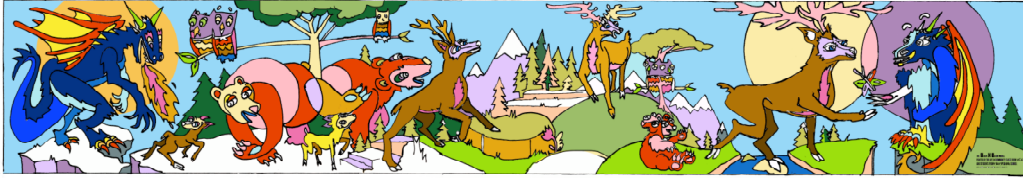


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Love the Bully

Freshly painted mural in downtown Minneapolis does a 180 on the bullying problem



Minneapolis, Minn., May 3, 2012 – A mural, created in collaboration with [Youth Art and Media Works](#), [Minneapolis College of Art and Design \(MCAD\)](#), and 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students from [Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center in Minneapolis](#) sends out a clear message to the community, one that comes directly from the kids--*love the bully*.

Beth Pacunas, Founder and Artistic Director for Youth Art and Media Works states, “We listen to kids and help them help themselves create positive solutions to the challenges they face at home and at school. In this case, we explored bullying. These kids came up with “[Love the Bully](#)” on their own proving the world can still be an amazing place. It gives me goose bumps.”

During an 8-week creative process, the MCAD Art in Community students and the Emerson SILC students, both under the tutelage of artist/instructor Elissa Cedarleaf Dahl, worked together to visualize the dynamics of bullying from 4 different points of view—the bully, the victim, the bystander and the empowered person--one who understands he or she can affect change.

Elissa Cedarleaf Dahl loves the collaborative process. “The kids sat at tables with the college students. They drew, painted, and discussed ideas. Conversations bounced from the best color palette that represents feelings of intimidation to analyzing effective superhero maneuvers. We had tons of material to work with but through an organic process of listening and interpretation, certain ideas became themes and the kids’ favorite animals became characters in a narrative mural about forgiveness and understanding.”

The mural depicts a scene of a huge dragon towering over a very small deer while owls look on. As you move visually down the wall, a group of friendly bears work with the owls and the deer until the deer grows strong and powerful. At the end, the deer is holding out it’s hoof in forgiveness to the dragon.

It is located in downtown Minneapolis at the corner of 15th Street and Nicollet Avenue on the side of the Savitt Paint Building. Savitt donated the paint and other supplies.

About Youth Art and Media Works

Youth Art and Media Works is a non-profit company that cultivates courage, creative thinking and conversation in ‘tween boys and girls. Through collaboration, mentoring and community engagement, we help kids help themselves by creating story-based art and media that explores all aspects of their lives. For more , visit <http://www.yaamworks.org> or contact Founder & Artistic Director Beth Pacunas at 651-398-6630.

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