

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joelisa McDonald, Mayor
Rankin, PA

mayor@rankinborough.com | 412.745.4752.

New Pavement Mural to Be Created at the Intersection of 4th Avenue and Hawkins Avenue in Rankin, PA

Created in Partnership with Rivers of Steel and the Borough of Rankin, PA

Rankin, PA (June 10th, 2025)—The Borough of Rankin is excited to announce the installation of a new pavement mural in our community, designed by local artist/activist Monica Daniels and Rivers of Steel Creative Leadership Program Coordinator Ashley Kyber. The mural was created with support from local residents and developed in partnership with The Woodland Hills Impact Center, Rankin Christian Center, and Rankin Borough. The mural will be located at the intersection of 4th Avenue and Hawkins Avenue in the heart of Rankin.

A Ribbon Cutting will be held Saturday July 12th as part of the Annual Celebration of Life for Antwon Rose. The mural celebrates the interconnectedness of all Rankin citizens and the fluidity of community spirit, which both feeds its citizens and fuels the passionate empowerment for a revitalization that has been coined #RankinRising.

The mural concept was conceived by Rankin artist Monica Daniels and designed for pavement mural application by public artist Ashley Kyber. It will be implemented with local community members participating in Rivers of Steel's Creative Leadership Program, a three-year program that works with select Heritage Partner communities on a range of creative projects, professional development, best practices, consulting, and administrative and financial support to help kick-start creative placemaking and heritage tourism in their communities.

Working directly with Rivers of Steel staff members Ashley Kyber and Jon Engel, participants have cooperated throughout 2025 on a range of events and public art concepts proposed for the heart of Rankin.

The pavement mural execution is scheduled for the week of June 16th with a team of local artists, volunteers and Rivers of Steel Graffiti Arts and Creative Leadership Program. Local artists will be trained in the process of pavement mural layout, design and execution as a part of the ROS Creative Leadership training program for citizen creatives. Tom Higgs, of Pittsburgh Public School's CAPA Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts will lead citizen training in pavement epoxy application. Across this project and the entire Creative Leadership Program, participants will learn how to create artist portfolios, conceptualize designs, build consensus with citizens, and design presentation methodologies to develop future pavement murals and other public art projects.

Monica Daniels leads Studio Odyssey, LLC, which has been actively working in Rankin to develop creative sites, including the Gas Street Park and a bus shelter mural at Hawkins and 4th. Studio Odyssey, LLC will also be delivering summer programming at both the Rankin Christian Center and the Gas Street Park throughout the summer, with funding support from Rivers of Steel Creative Leadership Programming. For this project, Ms. Daniels collaborated closely with residents to create an accessible, abstract colorful mural that reflects and enriches Rankin's unique heritage.

Tom Higgs, leading the pavement mural process with Rivers of Steel Staff, Ashley Kyber and Jon Engle. They will be assisted by local artists, including , Monica and Oscar Daniels, Rankin Borough Council

President, Glenn Ford, “Sweater Bob —, Tivers of Steel Graffiti Artists Scott Bozovich and Julieandra —/-. We offer many thanks and withes of gratitude to community members who shared their thoughts and time throughout the process.

The Rivers of Steel Creative Leadership Program is part of a regional initiative called Partners for Creative Economy, which has received support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts’ Creative Communities Initiative, the National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” program and the National Park Foundation.

About Partners for Creative Economy

Partners for Creative Economy is a long-term vision for the future of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, stretching across eight counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. The vision unites Rivers of Steel's cross-sectoral approach to placemaking with an integrated strategy that incentivizes partnership. Its goal is to build up local leaders and invest in the future success of the region's cultural and heritage assets through a range of promotional and professional development strategies, workforce development, technical assistance, and funding. Through this work, Rivers of Steel invests in the capacity of each heritage partner organization and municipality to help accomplish local goals and reach their specific growth potential, ultimately yielding the type of collective economic and community growth the region requires.

About Rivers of Steel

Founded on the principles of heritage development, community partnership, and a reverence for the region’s natural and shared resources, Rivers of Steel strengthens the economic and cultural fabric of western Pennsylvania by fostering dynamic initiatives and transformative experiences.

Through its attractions, programs, and partnerships, Rivers of Steel champions the region’s industrial and cultural heritage to support economic revitalization throughout the eight counties of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area by working to deepen community partnerships, promote heritage tourism, and preserve local recreational and cultural resources for future generations.

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The Borough of Rankin
320 Hawkins Avenue|15104
<http://www.rankinborough.com/>