

ORAL HISTORY OF APOLLO Mosaic Project

A Collaboration of the Apollo-Ridge Education Foundation, IUP's ArtsPath Artist in Residence, and Participants at the Apollo Senior Center

DAY ONE—March 27, 2019

Planning Meeting

SETTING THE CRITERIA

Jeff Wacker, Laura Jean McLaughlin, Cris Kostiuik, and Kim McAfee held a Planning Meeting at the Senior Center. This gave Laura Jean an opportunity to see the workspace and meet many of the Participants

ArtsPath Residency Application, 2018-19
The residency budget is created in consultation with ArtsPath utilizing a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet

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1 RESIDENCY GOAL(S)
Example: To integrate multicultural themes into the curriculum through students' creation of and responses to traditional African vessels, exploring the significance of decorative and functional art and their place in culture throughout time.
To provide participating seniors with six commonly identified features of aging successfully: a sense of purpose, interactions with others, personal growth, self-acceptance, autonomy, and health.
In addition, the experience should build their confidence, increase their organizational skill, and improve their listening skills. Finally, it should provide them a connection to the community as they share their personal stories and experiences in the town of Apollo and region.

2 RESIDENCY OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES
Note: This is HOW you will achieve your goal(s). As appropriate, please use any of the following in formulating your objectives and outcomes. Specific references to the standards/skills being addressed should be made in each area utilized. Well-structured and planned residency projects should have multiple objectives and outcomes. **NOTE: You do NOT need to have something in every area listed below.**

A. Curriculum Connections
1.) PA Core Standards 2.) National Core Arts Standards 3.) Webb's Depth Of Knowledge Levels
4.) Other areas important to your organization or school district

B. 21st Century Skills (<http://www.p21.org/our-work/p21-framework>)

C. Other

For the Apollo Senior Center, the primary residency goals are therapeutic and quality-of-life in nature, but we would also like to see more seniors in the community coming to the center and taking advantage of the many opportunities. As identified by the Journal of Aging Studies, 6 features of successful aging – and areas we would like this experience to have a positive impact on the participants – are a sense of purpose, interactions with others, personal growth, self-acceptance, autonomy, and health. In addition, we expect them to come away with strong feelings of satisfaction on what they've accomplished and contributed to their community. Also, the telling of their stories to be part of a on-demand oral history as individuals look at the mural, as well as the sharing anticipated with HS students participating, is important to their self-worth and value to you/your generations and their community. Finally, through invitation by the senior center administration, as well as from the participants, having increased traffic in the senior center by family members, or simply anyone interested, will be hoped for.

3 CORE GROUPS
Note: Not to exceed approx. thirty students per core group with no more than three core groups.
Example: Two sections of eighth grade English students with 25 in each group and one section of seventh grade history students with 29
1 group of 10-15 seniors, as well as one or two senior high school students.

4 PLANNING TO DATE
Note: Please provide dates you have met for planning.
Example: We discussed our ideas initially with the ArtsPath staff and met subsequently with the artist on two occasions (Feb. 1 and March 1). We also had several phone calls.

Host Sch: _____
Host Coord: _____
Site Address: _____

Day Phone: (_____) _____
Directory Artist: _____
Artist Phone: (_____) _____
Artist Address: _____
Pittsburgh, PA 1 _____
Per-day fee agree _____
Other Teachers/Ho _____

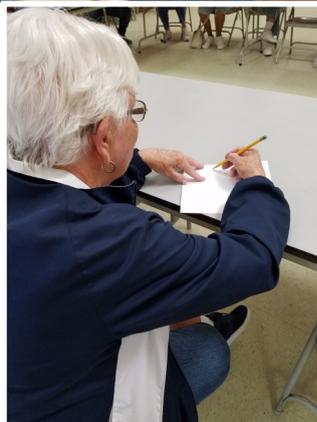
*All fees agreed upon
Liability – The artist's
a fully executed agr
Required Signatures -
application, including
before the application

