, The Governor's School for the Arts



Gabby Garza, Kellam High School



Hailey George, Grassfield High School



Emily Griffin, Henrico High School

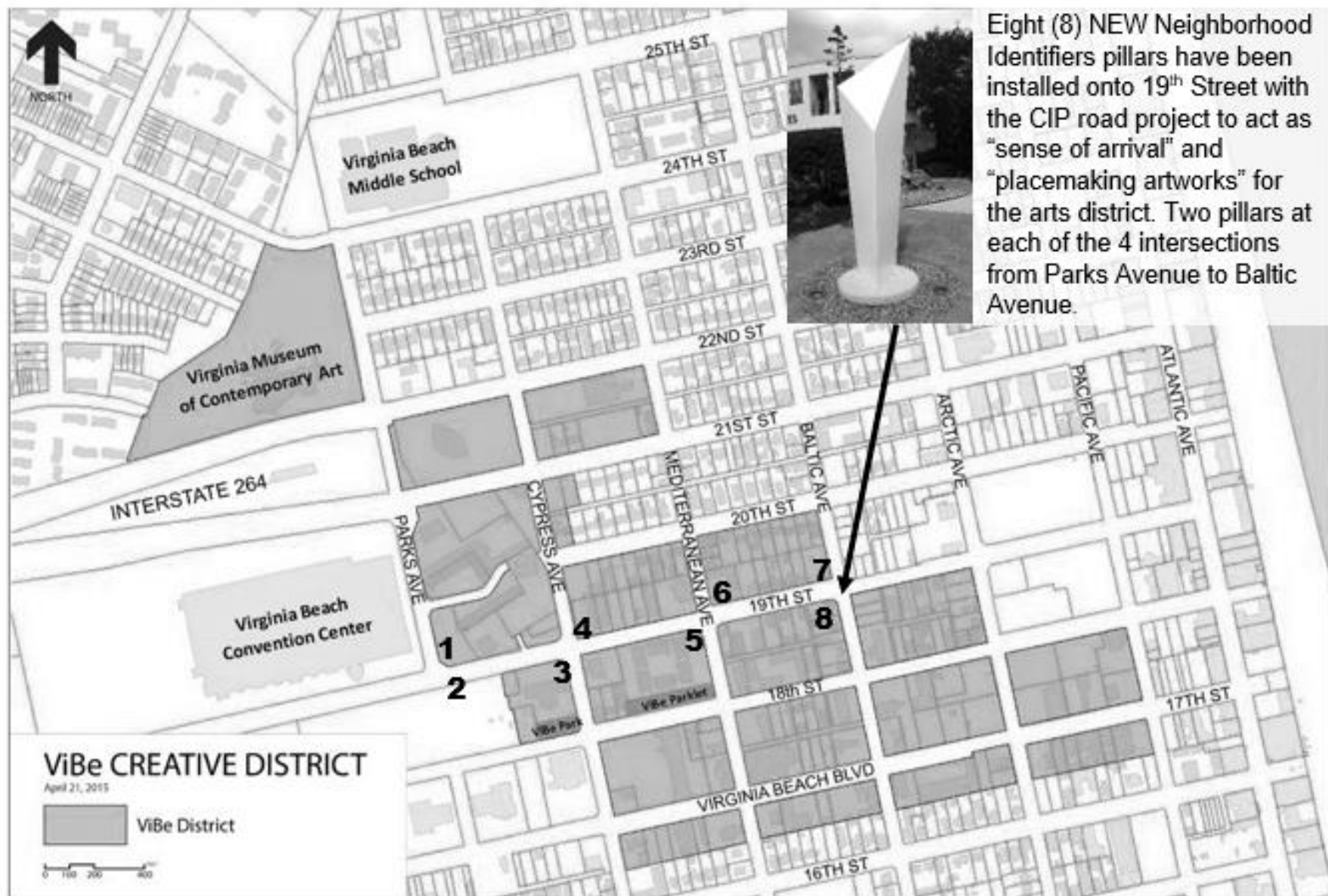


Ruby Milliken, Kellam High School



Ruby Starcher, Grassfield High School

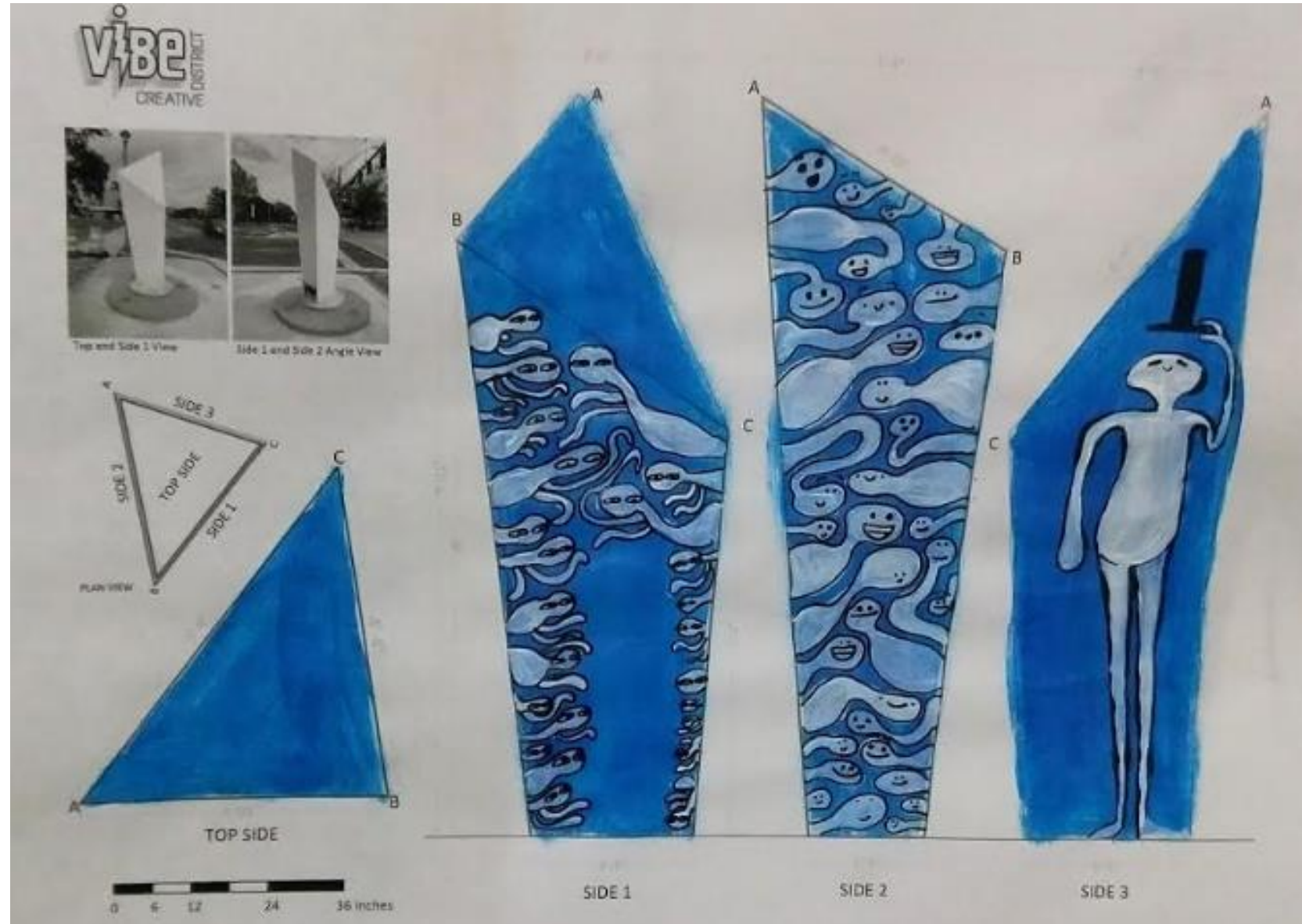




Eight (8) NEW Neighborhood Identifiers pillars have been installed onto 19th Street with the CIP road project to act as “sense of arrival” and “placemaking artworks” for the arts district. Two pillars at each of the 4 intersections from Parks Avenue to Baltic Avenue.

- 1) Gabby Garza 2) Emily Griffin 3) Hailey George 4) Grace Duford
5) Caroline Foresta 6) Ruby Starcher 7) Ruby Milliken 8) Hanna Chou

Hanna Chou
Floyd E. Kellam High School
12th grade
18 yrs old







Hanna Chou | Artist Statement:

- I try to create art that makes me happy, and hopefully, will make other people happy, as well. These characters were a result of this mindset. I started drawing these characters last year because I wanted to create something fun that would bring smiles to people's faces. I thought they were funny, and they made me laugh. It is important for artists to create pieces about things they are passionate about, but it is just as important that they create pieces for fun.
- This process was a lot different than what I was used to. As a visual artist, I typically have the luxury and freedom to create in the privacy of my own workspace, only revealing the final product in it's completion. Painting a public mural was the complete opposite of this. My piece was constantly on display, which meant its incomplete, work-in-progress stages were also always on display. Every time a person walked by, I became self-conscious and hyper-aware of all the visible mistakes or how weird my piece might have looked due to its incomplete state. But I was soon reassured by the kind words of encouragement I would receive by the people passing by. Hopefully, the people who saw the piece being worked on are able to finally see it in its completion. And hopefully, those who see it in person will be able to have fun seeing it and posing with it.

