

North Port Skate & Paint Party City Proposal

My name is Jessica Howard. I'm a local artistic community activist that is currently networking with artists and business representatives in Sarasota County to help build the arts community, and create educational, employment, performance, and promotional/advertisement opportunities for local artists. I am currently, however, working with those 18 and over.

The "North Port Skate and Paint Party" is a safe and positive opportunity for artistic minors to associate, network, share inspiration, dance, play, and leave a permanent and perhaps monumental mark on their hometown before embarking on their lives as adults.

I am hoping the City will approve this event to be held at the Skate Park across the street from the Arts Center, where there is even more artistic opportunity that most locally are not aware of. If this event is approved, I am hoping to hold it every other Saturday night for our kids; to terminate when the painting project is completed at the park. Once the park painting project is complete, we could work with the Parks and Recreation department to schedule future events.

I already have established relationships that will benefit the community, inclusive of many individuals associated with the following entities:

- Ringling College of the Arts (students and staffers)
- North Port Police Department
- DJ Zean Bomb (a friend who is excited about this idea)
- North Port Arts Center staff
- North Port Drum Circle performers and organizers

I wish to include local skater kids, minor artists, artistic students from the Ringling College of Arts, minor performing artists, local farmers market food vendors and parental volunteers in the event. I feel that the event would be truly uplifting to participate in.

This event is intended mostly to benefit our local young people by having something positive, inspiring, and truly uplifting to do locally. I work as a professional stylist and speak to a lot of local parents and minors in the area. I am also very well known locally because of my own involvement in the performing arts. Over 90% of those I speak to, both adults and young people, feel that there isn't much to offer in the area that inspires creativity, community building, and support. This event is the first of many I am hoping the city will approve for the next few weeks or months which would provide just that.

I do have a step by step plan on how to make this event happen with minimal cost – one idea is collecting donations from volunteers, parents and others who have already expressed their interest. I understand that the commission is reviewing ideas regarding murals and art in public places. I am hoping this event can even create additional revenue and add to the adornment our city. This is best discussed at a planned presentation where specific and applicable questions can be asked and answered.

I'm honored and excited to chat with you in more detail. Even if this proposal does not interest you, I am grateful to you for taking the time to read this proposal. Thank you and many blessings.