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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dunellen Unveils Community Mural, *Bright Day, Every Day* by Olga Tapia at Madison Avenue Underpass**

**Dunellen, NJ – June 23, 2025** - On Saturday, June 21, the Borough of Dunellen proudly unveiled its new public art installation, *Bright Day, Every Day* by local artist Olga Tapia, at the Madison Avenue underpass, 14 Madison Avenue, Dunellen. The mural has transformed this highly traveled pedestrian route, used by students walking to and from school each day, into an inspiring and vibrant path showcasing our community's creativity.

*Bright Day, Every Day* consists of 16 panels forming eight pieces that showcase characters from diverse backgrounds engaging in a variety of activities. The artwork is created in Tapia's signature anime-inspired style.

"The true celebration of this mural is that Dunellen is a bright, beautiful town that believes in the arts. The heart of the artwork is Dunellen itself," said artist Olga Tapia.

The project began when the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission (DAICC), an organization comprised entirely of volunteers, applied for and received a summer art camp grant from Middlesex County. With the funds secured, DAICC reached out to Olga Tapia, whose artwork can also be seen in the windows of Bubz Boba Bar in Downtown Dunellen.

"In 2024, the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission was awarded a grant from the Arts Institute to support the Commission's summer arts camp for children and teens between the ages of 8 and 17. In this art camp, students explored visual arts, elements, concepts, and media, including color theory, color mixing, pointillism, texture, 2D & 3D art, and much more. Students also learned what it takes to bring public artwork to life. These kinds of experiences, as we all know, don't just result in great artwork; they develop participants' social skills and their creative and critical thinking. They build confidence and empower students with agency to make their mark in the world, and that's why we're all here today," said Richard Simon, Grants Administration Manager at the Arts Institute of Middlesex County.

"We're thrilled to unveil *Bright Day, Every Day* in such a meaningful location. This mural is a reflection of DAICC's mission to promote and celebrate the arts for all members of our community. We're incredibly

grateful to Olga Tapia for sharing her talent, passion, and mentorship and to all of our supporters for their help in bringing this project to life,” said Peg Lockwood, Secretary of the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission.

After presenting several design concepts, Tapia’s artwork was approved by the Dunellen Borough Council and NJ Transit. As an instructor for DAICC’s Summer Art Camp, she sketched the final artwork on the mural boards and guided her students and local families through the process of painting the completed murals.

“This mural is a testament to the power of creativity and community, and I am grateful to the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission, the Dunellen Borough Council, Olga Tapia, Middlesex County, NJ Transit, and the Facciponti family for making this possible. The Borough is excited to have this wonderful public art piece in an area where so many of our residents, especially students, pass through every day,” said Mayor Jason F. Cilento.

Following the success of this project, DAICC has begun developing another mural for the Prospect Avenue underpass, with a theme honoring the Borough’s first responders, including Police, Fire, EMS, OEM, the American Legion, and VFW. The Prospect Avenue Mural is anticipated to be unveiled in the spring of 2026.

The Madison Avenue Mural Project was sponsored by the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, and Culture Commission, with support from Mayor Jason F. Cilento, the Dunellen Borough Council, the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, NJ Transit, and the Facciponti family.

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