

**PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY VOTE
FOR THE GARI PROJECT
WAGERS AND WHISPERS ART CONTEST**

**BE PART OF THE CHANGE – SUPPORT THE WORK OF YOUNG
ADULT RESEARCHERS AND ARTISTS!**

The recent **Wagers & Whispers Art Contest** ended on **September 28th**, Springfield youth and young adults shared powerful works of art exploring how gambling impacts their lives and communities.

Now it is your turn to make a difference – please take a moment to share your vote and complete a very short survey about your views of gambling and gambling related harms.

See the attached flyer for more information or go directly to the GARI project website to view the artist gallery and vote on your top 3 submissions at: [Place Your Bet on Change Community Contest — The Gambling Awareness Research Initiative](#)

Online Voting Ends on November 7th!

**Support the Work Raise Awareness About Gambling Related Harms
Among Youth and Young Adults in Springfield!**

Attached is a flyer about the COMMUNITY VOTE Please share the flyer with others and post at your workplace or on social media.

For more information about the GARI Project and the Wagers and Whispers Art Contest, please see the information below or go to the GARI website at www.gariproject.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me for more information at tglenn @springfieldcityhall.com or 413 750-2065.

Sincerely,

Theresa Glenn, MPH, Problem Gambling Coordinator
Springfield Department of Health and Human Services

GARI Project Contest Website: www.gariproject.org/wagers-and-whispers

THE Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI)

BACKGROUND - GARI PROJECT RESEARCH & EDUCATION ABOUT PROBLEM GAMBLING

In the fall of 2023, the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI) was developed with a grant received by the Springfield Department of Health and Human Services from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Community Mitigation Fund. With these funds SDHHS and project partners including a team of local youth and young adults ages 18 – 26, New North Citizens' Council and UMass, Amherst Center for Community Health Equity Research the GARI project began a process to develop and implement a community participation research project with the goal of learning more about how gambling and gambling related harms are experienced by young people in Springfield. An additional important goal was to raise awareness of this public health issue by increasing community conversations about gambling among young people and identifying ways to offer education and support.

THE WAGERS AND WHISPERS ART CONTEST?

The GARI team of youth and young adults chose arts based qualitative research methods that can offer needed insight about gambling and related issues. One of the approaches selected is the ***Wagers and Whispers, Place your Bet on Change Arts Contest*** for young people ages 16 – 26. The contest which ended on September 28th called artists, storytellers, and creative voices in Springfield to share their perspective on how gambling affects youth and young adults.

Wagers and Whispers is not just about prizes—it's about understanding more about gambling among young people to create awareness and change about possible harms. Every submission will be celebrated following the community vote and will help to raise awareness about problem gambling.