

Expanding worldviews

Service-Learning through Collaborative Art in Weinland Park

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Course: Art Education 693D

Students in the online master's degree program for practicing art teachers were paired with neighborhood youth through a partnership with the University Area Enrichment Association (UAEA). The graduate students, all art teachers in places as far as Alaska and as near as Columbus with little knowledge of the neighborhood, began the partnership through an online dialogue exchange with youths from the Weinland Park neighborhood. The graduate students, one professor, a community partner, and neighborhood children spent a week exploring the assets of the community to inspire the creation of a community art piece. The result was a painting of multiple canvases, tied together and hung by a wood curtain rod. The art piece reflected many assets in the community, including the natural, human, and social assets discovered during a mapping of the neighborhood.

Other projects have sprung from this partnership: UAEA is collaborating on a freshman seminar, providing a community tour guide, and supporting graduate students in the establishment of a student version of the community organization.



The graduate students commented on the village feeling present in this housing complex—older kids looked out for younger ones, referring to each other as brothers and sisters, while the mothers were caring and supervisory of all the children.

Discovering a Community's Heart through Community Art

If we care for our community, it will grow.

Weinland Park youth