



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact

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Public Bike Art Competition Opens Today, July 14

Kalamazoo, Michigan -- Bike Friendly Kalamazoo is pleased to announce the opening of its Public Bike Art Competition for 2021. The art is intended for display on banners mounted on public lamp poles and other imprinted media, with themes evoking the joys of bicycling. The Competition is backed by \$1,750 in cash awards thanks to a grant from The Vicksburg Foundation. The awards will be within reach of desktop artists since entries are submitted digitally (see www.fallbikecelebration.org).

The Competition is open to US citizens 18 years and older and is aimed at raising funds for public charitable causes related to bicycling. The deadline for all entries is Thursday September 2, 2021 at 11:59pm.

Lori Knapp, a member of the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission and Portage City Council member, is chairing the jury committee. The committee, comprised of representatives of local art councils, organizations and municipalities will conduct the selection process and certify voting. Winners will be announced in a public ceremony on September 18, 2021 on the grounds of the Vicksburg Community Pavilion in the Village of Vicksburg, MI during Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's Fall Bike Celebration Weekend.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's Chair & President Paul Selden said his board was happy with last year's Competition and decided to run it again. "Last year our announcements via social media reached more than 80,000 people and drew entries from more than 20 states across the USA," observed Selden. "We were also delighted that [Consort Display Group](#) offered the winning banner designs from last year for sale and is donating a portion of the proceeds to raise funds for education, awareness-building and public safety. That this community raised such a generous amount in prize monies during difficult times testifies to the generosity and public spirit of our sponsors and the artistic support found in the Village of Vicksburg, Michigan."

Competition rules and entry materials are at www.fallbikecelebration.org.

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Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) is a network of volunteers drawn from a variety of community stakeholders throughout greater Kalamazoo Michigan and a 501c3 Michigan nonprofit organization. BFK's mission is to make the entire community even more bicycle friendly. Its goals align with efforts to make Southwest Michigan even more attractive as a

great place to live, work and play and learn. For more information, see www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org.

The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission (KCPAC) was founded in 1981 under an Urban Cooperation Act agreement between Kalamazoo County and the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, Michigan. Its volunteer members advocate for and support public art by providing recommendations and resources which establish best practices for public art projects. The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission also recognizes that a vibrant community depends on something in addition economics. Art is a powerful tool that evokes reflection and emotion. Without uttering a single word, artists can enlighten, educate and affect change around the world. For more information, please contact: publicart@kalamazooarts.org

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**BFK's
FALL BIKE CELEBRATION
WEEKEND
Sept. 17-19, 2021**

Inspired by the City of Holland & the Holland Arts Council

**Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's
Public Bike Art Prize Competition**

Announcing a digital art competition
to celebrate bicycling and the arts
Juried cash prizes totaling \$1,750

Entry Deadline: September 2, 2021
VIEW RULES & ENTRY FORM AT WWW.FALLBIKECELEBRATION.ORG