FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[March 18th, 2025]

Media Contact:

Jeff Ganger

Islands of Brilliance

414-902-0927

jeff@islandsofbrilliance.org

NEURODIVERGENT ARTISTS SHOWCASE TALENTS IN SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT EAU CLAIRE'S PABLO CENTER

MILWAUKEE, WI --- Islands of Brilliance (IOB) joyously announces, "The Fellowship Gallery Show," featuring artwork created by neurodivergent teens and young adults. The artists are participants in IOB's Eau Claire Fellowship program. The exhibition will be displayed at the Pablo Center at the Confluence's Laurie Bieze Gallery from April 1st through May 16th, with a special reception on April 25th from 5-7pm in the Market & Johnson Clearwater Recital Hall.

The exhibition showcases the creative talents and unique perspectives of neurodivergent teens and young adults who have been gathering for arts-based activities and guided discussions through the Fellowship program. Visitors will experience a diverse collection of artwork that highlights the unique abilities and creative vision of the participants, created with the guidance of two of IOB’s Brilliant Fellows — August Carlson and Hannah Sallmann.

"The Fellowship program exemplifies our mission of using creativity as a catalyst for growth and connection among autistic and neurodivergent individuals," said Mark Fairbanks, Cofounder. "This exhibition at the Pablo Center offers our participants a professional space to share their artistic voices with the broader community, creating new pathways for understanding. We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of the Pablo Center to provide a space for our participants during April, which is Autism Awareness month."

The Fellowship is part of a larger statewide initiative aimed at providing community resources for people with disabilities to address issues with transition from school to post-academic life. Through creative expression and mentorship, The Fellowship builds confidence, technical skills, and social connections. The unique program helps support participants' personal and professional development.

“Our participants bring different creative skills to the table and putting together a gallery show was the perfect way to celebrate that. It can feel extremely vulnerable to share your art with the public, but such an opportunity is rare and exciting! I’m so grateful that this has been made possible thanks to Pablo Center,” said August Carlson, an Eau Claire Brilliant Fellow. “I am thrilled by the variety of artwork in this show.”

The reception takes place April 25th from 5:00-7:00 pm and will include remarks from Fellowship leaders and participating students who will share their experiences and artistic journeys. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibition in the Laurie Bieze Gallery on the 2nd floor is open to the public during regular Pablo Center hours.

Community members are encouraged to attend the reception and view the exhibition to support these emerging artists and learn more about the valuable work of the Fellowship program. For more information about the exhibition or the Fellowship program, visit islandsofbrilliance.org/the-fellowship.

###

**About Islands of Brilliance:**

Islands of Brilliance (IOB) is a learning experience developed specifically for autistic children and young adults. By using creativity, technology, and mentorship, they help change perceptions of self and promote broader community views of neurodivergent individuals as people with unlimited abilities rather than persons with disabilities. Learn more at islandsofbrilliance.org.

**About The Pablo Center at the Confluence:**

The Pablo Center at the Confluence is a state-of-the-art performing arts center and community space located in downtown Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The center serves as a cultural hub for northwestern Wisconsin, hosting theatrical performances, concerts, art exhibitions, and educational programs that enrich the community through the arts.