Host Coordinator/Teacher
Site Administrator/Principal
Primary Directory Artist

**NOTE: If more than 1 artist, a
A host teacher/coordinator**

DAY TWO—May 29, 2019

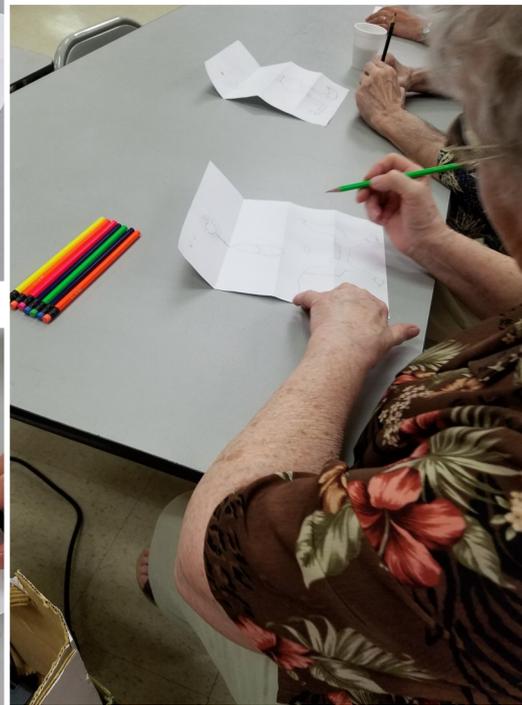
