



HARRISONBURG | VA
FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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Northend Gateway Downtown Art to be installed Friday

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Friendly City’s newest work of art will arrive in town Friday.

The project, created by local artist Nick Brinen, will be placed on the new island constructed at the northern end of Harrisonburg’s Downtown where North Main Street and Noll Drive split. Northbound Main Street will be closed from Gay Street to the area of Kratzer Avenue starting Friday morning, May 17, with work expected to take the majority of the day, weather-permitting. Drivers should use Mason Street as an alternate.

The project is a culmination of public input and artist inspiration, highlighting the themes Harrisonburg community members identified as being important to them – the city’s diversity, the welcoming nature of those who live here, the beauty of the surrounding Shenandoah Valley environment, and local history. Words signifying the community’s values are displayed across the 20-foot-tall steel work, with “A City For All” prominently welcoming visitors as they approach Downtown. Lights will illuminate the art in the evenings, giving visitors a new perspective on the project depending on when they visit.



“It was important that this artwork could stand the test of time and let everyone coming to Harrisonburg’s Downtown know what is important to our community and who we are,”

Harrisonburg Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Manager Kristin McCombe, who is leading the project, said. “I am very grateful to Nick and everyone who came together to make this long-desired project a reality, and I am excited to know people will be coming to our Downtown for many years to see this wonderful artwork.”

(Above) A rendering of the new piece of art coming to Downtown on Friday. The project was created by local artist Nick Brinen through the support of the City of Harrisonburg.

The project was supported by City of Harrisonburg staff and City Council, in addition to The Arts Council of the Valley, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance (HDR) and the Northeast Neighborhood Association (NENA). It joins a growing number of art pieces located in Downtown. A celebration event recognizing the new artwork is currently being scheduled. More information will be posted to the City’s social media pages when available.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.