YOUTH LEADERSHIP · GRADES 6–12

Community Mural

GROUP PROJECT

Pick your theme and define the basics. A mural is a message people walk past every day. It can be one large piece your group paints together, or many small pieces that combine into a whole. Start with what you want it to say.

HOW THIS WORKS

Four pages, in order: choose a theme and define the basics, decide the format and line up materials, build the plan, then look back once it is up. Works for one classroom, a whole school, or a community group.

PAGE ONE OF FOUR

STEP 1. CHOOSE YOUR THEME Tick one, or use the last box to write your own.

☐ BELONGING	☐ INCLUSION	☐ GRATITUDE
Everyone here has a place. What does that look like in your school?	Who gets left out, and what changes when they are invited in?	Who or what does your community depend on?

☐ PEACE	☐ POSITIVE CHANGE	☐ OUR OWN THEME
What are small ways each of us can create peace in our community or world?	Something in your community you want to see move forward.	What do you want to say?

STEP 2. DEFINE THE BASICS Keep every answer to a sentence or two.

The message
What someone should take away in the three seconds they spend looking at it.

Who it is for
The people who will see it every day.

WHERE IT WILL LIVE	HOW BIG	HOW LONG IT STAYS UP
A hallway, stairwell, exterior wall, fence, or digital screen.	Rough size, or the number of pieces.	A week, a term, permanently.

Format and Materials

GROUP PROJECT

Decide the format, then line up what you need. Settle this page before anyone starts drawing. The format changes the supplies, the timeline, and how many people can work at once.

STEP 3. CHOOSE YOUR FORMAT Tick one. This decision shapes everything after it.

☐ ONE LARGE PIECE	☐ PIECES THAT COMBINE
Everyone works on the same surface. One design, sketched out first, then completed in sections by different people.	Each person makes one tile, panel, square, or digital square. Together they form the whole.
Best when you have a wall, a long stretch of paper, or a set of boards, plus time for a few work sessions.	Best for large groups, tight schedules, or a shared digital display. Everyone finishes their own part.

THE RULES EVERYONE FOLLOWS

Size of each piece, colours allowed, what has to appear on every piece, what is off limits.

HOW THE PIECES JOIN UP

The grid, frame, backing board, wall layout, or slide template that holds it all together.

STEP 4. LINE IT UP BEFOREHAND Sort both of these before the first work session.

Never paint, attach, or install anything until you have permission from the person responsible for the space.

MATERIALS WE NEED

Paint, brushes, paper, boards, tape, drop sheets, markers, tablets or software, printing.

PERMISSION AND WHO TO ASK

Whoever approves the location and content: a teacher, school office, caretaking staff, or building owner. Write the name and the date you asked.

KEEP IT DOABLE

- Draw the whole design small before anyone touches the real surface.
- Ask about the location and the content in the same conversation.
- Plan for the piece coming down as well as going up.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

Show the small sketch to one person who is not in the group and ask them what it says. If their answer is not close to your message from page one, change the design, not the message.

The Plan

Who is doing what, and by when. Break the mural into real tasks. Sketching, prepping the surface, painting a section, cutting tiles, mounting, cleaning up. Put a name and date beside each one.

STEP 5. **TASKS AND TIMELINE** Write the task, the person or pair on it, and the date it is due.

BY WHEN	TASK	WHO IS ON IT	DONE

Most murals need at least these: agree on the design, prep the surface or cut the pieces, hand out the rules, run the work sessions, collect the finished pieces, mount or install it, clean up, and tell people it is there.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Missing pieces, spilled paint, a rained-out wall, someone away on install day. Write your backup plan.

INSTALL DAY

Where it goes up, who is mounting it, what it is fixed with, and who has the keys or the ladder.

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Once It Is Up

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Log it, then look back. Fill this in during the week after the mural goes up, while people are still reacting to it. The numbers and sentences here belong in your Giving & Impact Log.

STEP 6. LOG THE NUMBERS

Count what you can. An estimate is better than a blank.

PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON IT	PIECES OR SECTIONS	WORK SESSIONS	HOURS IN TOTAL

What we made, in one sentence

Include the theme, the format, and a number. This is the line you would put on an application later.

STEP 7. LOOK BACK

Short, honest answers. Nobody is marking this.

What did the mural end up saying?

Compare it to the message you wrote on page one. Close, or different?

How did people react to it?

What you overheard, what people asked, who stopped to look.

What would we do differently?

The format, the timeline, the size, how the work was split up.

SAY THANK YOU

Thank the staff who approved it, anyone who donated supplies, and every person who made a piece. Two sentences are plenty, and it is the reason they say yes next time.

LET PEOPLE FIND IT

Add a small card beside the mural with the theme, the year, and the group that made it. Photograph the whole piece and the sections before anything fades or comes down.