





**Art can transform a public space. Art can spark a young mind. And when joined together, art can add an element of surprise to a simple rest stop, revealing unknown beauty on your journey. The Art Sparks program, a joint venture of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, brings unexpected excitement to travelers on the Turnpike, while putting young artists on the road to success. Rest. Stop. Imagine all the places you could go!**

### **ART SPARKS @ BLUE MOUNTAIN SERVICE PLAZA**

'Between the Mountains' was created by Shippensburg Area High School art students and is a heartfelt representation of the community they call home. Guided by teaching artist Katie Trainer and art teacher, Aric Sites, students took the lead in designing and painting a mural that celebrates the town's rich history and culture on 12 panels. The mural captures a dynamic blend of Shippensburg's most iconic landmarks such as the mid-point on the Appalachian Trail, scenic rural landscapes, local animals, alongside scenes highlighting everyday life. Students also depicted cherished events, such as the Shippensburg Fair and the Corn Festival, that bring residents together every year to celebrate their town's social, cultural, and economic life. Native pollinator scenes blossom into communities representing growth and diversity.

### **THE ART SPARKS PROGRAM**

The PA Turnpike has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) to bring local, student-created art to our service plazas. Through this program, a school residing in the municipality of a chosen service plaza is selected to host a 20-day teaching artist residency led by a local PCA teaching artist. The students work with the artist and community members to create a piece of art that reflects the region. The work is installed at the respective service plaza during a community opening event. This program began in January 2017 and it is expected that all 17 PA Turnpike service plazas will feature an Art Sparks piece by the end of 2024.

The Blue Mountain Service Plaza Art Sparks project was made possible, in part, through the PCA's regional Arts in Education Partner, Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