Grace Duford
Kellam High School
10th Grade
15 yrs old



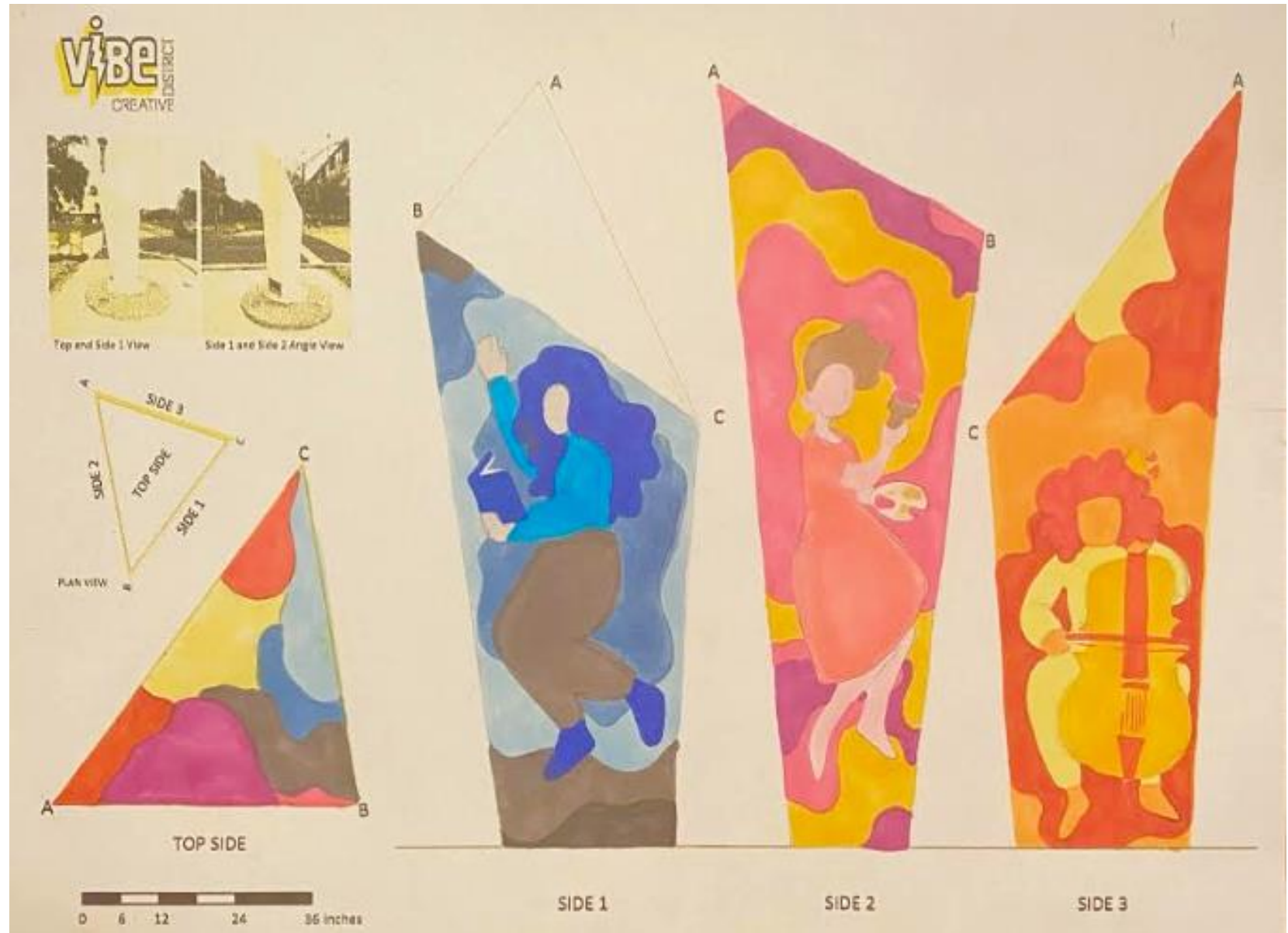




Grace Duford | Artist Statement:

- The koi fish is associated with perseverance, overcoming adversity and strength. They adapt well to change and new environments. The lotus flower is commonly regarded as a symbol of enlightenment, self regeneration and rebirth. Even in the unfavorable conditions of the dirtiest waters, the lotus produces the most beautiful flowers. Together, they are icons for hope, endurance and new beginnings. In my artwork, I chose to use these symbols to represent our city of Virginia Beach and the Vibe District.
- Painting live in the Vibe District, while having people walk by, was an amazing and unique experience! I enjoyed talking with others about my artwork and answering questions about my design. I also got lots of compliments on my work and it made me feel great. This experience has motivated me to put myself out there more and continue to look for opportunities to grow as an artist. I'm thankful for this experience, it was so much fun!