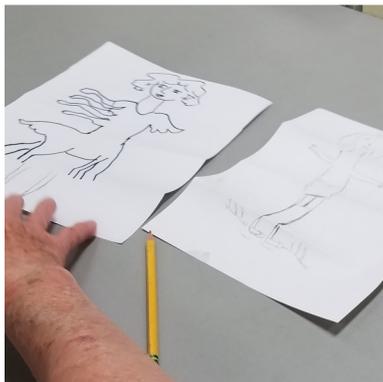
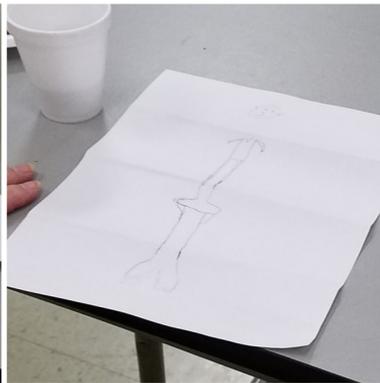
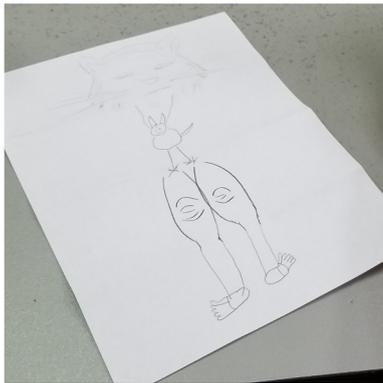
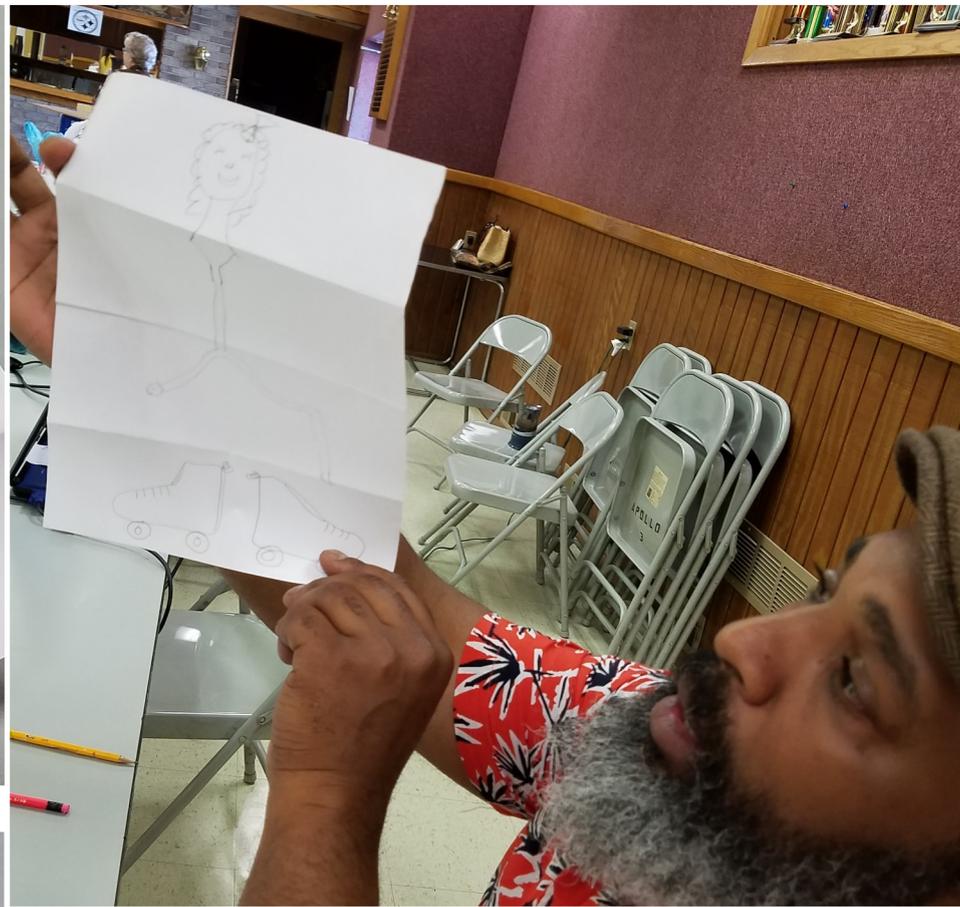
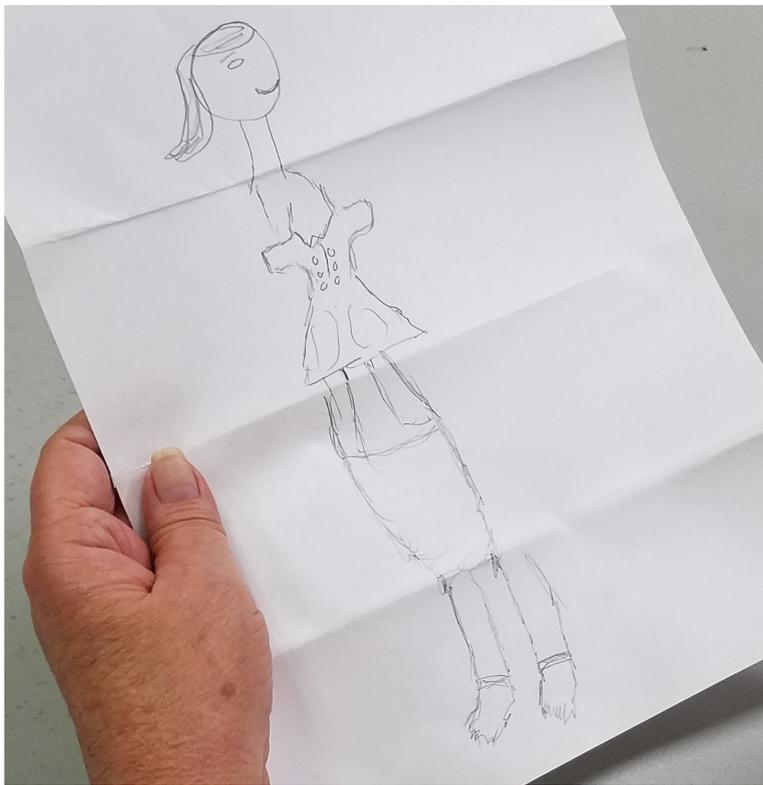
Introductions and Team Building



