



Connecting Classrooms with Public Art

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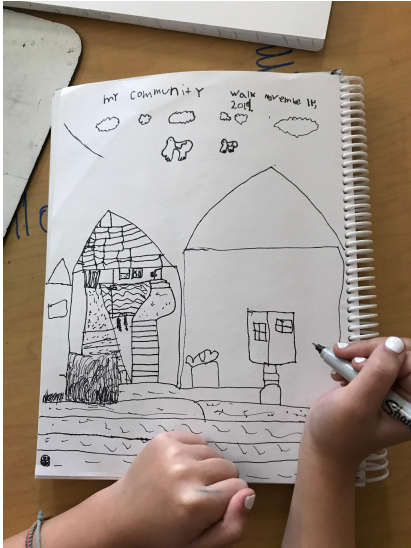
Step 6:
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Step 7:
Sharing your
Artwork

**Who is apart of our community?
What makes you unique?**



What are the parts of our community?



Step 1: Identify Curricular Outcomes

Your first step is to identify the curricular outcomes for an art project. Discuss with your students and staff team members to pick a focus that might translate well to a visual art project and your community.

- What inquiry questions are you focusing on this year?
- What curricular areas are the most relevant to your students?

This project will take at least a couple of months, so your curricular connections need to be long term and interdisciplinary in order to make meaningful connections throughout the scope of this project. Your plan should also allow for each child to have an equal contribution to the final piece and must allow for digital scanning (your project must fit inside a scanner).

Step 2: Find your Artist

Your second step needs to be to find a professional visual artist in the community that has had experience working with students on a public art piece. To find an artist of this caliber, you will need to contact the City of Calgary Public Art for their recommendations. Their email is: publicart@calgary.ca

If you know an artist that has worked with your school, or another school, already. You may also recommend a partnership with them to the City.

Step 3: Write a Proposal

Next you will need to put together a proposal to be sent to the City of Calgary Public Art Department.

Your proposal should include:

1. A letter of intent that includes interdisciplinary curricular connections that could be studied throughout the scope of the project, as well as student voice, your role as the teacher facilitator and the role of the professional artist.
2. A timeline outlining when the project will be completed.
3. References (for you as a teacher and for the professional artist).
4. An artist statement from the professional artist and the professional artist's CV.
5. Rough budget outlining how you will be using the materials to be covered by the City of Calgary Public Art Department.
6. A rough sketch of what your vision is for the art piece.
7. Samples of student artwork from past projects.

Step 3: Write a Proposal *Letter of Intent*

Questions to think about when writing letter of intent:

- What are your goals for students throughout this process?
- What will your role be as a facilitating teacher?
- What curricular connections will be made throughout this project?
- What will be the artist's role in collaborating with students?
- What fine art materials do you hope to use?
- How can you allocate the proposed city budget to support these materials?
- What do you predict the community reaction will be to this project?
- Why will this art piece be important for the surrounding community?
- How will you continue to connect this project to student learning after completion?

Step 4: Start your Project

As a **teacher** you could:

Firstly, find out the preferred art vendor for your school. The Calgary Board of Education's preferred vendor is Mona Lisa Art Supply. You can email them ahead of time with a letter of support from your principal to receive a discount on the art supplies. You can attach the letter to email outlining what you will need and the quantity to ensure it will be in-stock. Their email address is monalisa@nucleus.com. You can also do this by phone, their number is 403-228-3618. You will most likely need to put the charges of the art supplies on your personal credit card to be refunded at the end of the project. It is important to keep receipts and attach them eventually to your project budget.

Then introduce public art to your students and get your students thinking about:

- What is the role of public art in the community?
- Where have they seen public art in their community or their city?
- What constitutes art?
- What makes 'good' art?

Step 4: Start your Project

Next you could have your students practice with the medium of choice for your project to help them get comfortable before working on their piece.

Ways to integrate your project into your classroom lessons:

- Inviting community artists to discuss their work to your class.
- Interviewing artists as a class to discover their methods, techniques and interests.
- Looking at professional artists who have worked in similar mediums as the class project.
- Inviting The City of Calgary Public Art Program to come in to talk to the classroom about public art in our city.
- Go for a community walk and discuss what the locations are of public art, gather inspiration and ideas for the art project.
- Engage with local galleries to see art in the community and gain an appreciation of different art forms

Step 5: Scanning and Printing

When your project piece is complete and ready for scanning you will need to contact a printer who can digitally render the scanned artwork and prepare a vinyl covering for the utility box or garbage can. You will need to contact the City of Calgary Public Art Department to let them know the work is complete and ready for printing.

Then you can contact YNOT Digital (cc) with details about your printing needs (how many images you have, the size of the utility box/garbage can and a proposed timeline for installation). Their contact information is info@ynotdigital.ca Printing should be directly billed to the City of Calgary.

Step 6: Installation

This part isn't your responsibility. However, there will be a lot of correspondence between all involved parties. *Your job is to answer emails.*

Step 7: Sharing your Artwork

When the project is installed, it is time to celebrate with your students! If the project is within walking distance, go on a walking field trip with your class. To follow up with the City of Calgary ensure that you have sent in the final budget and a summary of your project with pictures. It is important that the professional artist completes the *letter contract for consulting and professional services* for the City of Calgary Finance and Supply department. You will be sent a copy of this to complete.