Caroline Foresta
The Governor's School for the Arts
Grade 12
Age 17







Caroline Foresta | Artist Statement:

- My mural design is a tribute to young artists, poets, musicians, and other creators. Through my design, I tried to capture the power that they hold to affect our world and its future. I created my design with bright colors so that it would stand out, and each side had its own color to differentiate the different types of artists. However, I kept the design between the different sides similar, both to keep a coherent style and to show that even though creators can make different types of art, they all can create in similar ways. I wanted the design to be simplistic, but also show activity and emotion. Young artists and creators are often overlooked, underappreciated, and underrepresented in society. I had the opportunity to create art in public, and I wanted to use that chance to try to promote the ability of other young artists to bring about positive and powerful changes in the world.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of painting in the ViBe district. People often stopped to talk to me, asking me questions about my artwork and what the project was about. People took pictures of me, or asked how my fellow artists and I were chosen for the project. I had not tried painting outside for an extended period of time before, and it presented some unforeseen challenges. The biggest issue I faced was with the weather. Both of the days I painted, it was windy enough for my supplies to blow away, so I constantly had to be sure that my materials were weighed down. Different sides of the mural dried at different speeds during different times of the day depending on which way the sun was facing. However, I really like that my artwork is outside, so that it is in the middle of the public and is a part of the community.

Gabby Garza
Floyd E. Kellam High School
Grade 11
Age 16



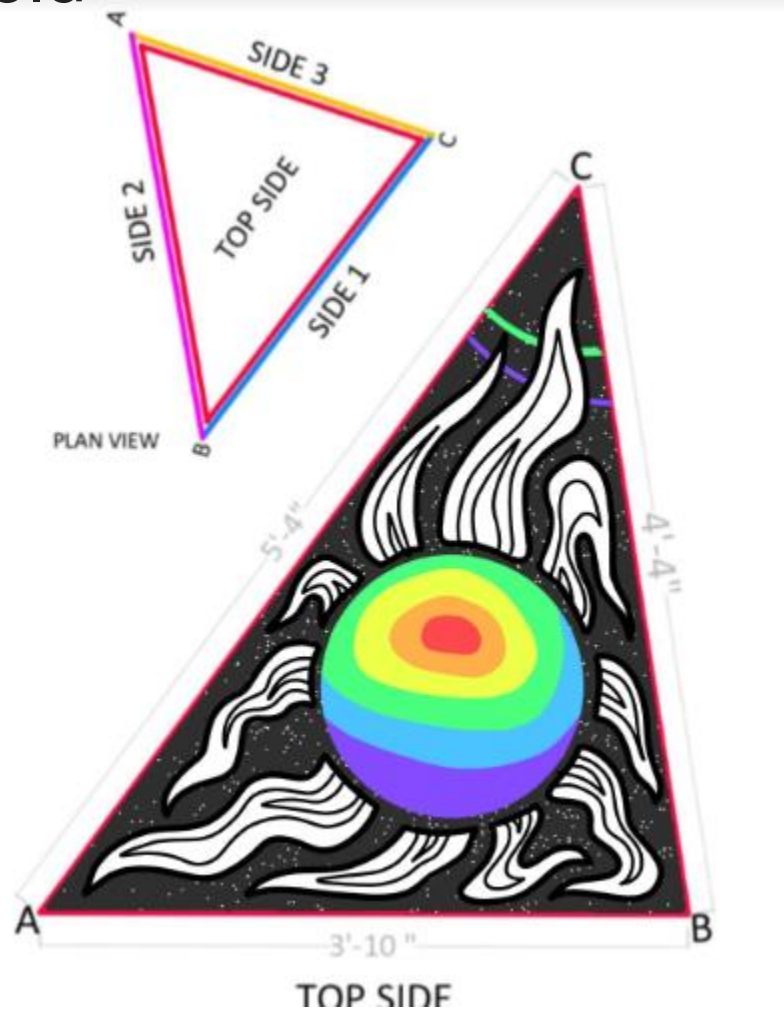




Gabby Garza | Artist Statement:

- The meaning behind my work was to show off the beautiful buildings and colors that exist at the oceanfront. I felt the colors matched the area and could blend with the environment. Additionally, I wanted the bright and pastel colors to brighten people's day.
- My experience painting outside was enjoyable. I felt it was easy to accumulate to the space. The only problem I had was painting the top part of the mural. People occasionally talked to me. Most just commented that they like the work. One thing I did learn is that I didn't need as much paint as I thought I did.