INTRODUCTIONS

Laura Jean McLaughlin, a clay and mosaic artist, introduced herself and discussed the enduring and historical importance of mosaics. Many of her mosaics can be found throughout the Pittsburgh area and beyond. One of the most well-known is located near the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Ricardo Iamouri Robinson is a composer, sound recordist and audiovisual artist. Ricardo's assignment is to record the memories of the Participants which will be played back from an audio box located on the interpretive sign for the mural/mosaic in Apollo.



TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

To get the creative juices flowing and to show the Participants how their individual creativity can impact a project, Laura Jean led the group in a game. Each Participant received a sheet of paper and was instructed to fold it into thirds. The Participant drew a head on the top third of the sheet and then folded it under so the second Participant couldn't see what had been drawn. The sheets were then passed to the next person on the right. That individual drew a torso before folding the paper and passing it again to the right. The third person drew feet. The end results were interesting combinations of each individual's creativity.

DAY THREE—May 30, 2019

Sharing Memories



ICE BREAKER

While keeping their hands busy creating clay baskets and other objects, Ricardo encouraged the group to discuss their memories of growing up and living in Apollo.



DAY FOUR—May 31, 2019

Creating the Design and Placing Black Outline Tiles



BASIS FOR THE DESIGN

Ricardo and Laura Jean discussed the stories told by the folks on Day One and used common themes to create the design that incorporated memories of the Valarena Skating Rink, Owens Grove, the Salt Mines, Street Cars, and the Big Maple Tree



DAY FIVE—June 6

A Visit from Jeff Wacker, IUP ArtsPath's Arts-in-Education Services Coordinator

ABOUT ARTSPATH

ArtsPath is a regional arts-in-education program in partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and is one of 14 throughout the state funded by the PCA.

ArtsPath services a five-county region, including Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Indiana, and Jefferson counties. The work involves placing high-quality, professionally active visual, performing, media, and literary artists in educational settings for extended, in-depth residency activities. Further work of the partnership includes arts-in-education advocacy regionally, statewide, and nationally; providing artists and teachers personal educational opportunities; and promoting community outreach. Administered through the IUP College of Fine Arts, the program is directed through a consortium of regional concerns, including the Indiana Arts Council, ARIN Intermediate Unit 28, Associated Artists of Butler County, Slippery Rock University College of Humanities and Fine and Performing Arts, and the IUP College of Education and Communications. A host of regional educators, education administrators, and community leaders serve on an advisory committee.

The ArtsPath Mission

Through a consortium of area educators, administrators, students, residents, and civic leaders, and with resources available within the community and through Indiana University of Pennsylvania, ArtsPath maintains a communicative partnership that promotes quality arts experiences, establishing the use of the Arts in education crossing all curricula as a priority, offering regional AIE services, generating community-wide and regional support, and advocating the arts classroom teacher as integral to a student's complete education.





DAY SIX—June 7

Nipping Tiles and Adding Interest with Color





DAY SEVEN—June 11

Three Quarters Done



PUBLICITY

One of the unwritten goals for the project was to create awareness for the Senior Center and increase participation. To that end, Anne Cloonan from the Leader Times was contacted to write a story about the project.





