



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2016

Contact Information Below

First Annual Youth Art Showcase Featuring the “DC Ward Story Collection”

-D.C. students from a local art leadership program will conclude their summer internship program by presenting their work inspired by local DC history-

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20, 2016 – The P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute, a newly-founded, D.C. based arts education nonprofit, will host its first annual Youth Art Showcase featuring original, local art created by the 2016 Art Leadership Program interns. The Showcase will be held at The Howard Theatre on Saturday, July 30 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Art Leadership Program is a holistic summer internship that focuses on art education in the context of the whole person by combining both academic and technical instruction in various artistic mediums with experiential learning opportunities, including community service opportunities and an introduction to fundamental business skills and competencies as well as lessons related to financial literacy, health and wellness. The 2016 intern class boasts 19 of the most creative D.C. youth between the ages of 14 and 24.

“We’re grateful to have strong partners within the DC Government,” said John J. I. Chisholm, the P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute’s founder and executive director, speaking about such instrumental partners as the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), the Department of Employment Services (DOES) and Child & Family Services Agency (CFSA). “But we’re proudest of the youth who participated in this year’s Program. The Program allowed them to hone their artistic skills, while they grew and developed as individuals.”

The Showcase will feature (paintings, sculptures and drawings) created by individual interns, as well as a collaborative mural that gives an authentic look into the District. Following the Showcase, the mural will be on display for the general public in Gallery 42 at the University of the District of Columbia Van Ness Campus.

“D.C. represents more than where we are: it’s *what* we are,” said artist Matthew McLean. “We all grew up here, our families and friends are all here, and we wanted to share our perspectives on this City in a way that a tourist couldn’t see or experience otherwise.”

“I’m excited that the public will get to see, firsthand, some amazing D.C.-themed artwork,” Chisholm said. “And I’m excited to celebrate these young artists and aspiring adults who are all truly amazing!”



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To support ongoing programming, the P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute suggests a \$25 donation in exchange for General Admission tickets, and \$40 for VIP tickets to the Showcase. Corporate Sponsorship packages are also available. To make donations and reserve tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-art-showcase-tickets-26349794946?aff>. The Howard Theatre is located at 620 T St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, and is Metro-accessible by the Orange, Blue and Yellow lines. For event information and questions, contact Ms. Breanna Robinson at B.Robinson@Paintinstitute.org, or by telephone at (202) 594-8128. Please, join us in celebrating and supporting some of the District's young, aspiring artists!

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About The P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute

The P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute is a newly-founded, Washington, D.C. based nonprofit committed to increasing and enhancing the quality and volume of hands-on, arts education opportunities for youth in underserved communities. On a mission to create an arts ripple effect, the P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute actively promotes the arts as a visible catalyst for the healthy development of today's youth by enhancing their ability to positively impact their communities. If you're interested in participating, volunteering or becoming a sponsor, contact us by email at Donate@paintinstitute.org, by phone at 202-681-8244 or by visiting our website at <http://www.paintinstitute.org/>.

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Media contacts:

Emily Iannuzzelli
emily.iannuzzelli@gmail.com
301.928.5067

John J. I. Chisholm
j.chisholm@paintinstitute.org
202.681.8244