NetworkArts
P.O. Box 4066 Philadelphia, PA 19118-8066 215-592-1990  www.networkarts.org

Dedicated to expanding children's opportunities to express themselves, explore science, art, and the humanities, and create art that permanently transforms their communities.

NetworkArts celebrated its 15th anniversary this year, having completed programs in the sciences and humanities that have reached over 50,000 students. With nearly 60 environmental projects now found in museums, schools, and public spaces, NetworkArts students have created a unique public art environmental classroom for both Philadelphia and the nation. With a total of nearly 200 completed educational mosaics in the sciences, humanities, and intergenerational programs, NetworkArts has provided tools for visual learning in locations as diverse as The Philadelphia International Airport and The Franklin Institute, to schools, parks and nursing homes throughout Philadelphia.

The City of Camden is now the home of NetworkArts projects in major landmarks including the Rand Transportation Center, The Camden Public Library, City Council Chambers, Campbell’s Field, The Camden Children’s Garden, The Camden County Building, The Ronald McDonald House, and neighborhood and school locations around the city.

We look forward to continuing our mission of using the language of the arts to enable students to explore sophisticated curricula and to leave behind art works for future viewers to enjoy and learn from.

Our website, www.networkarts.org will give you an overview of NetworkArts and its educational mosaic programs over the past 15 years.

The Annual Fund plays a large part in enabling this work to reach students and the public throughout the region, and on behalf of our students, we thank you for your support.

Mary Broach, Board Chairman
Josey Stamm, Executive/Artistic Director

BLANKENBURG STUDENTS EXPRESS LOCAL AND WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

West Philadelphia’s Blankenburg School students worked simultaneously with students from NetworkArts Northern Ireland’s St. Finnian’s School to explore the environmental connections between the local and the global. They explored the power of consumers to influence the manufacture of day-to-day products. They wrote to their senators about their concern for phthalates and other chemicals in imported and manufactured products. They learned about the connection between local watersheds and world water quality. They organized a Nike “Reuse a Shoe” campaign to recycle old sneakers into playground surfaces. Through a trip to Stone Harbor Wetlands Institute in New Jersey, they learned about wetlands ecology, used seine nets, and tested the soil and water. The final mosaic expresses these ideas as well as the vital role of political action and the importance of the act of voting.

Made possible by the support of the Hamilton Family Foundation

NETWORKARTS STUDENTS CREATE MAJOR PUBLIC ART ON BARNEGAT BAY STEWARDSHIP FOR OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NetworkArts was invited by The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and New Jersey’s Ocean County Library System to create a mosaic for the library’s main branch in Toms River, New Jersey. Its design guides viewers through the region’s ecology and action steps vital to preserve and restore the Bay.

Working with fifth and sixth grade students from Discovery Place, an educational project of the Ocean County Community Development Corporation, students learned about the watersheds of Barnegat Bay, the county’s major habitats, and why their preservation is vital to the health of the Bay.

Through a series of field trips, the students experienced these lessons. They visited the Lighthouse Center to learn about steps being taken to protect diamondback terrapins and the variety of shorebirds that are found along the Bay. They hiked through Cattus Island and experienced an evolving forest ecosystem and the wetlands along the Bay. At Island Beach State Park, they visited the reclaiming center, an effort by Rutgers
University to restock the Bay with several million clams to control nitrogen levels caused by fertilizer runoff. They operated equipment for water-testing and used seine nets to observe examples of Bay life.

The students researched animal life of the Bay. To express the importance of individual plant species of the different habitats, students created sculptures of Ocean County’s native plants.

The mosaic depicts the Ocean County Watershed map, and habitats including upland forests; lowland forests; tidal creeks; salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes; rivers and streams; and the Bay itself. Each is filled with student-sculpted labeled wildlife.

A key feature of the installation is the 50 text tiles offering vital preservation action steps for the public-at-large.

Made possible through the support of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and Discovery Place.

Greenfield School fifth grade students in Philadelphia explored the science behind the concept of global warming and created a guide for action. They studied atmospheric structure; the types, sources, and characteristics of greenhouse gases; and the ecological impacts of climate change. The roles of oceans and human land usage in climate change were examined.

