



THE ART EFFECT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Lives Matter Planter Sculptures Unveiled on Rose Street, Poughkeepsie

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY - A series of “Place Making” sculptures built and designed by The Art Effect’s MADLab (Media And Design Lab) youth workforce students will be unveiled in an informal ceremony on Thursday 10/22 from 3:30-4:30 pm on Rose Street, Poughkeepsie. The sculptures are partially funded by Arts Mid-Hudson and Hudson River Housing, with plants donated by the “I am Citizen” Project.

The art installation was designed and created by youth under the direction of The Art Effect to cultivate a sculpture memorial garden to symbolize the scales of justice, a tree for growth, and a stronger queen city. Each piece is installed amongst plants and adorned with imagery alluding to Poughkeepsie, personalized statements for strength, harmony, and racial injustice. The memorial garden was inspired in part as a tribute to Maurice Gordon, a Poughkeepsie resident. The planter sculptures are intended to spark conversation and stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement.

“This project was a new experience for me because I was able to be a lead artist and design and help sculpt one of the sculptures. I also learned how to use power tools and how to measure and cut wood. I enjoyed leading the designing of the pieces before we built them and seeing the behind the scenes of the project” shares Jadeen Sampson, one of MADLab’s youth lead artists. Other lead youth artists on the sculptures include: Zion Reid, Karla Zarate, Jakeliyah Faircloth and Julissa Aguilar.

Please join us in celebrating the work of these young artists coming together with city leaders for a better future in Poughkeepsie. The sculptures on Rose Street are open for public viewing. For more information on The Art Effect’s MADLab program, [**click here**](#).

About The Art Effect: [The Art Effect](#) empowers youth to develop their creative voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change. The organization facilitates educational programming for youth in the Hudson Valley to explore, experience and excel in the arts. Programs provide introductions to visual arts and media, giving participants the opportunity to develop real skills in these fields and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals. The Art Effect is anchored by the belief that the arts have the power to create a more vibrant, caring and sustainable world led by a generation of youth who value creative thinking, diverse voices and stronger connections between all people.

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