

“SCU•Presents Arts for Social Justice (ASJ), is a collaborative, interdisciplinary initiative, the mission of which is to raise awareness about critical issues addressing the human condition, inspiring students to engage the world. Through the creation of and participation in a wide variety of art forms that promote dialogue and action both on and off campus, students transform lives and society through their creative and intellectual energy and skills.”

<http://scupresents.org/support-the-arts/special-projects.html>

The “Street Canvas” project is an experience in which students create an art piece that conveys their ideas about their community and their lives. The collaboration between Santa Clara professors and Del Mar’s students and teachers allowed students to have a voice in expressing their ideas about social justice.

During their experience, students visited San Francisco and engaged in the Precita Eyes Murals tour of city murals. Del Mar’s students also engaged in brainstorming themes they consider essential to their community and social justice. These themes include:

- Immigration
- Family
- Belonging/Identity/Acceptance/Unity
- Human and Equal Rights/ Empowerment
- Responsibility/ Balance of work/life
- A Voice for the Voiceless

Whether you regard individual panels or the mural as a whole, we hope that you appreciate the beauty and messages in our students’ work.



SCU•Presents Arts for Social Justice Program

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Del Mar High School

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Campbell Union High School District

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Street Canvas

a collaboration between
Santa Clara University
and Del Mar High School



Made possible by a grant from
The National Endowment for the Arts

Enrique Murcio
12th grade



Originally from Mexico, I have experienced discrimination first hand, and now I see that a hostility is growing towards people of middle eastern descent. This is the reason I decided to participate in this project, to highlight an injustice produced by fear and anger. With international terrorism on the rise, it is easy to point fingers, but we have to remember that labels will not solve the problem. This piece means a lot to me because

prejudices have impacted me directly. I think it is a big injustice for people to be alienated because they are different. This piece was created to fight the stereotypes that have been stapled on the chest of innocent people all around the world. I want people to think twice about what they say and how they act.

Alisson Sanchez
10th grade



Immigration is seen as an issue in today's world. Everyday I see news about people being labeled as "illegal," and it devastates me to hear that people can't live in a country of their choice. Everyone deserves the right to choose where they want to live in order to fulfill their aspirations. I have been Influenced by personal family issues, current events, and traveling to Mexico. I have used the world map tattoo, the passport, and the dreamcatcher to convey the theme of immigration and the hope of pursuing a better life. Whether people are seeking family and unity, peace, or

education for a brighter future, immigrants should not be stopped or limited by paperwork or passports.

Andrea Citalli Gonzalez
11th grade



I participated in creating this art piece simply because I enjoy creating art. During the thinking process, there were a lot of ideas to incorporate into this piece, but sometimes simplicity is key. In the design, there is a rosebud that eventually blooms, which represents growth. There is a focus on growth because it can be applied universally. There will always be issues that exist, and the piece emphasizes that these growing issues are a part of progress. The piece helps

unify the issues that are brought forward in the entire piece. As a whole, the piece brings awareness to several issues that don't receive sufficient attention.

Alyssa Hinkley
10th grade



I painted this mural to showcase the problem of teenagers being ignored and not having a voice. The girl in the painting is weighed down and gagged to show she can't do or say anything because no one will take what she does and says seriously. We have all heard the phrase, "You're just a kid." But we 'kids' know more than most people think. No one takes teenagers seriously because of their age. I chose to paint about this because I have felt like people didn't listen to me because I am a teen. Not

being taken seriously because of age, which is something you can't control, is an awful feeling. Sometimes the best, most creative ideas come from a young mind, but those ideas pointless if no one listens to them. This issue is also one that isn't talked about a lot, so the mural is an attempt to get that message out.

Paulina Ochoa Ochoa
12th grade



I chose to become part of this journey in order to communicate the importance of following your dreams to success. This opportunity to create an art piece in regards to social justice arose from an interest in drawing, painting, and sculpting. Since sophomore year, creating art by manipulating both 3 and 2-dimensional hemispheres opened my eyes to explore my creativity. Normally, 2-dimensional hemispheres do not provide depth, but with the magic of paint, the illusion of movement and liveliness

can be created. In this image, the American Dream is conveyed through the Latin American perspective with color, detail, and texture. Although color, detail, and texture add dimension and interest to the image, that is not the message. The overall social issue of immigration, success, and discrimination provides a significant alteration to the United States. Not many individuals have a clear understanding of the causes and effects of this particular journey, but in this image, the word is spoken for everyone.

Daniela Domingo Nunez
11th grade



I'm quiet, sometimes reserved, and my art reflects my point of view of the world. I chose the topic of migration for my piece because it is the story of my family. My family came from Mexico. I was participating in a regular day with my family as I worked on my project. My piece means to me that borders are artificial. Borders are different over time; they can change. One thing that doesn't change is people wanting to provide a better life for their family. This is important to me because it represents my family culture and

where my family came from and how some of my family struggled to come to the U.S. I feel proud of where my family's heritage and how they wanted a better life not just for themselves, but for me and my other family members.