Innovations and conservation strategies were reviewed – from renewable energy strategies to new approaches for “Cradle to Cradle” product design.

The students built their own models of green buildings and created sculptures to express the importance of habitat protection. Their text tiles delineate action steps from personal conservation to political action.

A field trip to Tinicum Wildlife Refuge brought the project to life, where they examined a variety of the green architectural features of its education center first-hand. They hiked through this urban wetland and identified its wildlife, observing wild turkeys, double-crested cormorants, tree swallows, deer and great blue herons, among other species.

The mosaic was constructed by the entire “third floor” of Greenfield, bringing together fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders in the effort.

NetworkArts’ written manual which served as the curriculum for the project will be used by teachers and shown to visitors who tour Greenfield School in the future.

Camden Summer Students Transform Camden County Building

NetworkArts worked with youth from a social service program of Camden’s Center for Family Services to learn about some of New Jersey’s most distinguished “heroes” and to use that information to transform the lobby of the Camden County Building, one of two major government buildings in the city of Camden. In the process, the students were showered with compliments by the building’s employees and visitors, instilling in them a great sense of pride.

The project celebrated the achievements of Buzz Aldrin, Toni Morrison, Walt Whitman, Woodrow Wilson, Bruce Springsteen, Paul Robeson, Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison. The mosaic also honors the state’s numerous cultural resources, landmarks, habitats, agriculture and businesses. The students took several field trips throughout the summer in the tri-state region, and had a final celebration at the Baltimore waterfront.

Made possible through the support of the Campbell Soup Foundation.

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KELLY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS EXPLORE SENIORS’ MEMORIES AND CREATE A 100 YEAR HISTORY MOSAIC

Students at Kelly School in Germantown learned about the 20th Century from the people who lived it. Preparing a detailed list of questions, the students spent a day at the Maplewood Nursing Home, interviewing its residents and experiencing “living history.” The mosaic which they produced, located in a corridor leading from the lobby to the school’s library, explores the great events of the seniors’ lifetimes – the World Wars, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, technological achievements, and major cultural, scientific, and political leaders, among many others. The wall contains numerous text tiles with a great deal of details that will serve as an ongoing history lesson for all future generations of Kelly students.

STUDENTS STUDY “A MODEL FOR A GREEN CITY” AT CAMDEN’S LEAP ACADEMY

The eighth grade of Camden’s LEAP Academy created a lobby installation detailing what a “Green City” might look like. Studying LEED architectural standards, they created their own green buildings and made drawings of creative architectural concepts. They considered a wide variety of factors including energy usage, transportation, the necessity of green spaces, native plants, and conservation. They learned about the pollution history of the Delaware Estuary and the steps that have and need to be taken to protect water quality. They then experienced these lessons first hand through a Camden tour led by geologists from the environmental engineering firm of Dresdner Robin, and a representative of New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection. Dresdner Robin is involved in the reclamation of the brownfield site on which the Salvation Army’s new multimillion dollar youth center is being constructed in Camden. The site was a former landfill, and students saw the soil excavation work and learned about the approaches being taken to protect the watershed and remove pollution from the site.

Made possible by the support of the Gerladine R. Dodge Foundation

ST. PETERS STUDENTS CREATE A WORLDWIDE ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT “PROFILES IN COURAGE”

The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at St. Peter the Apostle School in North Philadelphia participated in the conceptualizing, design, and construction of a mosaic mural depicting the theme “Profiles in Courage.” Over 60 different heroes from around the world were identified and researched. The mosaic includes their sculpted portraits and their biographies. The wide range of personalities included Galileo, Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, Benazir Bhutto and Corrie ten Boom, among others. Situated in a multipurpose room, the mosaic is an ongoing world cultures lesson for both students and the community.

Made possible by the Connelly Foundation.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT AT GERMANTOWN HOME CREATES A LANDSCAPE VISTA

A dining room at Germantown Home is now a landscape vista that residents can contemplate, thanks to their own work and the help of NetworkArts high school students. The scene is populated by numerous sculptural details, and expands the sense of space within the room. It is part of NetworkArts’ continuing Myrna Brind Intergenerational Program, uniting generations and beautifying nursing home spaces.

Made possible by NewCourtland Elder Services and AmerisourceBergen
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