



WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2024

CONTACT: Maggie Stange, mstange@wvrivers.org, 304-637-7201

Clean Water Mural Tour Arrives in Parkersburg, WV at the Parkersburg Art Center

WV Rivers Coalition, Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action, and Parkersburg Art Center Announce Free Community Events

Parkersburg, WV - The West Virginia Rivers Coalition's Clean Water Mural Tour has arrived at the Parkersburg Art Center and is on view until March 16, 2024. In partnership with Mid-Ohio Climate Action, WV Rivers announces a free community event on March 9.

The mural, which was created at the commemoration of the 2014 Elk River Chemical Leak and then housed in the WV State Capitol Rotunda during the start of the Legislative Session, is a testament to community strength and our shared vision for clean water for all in the Mountain State.

Eric Engle, President of the Board for Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action and Parkersburg resident, expressed his enthusiasm for the mural's arrival, stating, "From the C8 water contamination crisis to the warehouse that burned for a week along the Little Kanawha in 2017, Parkersburg and the Mid-Ohio Valley know water woes all too well. I'm so excited to be part of an event like this that uses stunning visual art to express how much our community cares about clean, safe, healthy water."

Engle, who assisted in moving the mural and is helping organize a community event on March 9th at the Parkersburg Art Center, emphasized the significance of engaging community members on clean water issues facing Parkersburg, a community situated along the Ohio River, which has been overburdened with the cost of pollution for far too long.

WV Rivers Ohio River Coordinator Heather Sprouse echoed that sentiment, stating, "The mural is traveling to Parkersburg to start conversations about what communities envision in a clean water future for us all. There are serious threats to our local waters and commonsense solutions we can pursue with urgency."

Sprouse continued, "Our waters define our region and are key in strengthening our economy, retaining young people, protecting our way of life, and investing in future generations."

(Cont.)

Conserving and Restoring West Virginia's Exceptional Rivers and Streams

3501 MACCORKLE AVENUE SE #129 CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304 • 304-637-7201 • WWW.WVRIVERS.ORG

WV Rivers, MOVCA, and PAC invite you to view the mural during regular operating hours (Tuesday 10 AM–5 PM, Wednesday 10 AM–5 PM, Thursday 10 AM–5 PM, Friday 10 AM–5 PM, Saturday 10 AM–5 PM) or during these two upcoming community events:

Clean Water for All Mural Tour: Parkersburg, WV

Date: March 9, 2024

Time: 3 pm to 5 pm

Location: Parkersburg Art Center

Details: Join West Virginia Rivers Coalition and Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action for a free, family-friendly event at the Parkersburg Art Center to learn more about our shared vision for clean water along the Ohio River.

Art-O-Rama

Date: March 16, 2024

Time: 10am to 1 pm

Location: Parkersburg Art Center

Details: Art-O-Rama is a FREE community arts day at the Parkersburg Art Center! This is a day of music, art demonstrations, make-and-take crafts, nature study, science and creative fun for children and their families. We will be joined by other area non-profits that have plenty to offer kids on our community.

Jessie Siefert, Managing Director at the Parkersburg Art Center, stated, “This beautiful piece by our friend Nichole Westfall, shows the beauty of our natural water environments and makes a positive statement about the possibilities for our future.”

After Parkersburg, the Clean Water for All Mural Tour will move to the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling, WV.

###

About West Virginia Rivers Coalition:

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition is a statewide non-profit organization working to conserve and restore West Virginia's exceptional rivers and streams through advocacy, education, and community engagement. Learn more at www.wvrivers.org.

About Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action:

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action has joined with national and international groups alarmed about global climate change, as well as collaborating with Mid-Ohio Valley groups working locally to take action on environmental and climate concerns. The group focuses on raising awareness of the science supporting the urgency of dealing with global climate change by presenting educational programs and participating in local campaigns. Learn more at: <https://main.movclimateaction.org/>

About Parkersburg Art Center:

The Art Center is supported with financial assistance from the WV Division of Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the WV Commission on the Arts. The Art Center is also supported by memberships and many generous contributors. The Art Center is a nonprofit, non-government organization.