MORE THAN AN ART PROJECT

Residency Goals

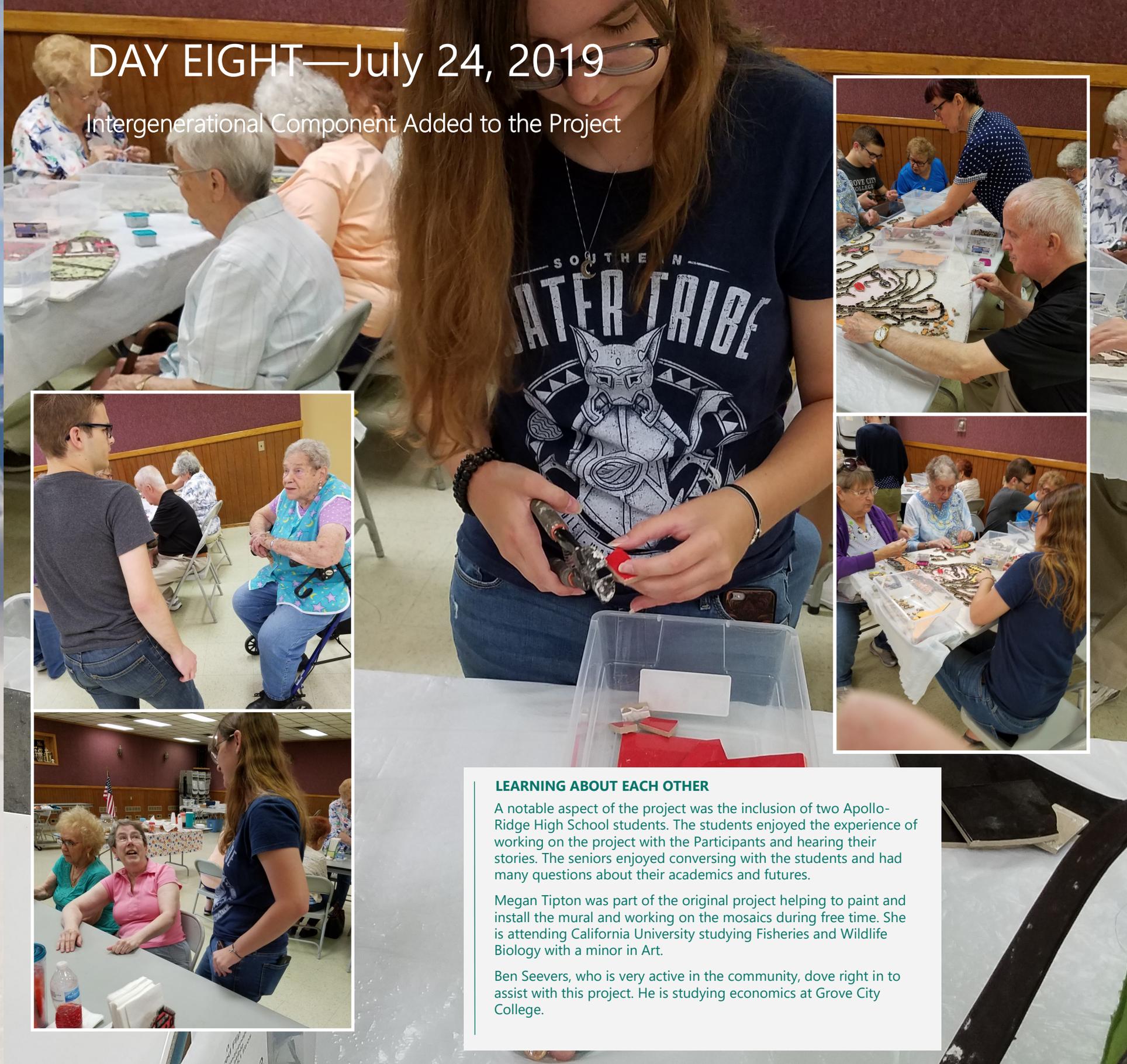
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While the obvious outcome of the project was to complete the final ten feet of the PRIDE IN OUR PAST, FAITH IN OUR FUTURE mosaic mural already in place, this project also showcased the abilities of the senior demographic of Apollo's population. Participants used creative/critical thinking and problem solving skills; and collaborated and socialized while sharing their memories of growing up/living in the Apollo area during the making of the mosaic medallion.



DAY EIGHT—July 24, 2019

Intergenerational Component Added to the Project



LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER

A notable aspect of the project was the inclusion of two Apollo-Ridge High School students. The students enjoyed the experience of working on the project with the Participants and hearing their stories. The seniors enjoyed conversing with the students and had many questions about their academics and futures.

Megan Tipton was part of the original project helping to paint and install the mural and working on the mosaics during free time. She is attending California University studying Fisheries and Wildlife Biology with a minor in Art.

Ben SeEVERS, who is very active in the community, dove right in to assist with this project. He is studying economics at Grove City College.

DAY NINE—July 26, 2019

Glazing the Clay Projects and Entering the Final Stretch





DAY TEN—July 30, 2019

The End of the Residency—The Beginning of a New Partnership



LINKING GENERATIONS

This project is a first step toward bridging the generation gap between the students at Apollo-Ridge and the Participants at the Apollo Senior Center.

While working together on this projects, many opportunities were discussed for bringing students to the Center as well as offering opportunities for the seniors to take part in programs at the school.

