The 2006-2007 academic year was a rich one for NetworkArts. In our environmental program, students created one of our largest and most detailed mosaics, 125 feet x 9 feet, at Saul Agricultural High School’s dairy barn. Students at two schools explored water quality issues. Camden students investigated world forest issues. In the humanities, the students created a wall honoring world peacemakers, and explored the history of communication. Our intergenerational program with NewCourtland Elder Systems honored the special ties between generations and transformed physical space at a nursing home to serve as a Chapel.

NetworkArts and its students blend the study of the arts, sciences, and humanities to address vital environmental issues, social history, and intergenerational experiences. We hope you enjoy reading about these projects, and that you have the opportunity to view them on site.

Our website, www.networharts.org, will give you an overview of NetworkArts and its educational mosaic programs over the past 14 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

GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NETWORKARTS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN CAMDEN

Three fifth grade classes at Philadelphia’s Bridesburg School studied the topic of nonpoint source pollution and its impacts on river ecological systems. They made illustrations, tiles, and sculpted Delaware River wildlife. Their mosaic, now a reference in a main hallway outside the school’s library, encourages students to think about our daily lifestyles and their pollution impacts, and how we all can minimize those impacts.

Sponsored by Rohm and Haas
NETWORKARTS CREATES A FIVE-PART ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AT SAUL HIGH SCHOOL, INVOLVING THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY

The students of Saul Agricultural High School in Philadelphia worked with NetworkArts to build a 125' x 9' installation readily visible from Henry Avenue, giving the school and its academic programs a heightened presence. Created on the side of the school’s dairy barn, teachers are already utilizing the mosaic’s content as an academic resource.

Students sculpted numerous details for the mosaic, including the native trees of our area, vegetation for riparian buffer areas, and local wildlife.

The curriculum created by NetworkArts explores five topics designed to reflect the breadth and depth of the school’s academic life.

PANEL I: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES
Embedded within the imagery of this panel are text panels describing a range of sustainable agricultural techniques, including no- and low-tillage strategies, polyculture, streambank restoration and buffer zones, and techniques for crop selection to optimize site conditions, among other topics. Integrated pest management is represented by a plaque listing over 25 “helpful insects” surrounded by student insect sculptures.

PANEL II: DOMESTICATED ANIMALS
Using Jared Diamond’s analysis in Guns, Germs, and Steel, this panel focuses on characteristics of the large domesticated animals and their natural histories.

PANEL III: AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEROS
The 24 individual biographies in this panel span the gamut from giants in American environmental history, contemporary innovators, and agricultural innovators. Among those featured are Ruth Patrick, pioneer in the ecology of river systems; Temple Grandin, who used her condition of autism to develop a profound understanding of animal behavior and applied it to humane animal facilities; Rachel Carson, who moved the world with her book “Silent Spring”, and Henry David Thoreau, who called attention to the vanishing wilderness.

PANEL IV: NATURAL RESOURCE, PRESERVATION
Students learned about the history of the Valley Green area and their own campus, as well as current restoration strategies proposed for Fairmount Park. They sculpted nearly 100 animal species found there. The wall emphasizes action we all can take to protect the park, including removal of invasive plant species, planting native species, and observing pooper-scooper laws, among other actions.

PANEL V: HORTICULTURE
This panel contains nearly 40 student-created sculptures depicting native trees. It features a soil texture triangle, a technique to identify soil-type based on its percentage of silt, clay and sand. Its overall design celebrates the school’s emphasis on landscape design.

The mosaic was constructed by the entire Saul student body. Over the barn door entrance are 25 career suggestions for students that they can study as they enter the barn.

Made possible by the Hamilton Family Foundation.
ST. RAYMOND'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE A WORK OF ART ENTITLED "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

Students in this school in Mt. Airy worked throughout the winter and spring to create a mosaic celebrating over 60 individuals throughout the world who have contributed to world peace. Each hero is represented by a student-sculpted portrait and written tribute in the form of poetry and/or biographical information. They range from Nobel Peace Prize winners to world statesmen to community heroes to the young poet Mattie Stepanek. The wall is located in a multipurpose room used for dining, recreational activity, and as a community resource, for all viewers to find inspiration.

Made possible by The Connelly Foundation.

CAMDEN'S CRAMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE WORLD FORESTS AND HOW WE CAN PROTECT THEM

Cramer School students studied the great forests of our planet - rainforest, temperate, and boreal forests. They learned about the general importance of these biomes, the specific importance of trees, the characteristics of those forest types, and factors contributing to forest losses in different parts of the world. The mosaic expresses action steps everyone can take - from planting trees, to buying FSC certified lumber, to decisions we can make as consumers, recyclers, and voters.

Sponsored by Lindbach Foundation and Subaru of America Foundation, Inc.

Mast Charter School Creates a Major Mosaic Installation Exploring Watersheds and Water Quality

The Math, Science, and Technology Charter School ("MaST") in Northeast Philadelphia is now home to a major 3-part installation in the main lobby educating all who enter the building about the role everyone must play in preserving water quality. The students explored the different types of effects that human activities have on watersheds, rivers, and ocean water quality.

Three fourth grade classes and one eighth grade class explored our region's ecological history, wildlife, environmental laws, and current problems. These students were joined by classes throughout the school in the creation. The emphasis of the program was the need for individual stewardship action. The mosaic suggests a number of action steps through its text including proper recycling of hazardous materials and advocacy for wetlands protection.

Made possible by The Connelly Foundation.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT AT MAPLEWOOD MANOR NURSING HOME EXPRESS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS

Residents of Maplewood Manor worked side by side with students from St. Raymonds and other student volunteers to explore the manner in which traditions are handed down through the generations. The images reflect specific recollections in the lives of these seniors - from an older man reading to a young boy, to a young girl cooking with her grandmother. The final mosaic, 30-feet long by 7-feet high, brightens a multi-purpose/dining area within the nursing home. The project is a part of NetworkArts' Myrna Brind Intergenerational Program, and represents the fourth mosaic NetworkArts has constructed with seniors and students within the facility through its ongoing partnership with the NewCourtland Elder Systems Network. Collectively, these mosaics are transforming the ambiance of the entire building.

Made possible by NewCourtland Elder Services and AmerisourceBergen.

GERMANTOWN NURSING HOME SPACE IS TRANSFORMED FOR USE AS A CHAPEL

NetworkArts worked with seniors at Germantown Home nursing facility to transform a multi-purpose room into a space that can also be used as a Chapel on Sundays, in addition to its many daily uses. Using quilt imagery and peace doves, the room now has an ambiance that suggests stained glass.
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