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City of Bowie Partners with Bowie State University to Open Art Exhibit at City Hall

The exhibit features over 30 art pieces from Bowie State University students, staff and faculty and will run from January 23 - May 20

Bowie, MD – January 23, 2023 - City of Bowie and Bowie State University’s Department of Fine and Performing Art are partnering to host an art exhibit that will be displayed at the Bowie City Hall Art Gallery from **January 23 - May 20**. The exhibit will feature over 30 pieces of art from various Bowie State University students, staff and faculty members. These pieces were chosen through a juried selection process by the City of Bowie Arts Committee and Bowie State studio art professor Arthur Vidrine.

“Art has the ability to connect people together,” said Vidrine. “It can bring the community together towards a shared experience. Art has done this throughout its entire history.”

This collaboration marks the first time a university will be featured in the Bowie City Hall Gallery. The Arts Committee chair, Kathleen Parker, worked closely with the university to bring this partnership to fruition.

“The concept behind the exhibition was to allow Bowie State University students, staff and faculty to showcase their artwork to the local community”, said Parker. “The Arts Committee is very proud of the work of the university and the Fine and Performing Arts Department. Our City Council awarded an Arts Grant to the university to invest in our artists and provide supplies to assist students with matting, framing and wiring their artwork. It was important to have students participate in a workshop to learn how to prepare their artwork to be displayed in a gallery.”

The gallery will feature a diverse set of art pieces – including paintings, photography, graphic design work, sculptures, and video displays. The majority of the art featured in the gallery comes from students in Bowie State’s Fine and Performing Arts Department. The budding artists are eager to share their creative visions with the community.

“It’s my first exhibit in a while,” said junior fine arts major Amora General, who contributed an acrylic painting and a sculpture to the gallery. “I’m really happy and proud to be a part of something for my school. The one thing I do know how to do. I’m glad I get to share it with my school.”

Navaeh Fakeye, a sophomore animation and motion graphics major, also submitted a painting and a sketch piece to the exhibit. Fakeye sees art as a vibrant medium that allows people to look inward and learn something about themselves.

“I hope people come away with the joy of art. It can really tell a story,” said Fakeye. “It made me feel amazing that I get to share my art and expression with the world.”

Beyond that, Vidrine is excited that Bowie State’s Fine and Performing Arts students will have the public forum to share their talent and work with the greater Bowie community and beyond.

“We would love for people to come out and see what students are doing here,” said Vidrine. “Come see the talent that’s in our department.”

The public may view the Bowie State University Exhibition at Bowie City Hall, located at 15901 Fred Robinson Way, Bowie, Maryland, 20716. The exhibit is open on Monday – Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. and on Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Community members are also invited to attend a catered artists’ reception at Bowie City Hall on Thursday, **March 2** at 7 p.m. Attendees can get to know the artists, view their work, and ask questions.

More information about the exhibit and reception may be found at www.cityofbowie.org/bsugallery.

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