About the Apollo-Ridge Education Foundation

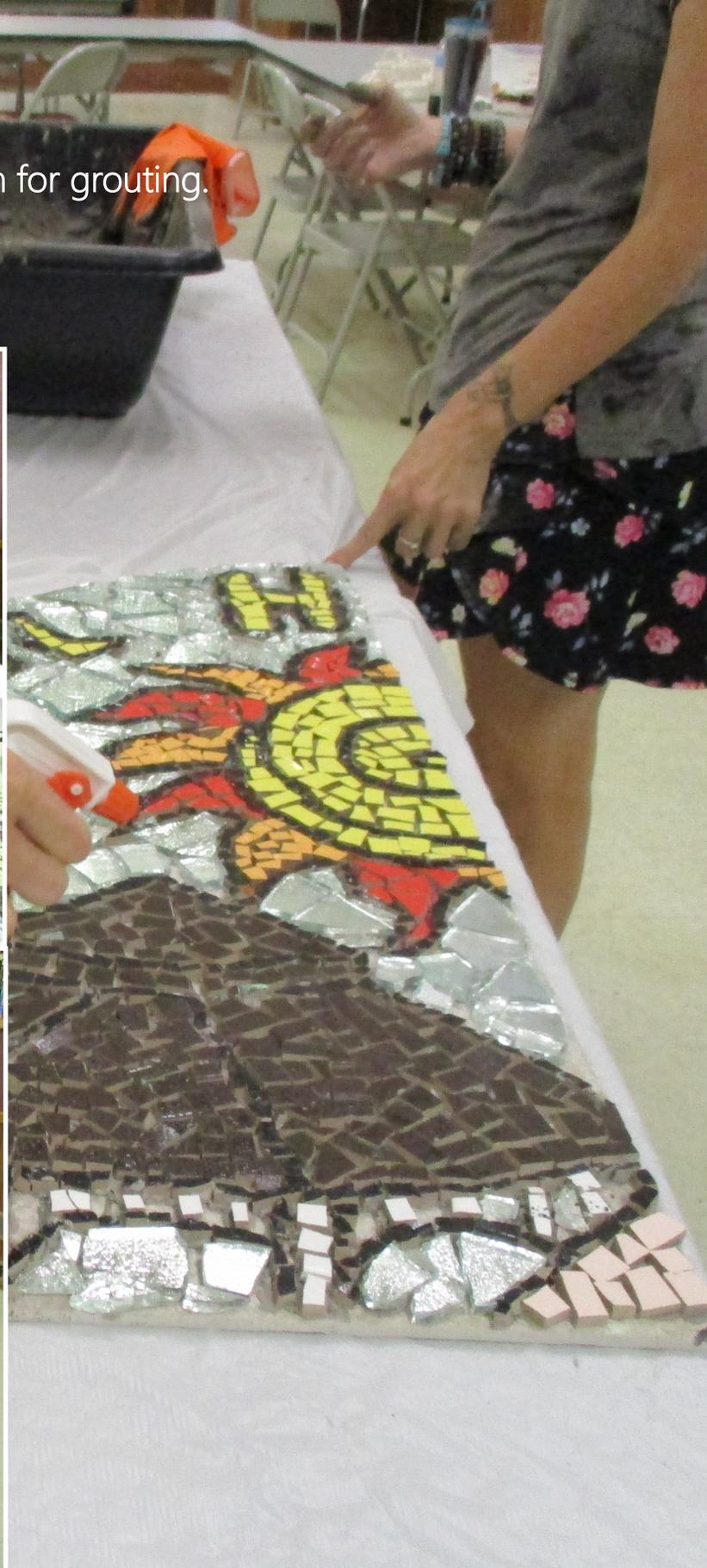
Established in 1996, the Foundation is one of the oldest and most successful in the A-K Valley and was created with the sole purpose of raising \$5000 annually to fund mini grants for classroom teachers.

Reorganizing in 2014, the goal became transforming the middle school library into a state-of-the-art STEM center. Through participation in PA's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, grant writing, and fund raising, the Foundation's operating budget has increased ten-fold to \$50,000 plus annually. The Foundation credits its success to engaging with the community through volunteerism and creating opportunities such as this project.

The group worked quickly to finish the four panels



Mixing the mud and spritzing the panels to prep them for grouting.



Applying the grout making sure that all crevices are filled as well as the edges



CRITICAL STEP

In order to insure that the mosaic will be here for decades to come, it is important that the tiles be cemented in place and that the grout seals the edges preventing damage caused by freezing and thawing during the winter months.



Removing excess grout with a stiff brush and polishing the tiles



Returning the finished clay projects to the Participants





Apollo-Ridge Education Foundation

Cris Kostiuk

IUP ArtsPath

Jeff Wacker Laura Jean McLaughlin Ricardo Robinson

Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Senior Center

Diane Baer Marlene Beck Betty Bier Martha Davis
Sally Dombrowski Shirley Gray Tim Grinder Carole Harland
Margie Huey Mike Katora Beverly Kepple Clara Mains
Kim McAfee Jim Morgan Florence Munzek Deloris Pless
Imogene Rearick Yvonne Shaffer June Sloan

Guests

Elda Kostiuk Virginia Madison

Students from Apollo-Ridge High School Class of 2019

Ben SeEVERS Megan Tipton

