NetworkArts and its students have blended 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.networkarts.org will give you an overview of NetworkArts and its projects over the past 12 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.

Verdia Mobley-Provette, Board Chairman
Josey Stamm, Executive/Artistic Director

NETWORKARTS CREATES PERMANENT INSTALLATION FOR PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The security gate at Terminal B at the Philadelphia International Airport is now home to a permanent installation on the History of Aviation, created by NetworkArts and 20 of its Camden summer students. It celebrates both the students’ research and the hundredth anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ flight.

The work features portraits of nine early aviators: The Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, James Doolittle, Bessie Coleman, Henri Farman, Glenn Curtiss, Charles Lindbergh and Beryl Markham. Surrounding the portraits are 50 student-sculpted aircraft; text biographies of 28 additional major aviation pioneers, and the names of over 80 historic aircraft.

The students took a “behind the scenes tour” of the Airport, and spent a day enjoying Washington, D.C., and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

The youth who worked with NetworkArts on this project were in foster care and shelter programs administered by Camden’s Center for Family Services. Thanks to the Airport, their artwork will now be able to be enjoyed by thousands of travelers for years to come.

Made possible by the support of The Philadelphia International Airport

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL IS NOW HOME TO A 20,000-YEAR TIMELINE EXAMINING MAN’S USE OF EARTH RESOURCES

The long, cavernous space at Philadelphia’s Lincoln High School, known as the “ramp hallway” is now the site of a 135 foot mosaic designed to trace man’s use of Earth’s resources – including the earliest deforestation issues in prehistoric and ancient civilizations, the invention of various disposable objects, the impact of environmental practices on health and environmental laws, technological discoveries, environmental heroes, current problems, and some possible solutions. NetworkArts created the mosaic with students in the environmental and art academies and nearly 1,000 of their classmates from throughout the school.

The mosaic was designed to be relevant to all of Lincoln High School’s academies. It contains over 200 message tiles that describe its landmark events in detail. Lincoln teachers have designed curricula to enable it to serve as an ongoing teaching tool. Delaware Valley Earth Force used the mosaic as a springboard to work with students on community projects.

Made possible by the support of Rohm and Haas Company.
HENRY SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP PHILADELPHIA “WELCOME THE WORLD” AT THE PENN’S LANDING VISITORS’ CENTER.

Students from Mt. Airy's Henry School explored world cultures, painted the faces of our diverse neighborhoods, and helped build a mosaic at Penn's Landing Visitors’ Center entitled “Philadelphia Welcomes the World.”

The mosaic was designed in three parts. The left section celebrates Philadelphia’s history as a city of neighborhoods, with portraits of Benjamin Franklin, Marian Anderson, and student-painted portrait tiles. The middle section celebrates the city’s central role in the birth of democracy and its heritage of immigration. The right section expresses Philadelphia’s rich artistic heritage and its celebration of world cultures, and is laced with student sculptures of world symbols and flags.

Made possible through the generosity of PECO Energy.

NETWORKARTS’ MYRNA BRIND INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT CREATES FOUR INSTALLATIONS AT GERMANTOWN NURSING HOME

Working with students from Houston School and Khepera Charter School, seniors and students created four mosaic installations throughout NewCourtland’s Germantown Home nursing home facility. In Sounds of Philadelphia, students and seniors shared ideas and memories about styles of music, contemporary and past. The mosaic greets visitors to the facility’s lobby.

As a part of the Patterns and Quilts project, the group examined patterns and designs from many cultures – African, Asian, South American, Native American, Art Deco, and natural forms. Sculpted clay squares created by the group filled the forms of three additional mosaics placed in various sites around the building.

