

Green Central partnering with local artist to create large-scale mural

Written by



Award-winning local artist Greta McLain will bring hundreds of Richard R. Green Central Park School students and neighborhood residents together for the Central Identity Project (CIP), a series of workshops and forums to design, paint and install a 2,000-square-foot mural that will transform the exterior of Green Central School, located at 3416 4th Ave. S.

McLain, who has installed murals on buildings throughout the Twin Cities and internationally, will use a mural technique called the parachute cloth method that allows for greater community participation by children, elders, residents with disabilities and others traditionally left out of projects like these due to their physical limitations. Rather than painting directly on the wall, the mural design is transferred onto a lightweight synthetic material that is partitioned into various sections and painted at community art workshops. When all panels are painted, the mural is installed on the building creating a spectacular and long-lasting work of art for the community. The technique has never been used in a Minneapolis community mural project.

"The project provides a positive outlet for youth and I believe it will serve as a nexus to train youth and residents in using art as a vehicle to address community issues," said McLain. "The mural will reflect the history and culture of the school and neighborhood and will promote a positive Central neighborhood identity."

Local youth between the ages of 12 and 19 are invited to join open paint workshops on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 411 of Green Central. Youth will help plan the final mural design, help prepare the mural and learn basic to advanced painting skills while working on portions of the mural. A permission slip can be found at www.centralidentityproject.blogspot.com/2013/06/middle-and-high-school-youth-come-paint.htm. CIP is a Minneapolis Community Education program.

In addition to the youth workshops, CIP will host 10 community painting days around the Central neighborhood where community members are invited to talk, eat, dance and paint on the mural panels that will culminate in the largest mural in the Central neighborhood. The first community paint workshop is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 11 at the Youth Farm's Bahai Farm located at 3645 Chicago Ave. S.

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For more information and ways to contribute to the project, visit www.centralidentityproject.blogspot.com