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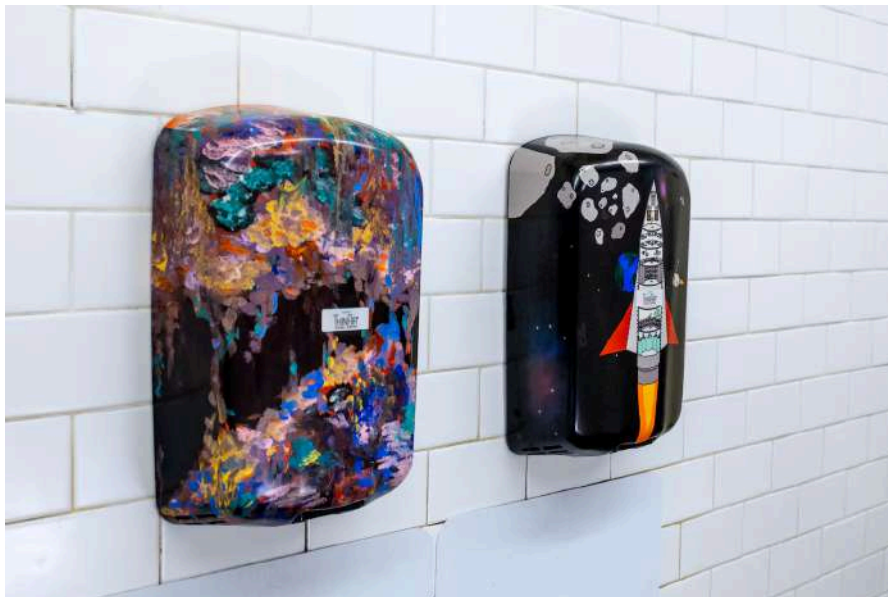
OPINION



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# ‘Look, look, look. I made that.’ High school students’ artwork featured on hand dryers in Boston restrooms.

By [Chloe Pisani](#) Globe Correspondent, Updated May 27, 2026, 6:46 p.m.



These hand dryers at a Faneuil Hall were created by (left) Dylan Lomeli, a 11th-grader from Plymouth, and Gabriel Murray, a 12th-grader at NuVu High School in Cambridge. EXCEL DRYER/COURTESY PHOTO

You can enjoy Boston’s latest public art installations in some unusual spots around the city.

Eight hand dryers in restrooms at Faneuil Hall, the Thomas Johnson Community Center, and Boston City Hall now display the artwork of Boston-area high school students.

Excel Dryer and the nonprofit CoDesign Collaborative teamed up on a plan to brighten city restrooms. The students’ works were presented May 19 at the Thomas Johnson Community Center in Mission Hill.

“It’s really cool to know that [my design] is there, where so many people can see it,” said Dylan Lomeli, an 11th-grader from Plymouth, in a recording of an interview.

The Boston-based CoDesign Collaborative and Excel Dryer, based in East Longmeadow, hosted the Student Design Challenge last summer to provide students with real-world product design experience, Excel Dryer said in a statement.

#### FEATURED VIDEO

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At workshops last August, professional designers helped the students execute their ideas, which were printed on vinyl wraps and applied to hand dryers installed in December, CoDesign Collaborative said.

“It was definitely very interesting getting feedback and critiques from real professionals,” said Ladan Osman, a 12th-grade student at Excel High School in South Boston. “I definitely, I learned a lot about myself, like how I approach art.”

The design process was very collaborative, said Gabriel Murray, a 12th-grader at NuVu High School in Cambridge.

“We kind of just like ping-ponged ideas between each other,” Murray said.

“We all went around and gave feedback, which I think gave us a good set of final products.”

Murray drew a rocket ship blasting off into space manned by a crew of colorful miniature figures.

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“How can I make this be the most interesting for the user to use?” Murray said he asked himself when creating the drawing.

The workshops encouraged students to explore themes of sustainability and accessibility, CoDesign Collaborative said.

“I was thinking about how to incorporate the message of not wasting paper, using hand dryers, being good for the environment,” Lomeli said.

Lomeli created an abstract design with multicolored acrylic paint on a black background inspired by the textures of trees.

Ariel Lin, a 12th-grade student at Newton South High School, was also inspired by the natural environment for her winning design, Christina Hager, a spokesperson for Excel, said.

Lin’s design included tendrils of purple smog coming out of factory smoke stacks, a person cutting down trees, and the maw of a bear around the mouth of the dryer, along with the words “paper pollutes. use XLERATOR instead.”

Leaders at Excel chose Lin’s design for its message of sustainability and its “strong visual impact, which naturally lends itself to public spaces,” Hager said.

The dryer with Lin’s design is displayed in a City Hall bathroom, Hager said.

“Their work is now part of everyday life in Boston, which makes this an important moment for them and for the community,” said William Gagnon, executive vice president and COO of Excel Dryer, in a statement.

Murray said he can’t comprehend how many people will be able to see his work in Faneuil Hall.

“Oh my goodness, all these people are looking at it, and then at that point my brain just kind of can’t get past that,” Murray said.

“My name is in Faneuil Hall,” Osman said. “I’m gonna be graduating in Faneuil Hall, so I’m gonna be able to drag over all my teachers, all my friends, and say, ‘Look, look, look, I made that.’”

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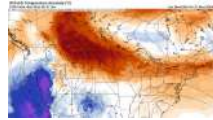
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