

Unity

for Our Community

Kristen E. Rice

The students at K.B. Polk Elementary have spent this past year learning how their artwork and collective creative efforts can make a constructive impact in their community. Each fifth-grade student created a 24 x 18" (61 x 46 cm) abstract, stained-glass mosaic that was installed on one of eight, eight-foot-tall columns. The columns are installed in the K.B. Polk community garden, which sits across the street from the school. The 450 square-foot project took months of preparation and several days to install.

Expressing Unity

Each mosaic was created around the theme of unity. Students spent the year learning to express their feelings about unity in their community through line, color, and shape using various media, and this mosaic project served as the culmination of their studies.

Through this permanent, public-art project students have learned how they can actively make positive changes in their immediate and global community.

Empowering Young Artists

The idea behind the project was to beautify the community while involving students in a creative and meaningful way. Students have learned how public art can make a beneficial difference, and what makes this project so exciting and unique is the way it empowers students at such a young age. They are already beginning to understand the responsibility of being an artist and how working creatively invites innovative solutions. The pride and excitement at K.B. Polk is tangible. The realization of this project is only a glimpse of what these young artists can accomplish. We can't wait to see what they come up with next!



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