

# TOWN COUNCIL



## STAFF REPORT

### Projects and Watershed Resilience Department

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	May 12, 2026
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Consideration of Storm Drain Art Designs Created by Local Students and Funded by the Beautification Committee (Fiscal Impact: \$600.00)
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	Andrea Moreno, Watershed Management Division Manager and Larry Beckler, Public Services Director

**REQUEST:** Staff requests Town Council consider approval of the Public Arts Committee (PAC) recommendation for storm drain art designs created by local students and funded by the Beautification Committee.

**BACKGROUND:** The Public Arts Committee (PAC) was established in October 2023 to carry out the Council approved public art policy. The PAC is responsible for making recommendations to Council on publicly funding public art or art to be placed on public property.

In January of 2026, the Town of Bluffton, in partnership with the Beautification Committee and PAC, launched a Storm Drain Art Pilot Project seeking artwork to be featured on storm drains in areas of high pedestrian activity within Bluffton’s Historic District. Because storm drains often go unnoticed, this project uses art as a creative educational tool to raise awareness to prevent litter, pet waste, and other pollutants from entering the stormwater system.

This pilot project, fully funded by the Beautification Committee, was open to middle- and high-school aged students from public, private, faith-based schools and homeschool programs, ten (10) groups in total. This pilot project sought one (1) winning design from each school group to be transferred into a 3’x2’ vinyl decal by Town staff.

Of the ten (10) groups, storm drain art submissions were received from five (5) groups. The Beautification Committee, then PAC made their selections of the winning storm drain art submissions (Attachment 1) utilizing the public art policy and the judging criteria as outlined in the Storm Drain Art Program Guidelines (Attachment 2). These criteria narrowed the selections to four (4) groups: River Ridge Academy, Bluffton High School, Hilton Head Christian Academy, and Cross Schools.

**NEXT STEPS:** Approve, approve with conditions, or deny the installation of the storm drain art selections as recommended by the PAC. Fabrication and installation of designs in the Historic District.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Storm Drain Art Selections
2. Town of Bluffton Storm Drain Art Program Guidelines
3. Proposed Motion