Hailey George
Grassfield High School
17 yrs old



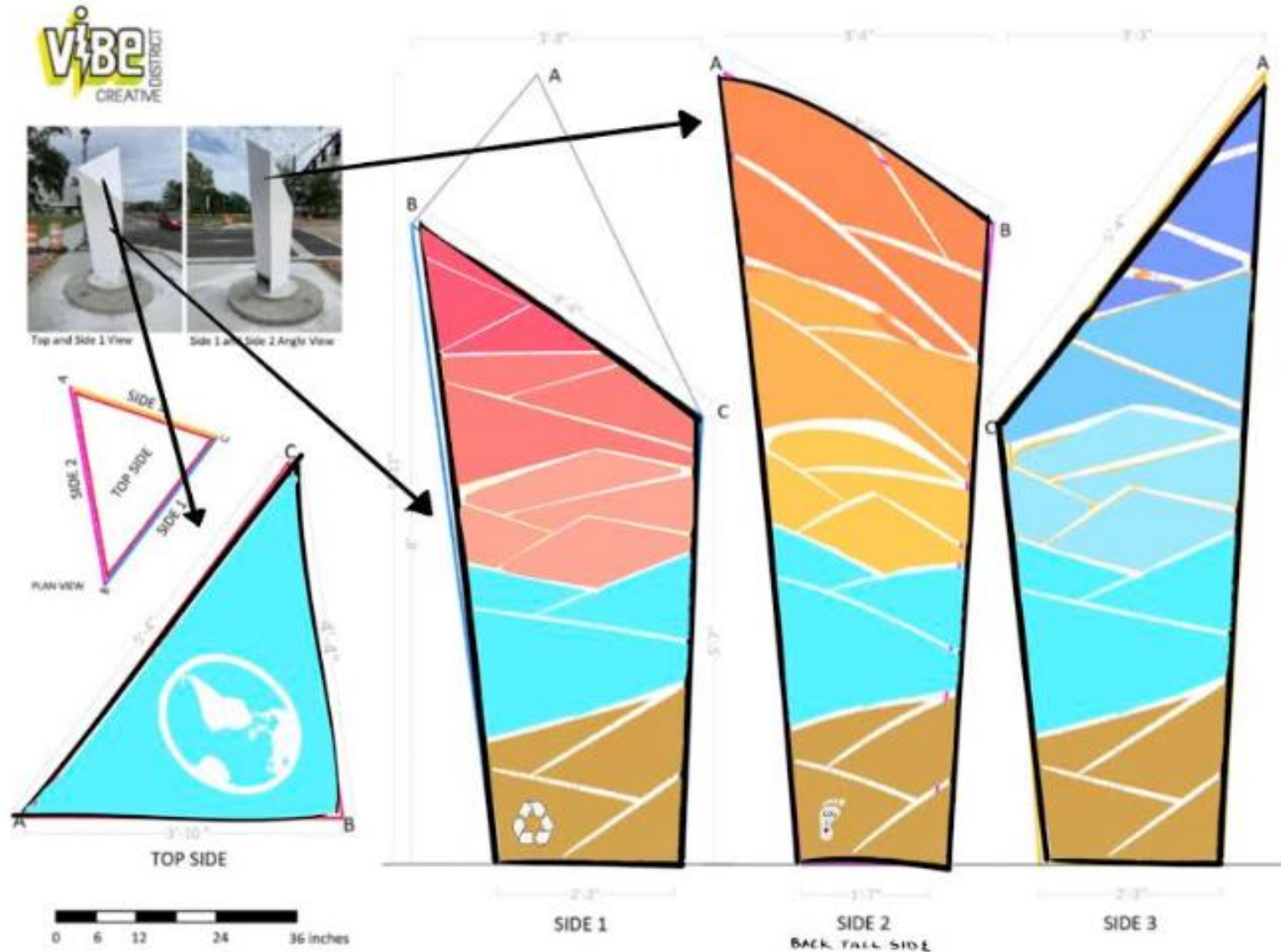




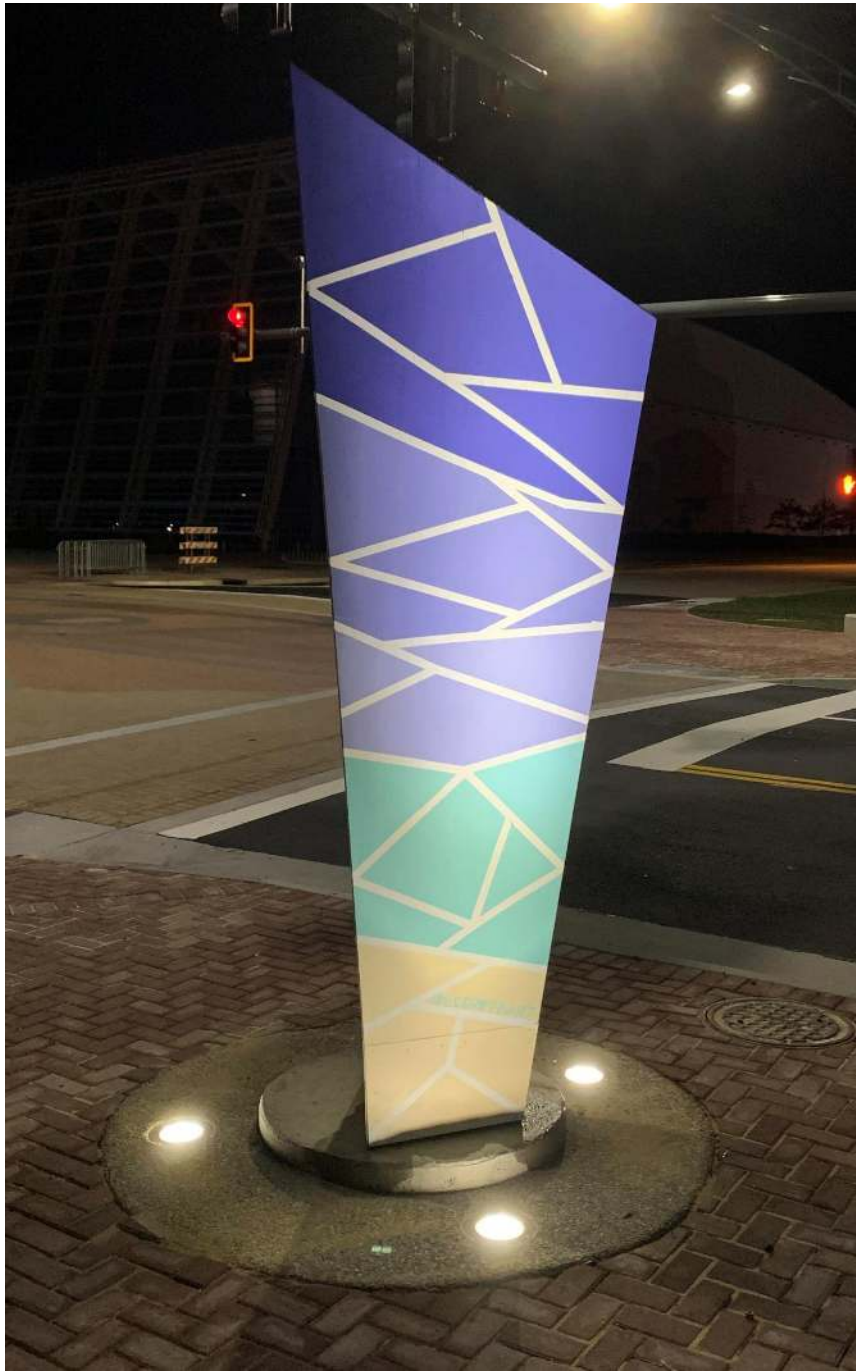
Hailey George | Artist Statement:

- My art is a representation of god and my brain functions on a daily basis. I have a constant jumble of thoughts and ideas that make up the inside of my head. I managed to combine it all into one thing that I believe is at least semi-cohesive. I paint like this on a day-to-day basis, so I enjoyed sharing my style with the visitors and residents of Virginia Beach
- Painting with Vibe District was a great experience. I enjoyed painting on the giant, metal statue; it was an interesting challenge. I had many people come up to me asking how I got the opportunity, which I thought was really nice. I also saw a lot of dogs, which I thought was even better.

Emily Griffin
Henrico High school
11th grade
17 years old







Emily Griffin | Artist Statement:

- The thoughts behind my design was the beach and the vibrant colors of the sunsets, sunrises, and beautiful nights. This was my first time painting a public piece. It was very exciting.
- All the painting went really well and quite a few people came by and commented on my progress. My least favorite part was standing on the stepladder to reach up and get the tallest parts. Although at the end it was all worth it to peel off the tape and get these straight clean white lines. I was so happy with how it turned out. The colors complemented each other so well. I really enjoyed it. This was such a great opportunity. Thank you again for selecting me to participate in this great event.