Thanks to NewCourtland Elder Services

OLNEY’S MORRISON STUDENTS USE MOSAIC TO EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF THE ATHOS OIL SPILL ON THE DELAWARE ESTUARY

Over 120 students from Andrew S. Morrison School’s fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes in Olney examined the impact of the November 2004 Athos I oil spill on the Delaware River, and explored strategies to protect our water. The pattern of petroleum traffic on the river, the river's industrialization and agricultural characteristics, the history of past spills, and the potential impacts on wildlife were explored. Students learned about the Delaware estuary and its food webs. The mosaic is a reminder of the fragility of water quality in the context of our highly industrialized society.

Made possible by the Knight Foundation and the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation

PHILADELPHIA’S JAZZ HERITAGE IS CELEBRATED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

NetworkArts was invited by the Free Library of Philadelphia to create art programming in ten of its North Philadelphia branches. In response, NetworkArts has designed a two-year program to explore the richness of Philadelphia’s jazz heritage.

It invited Clef Club artists to present lecture/demonstrations in jazz style, percussion, and history.

NetworkArts worked with its students to explore the collages of Romare Bearden, and made plaques celebrating over 75 musicians who either were born, worked, or lived in the city. Children from the Honickman Learning Center of Project HOME made sculptures of musical instruments and symbols.

The mosaic was installed with the participation of over 200 community residents on the outside front wall of the YMCA/North Philadelphia Head Start building.


Made possible by the Knight Foundation and the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation
ST. MARY’S STUDENTS OFFER WISHES AND INSPIRATION FOR THE WORLD

Third through eighth graders of St. Mary’s Interparochial School in Center City came together to learn about some of the large issues facing the Earth. They then worked together to design a composition that offers hope and celebration through drawings, sculptures, and written wishes for the world. The mosaic is in a gymnasium/lunchroom used by all students in the school, and all of its students helped build it.  

Made possible by the generosity of The Connelly Foundation

PENN VALLEY STUDENTS TRACE THE WAYS KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE AGES

Three fifth grade classes identified and researched techniques employed throughout history to communicate knowledge – from cave paintings and hieroglyphics to satellites and ipods. Students in the first through fourth grades each made a border tile, with alphabet imagery and references to fairytales, myths, and personal histories.

The mosaic was installed on two large panels in the school’s entranceway, on either side of the entrance to the auditorium. Fifth grade “alumni” along with parents and staff also participated in the mosaic’s creation.

Made possible through the generous support of The Campbell Soup Foundation

BARRATT STUDENTS CONTINUE NETWORKARTS’ 20TH CENTURY PROJECT

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from Barratt School in South Philadelphia explored the 20th century through major events in politics, technology, and culture, to create a work of 20th century landmarks. The mosaic also included flags to represent the diversity of Barratt’s student body.

NETORKARTS STUDENTS RETURN TO THE RAND TRANSPORTATION CENTER TO CREATE A MAJOR OUTDOOR WORK OF PUBLIC ART FOR CAMDEN

NetworkArts was invited back for a second year to create a major mosaic work for the facade of the Rand Transportation Center, Camden’s major bus terminal. Teenagers in a social services program of the Center for Family Services worked with NetworkArts to create a 32 foot long x 12 foot high mosaic expressing the importance of reforestation. The mosaic pays tribute to Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya which planted over 30 million trees in an effort to address issues of poverty, democracy, forest restoration, and desertification. Her award marked the first time the Peace Prize was given to an environmentalist.

The students made an extensive series of drawings to prepare for the mosaic’s designs, including endangered species and a variety of tree species and tree shapes. They learned about the role of the baobab tree in African folklore. Drawings were converted into large sculptures.

Students took a four-mile hike along the Wissahickon prior to beginning the installation, and spent a day enjoying the Baltimore Aquarium and waterfront to celebrate at the project’s end.

Made possible through the generous support of The Campbell Soup Foundation

CAMDEN’S CENTER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPLORES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NetworkArts worked with students in the entrepreneurship program at Camden’s Center for Youth Development to help create an inventory of art objects to be sold at ten sites around the city. Students made mobiles, ornaments, and various kinds of jewelry, and developed business plans to support their sales strategy.
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THANKS TO COMCAST FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.