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Artist Selected for Southside Traffic Box Project

ST. JOSEPH, MO- The Allied Arts Council is pleased to announce Acacia Richardson has been selected as the artist for the Southside Traffic Box Art Project.

The traffic box is located on the corner of Illinois and Lake Avenue. Richardson is a senior at Missouri Western State University majoring in Studio Art with a focus in paint, charcoal and printmaking. Richardson focused on the Stockyards and her personal experiences for her design.

The design illustrates farming, with cows and a beautiful sunset background.

“I am a big fan of sunsets because when I lived in Kansas, and even here, I enjoyed sitting outside,” Richardson said. “I was building on my own feelings about the farming industry and St. Joseph’s history.”

Jake Kelly, president of the South St. Joseph Development Corporation who is helping fund the project, said art provides vision in two ways: with a path to follow and by bringing people together.

“The Southside has always been identified as different, but we are all part of St. Joseph, and we can accomplish more if we are united,” Kelly said. “There is no easier way, in my mind, than through showing continuity throughout the city, by extending the arts to all parts, not just Downtown, or the Southside.”

The goal of Allied Arts Council’s Traffic Box Project is to create and paint art on traffic signal boxes and turn street corners into pieces of art. The artist is working on the project now and plans to have it completed by Friday, Oct. 26.

Richardson, originally from Glendale, AZ, said that St. Joseph is building on its art and she is excited to see its growth.

“I think it’s pretty cool that we are moving it [Traffic Box Project] to the South end,” Richardson said. “Artists are coming together and brightening up the town and I love that.”

The Allied Arts Council was organized in 1963 to provide service to St. Joseph area arts organizations, artists, and the general public. The Council has since grown into a federation of sixteen arts agencies and now produces community arts programs, raises funds, promotes public awareness, and provides service and support to its member agencies. The Allied Arts Council seeks to make St. Joseph a better place to live through the arts, and its mission is to provide leadership and support for the arts and to its member organizations.

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