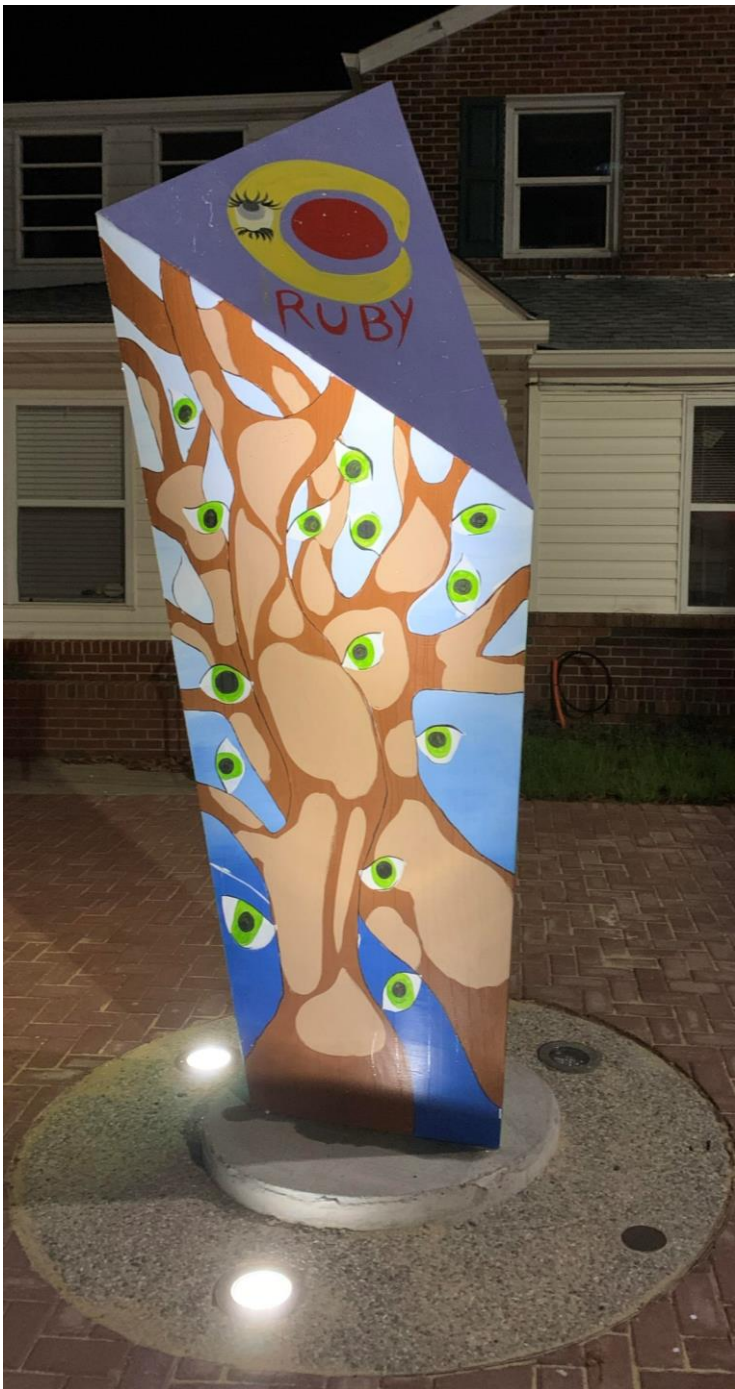
Ruby Milliken

Kellam High School

10th grade / 16 yrs



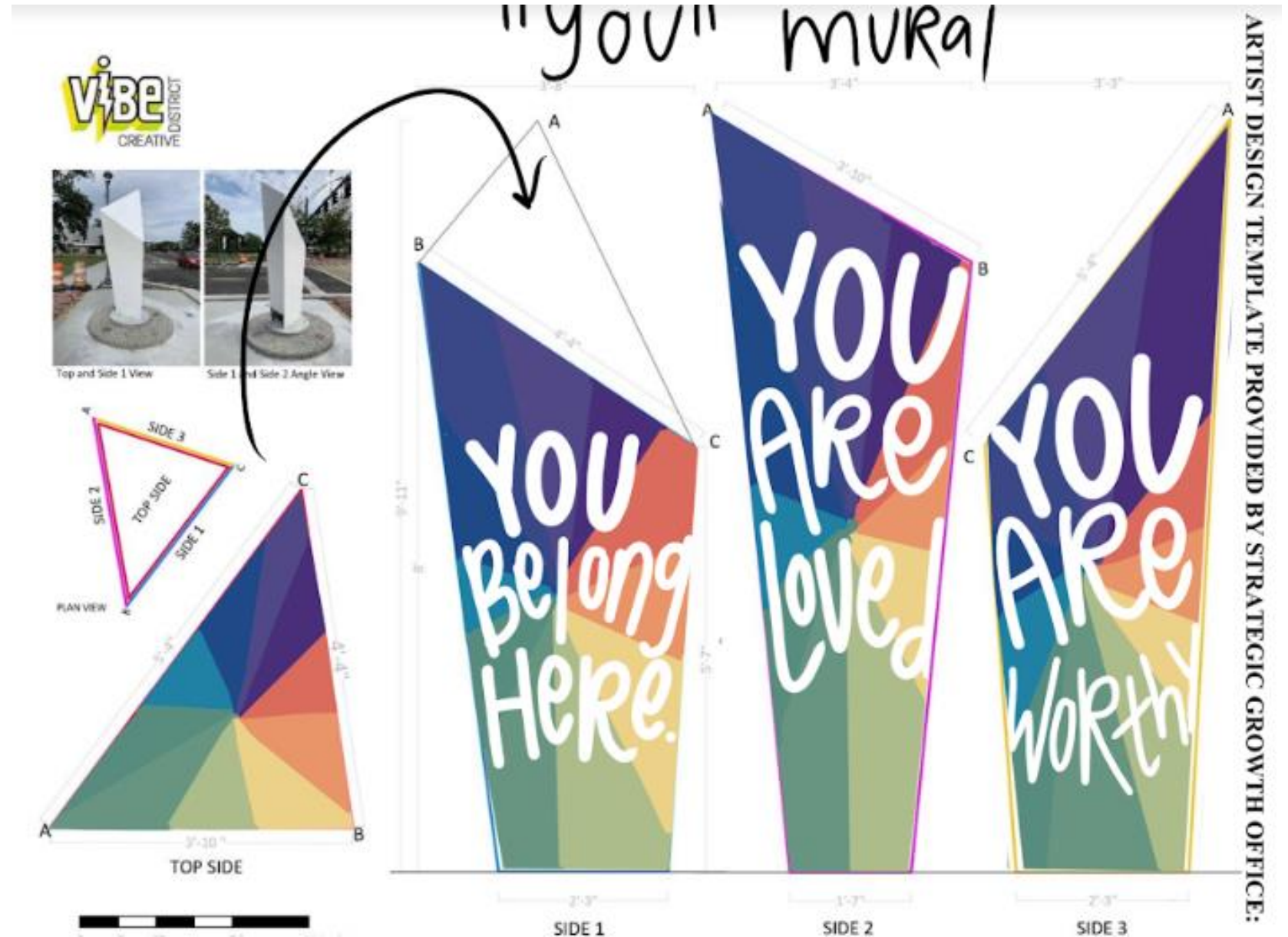




Ruby Milliken | Artist Statement:

- Being able to have my art be apart of the vibe district was a strike of serotonin for me. I've always been passionate about art and I finally got to show case my work thanks to this opportunity. My art piece was about everything going on in 2020 and how it's important to reflect on this year to learn, grow, and change for the better. Reuniting as a nation no matter what opinions or differences may occur.
- For this painting I basically only had to use my own paint and brushes but everything else was supplied! This includes a ladder, drop cloths, paper towels, paint rollers, water, and a bucket! This was so helpful because I've never painted anything on a structure or wall really and so I wouldn't have known what to bring if it wasn't supplied otherwise. I had so much support while painting, so many people came up to compliment my work and it was definitely one of the main reasons I stayed motivated to finish. I've learned throughout this experience that patience it key when working on a structure like this one. Overall this experience was absolutely amazing and I'm so thankful to be picked and have my artwork at the beach!

Ruby Starcher
Grassfield High School
12th grade
17 years old







Ruby Starcher | Artist Statement:

- I painted this for you, every single person that lays their eyes on this piece. It was painted for you! As a kid, I used to always describe my feelings with colors. When I was angry, I was Red. When I happy, I felt yellow. When I was sad, I was Blue. (Maybe it was just the artist in me peeking out.) The reasoning behind the rainbow background was just that. Even when you feel red, orange, yellow, green, blue, or even purple, you are still LOVED, you are still WORTHY, and you still BELONG HERE. Never forget it.
- The ViBe District is a home for artists. When I was a kid, I can remember going down to the beach and just staring in awe at the huge paintings in front of me. It is still such an important memory for me. And if only that little girl could see me now. Now with 2 paintings in the ViBe District. Crazy. I will forever be so thankful for these opportunities.

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MEDIA:

Click images for stories – Pending article in The Virginian-Pilot



WTKR.COM

Teen artists showcase their talents by painting metal pillars along Virginia Beach street



YOUTUBE.COM

Teens Takeover The Street



CONGRATULATIONS:

- Hanna Chou - Kellam High School
- Grace Duford - Kellam High School
- Carolina Foresta - Governor's School for the Arts
- Gabby Garza - Kellam High School
- Hailey George – Grassfielf High School
- Emily Griffin - Henrico High School
- Ruby Milliken- Kellam High School
- Ruby Starcher - Grassfield High School

PAINTING TOOK PLACE OCTOBER 17-19, 2020



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YOUR SUPPORT!**



Robin & Sean Brickell

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