

POWERUP JAX FALL 2015 GRANT WINNER

4. Kelly DeSousa Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center

Subject: Access Art
Grade: 6-12

Project title: Palm Avenue Rocks!



Summary: "Palm Avenue Rocks!" will be a collaborative art project, reaching all students and faculty at Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center. Each student will contribute a personalized rock to a rock sculpture garden. The garden will take the form of a stream that will "flow" throughout the campus to unify and enrich the environment. This would be the first large-scale student art installation at Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center.

Students will be introduced to the project by reading the book, "Only One You" by Linda Kranz. This simple picture book has big ideas and concepts for all ages. The theme of the story is that there is only one you in the world and that you can use your special abilities to make the world a better place. This project will draw upon unique student strengths, while making the campus a better place.

The art teacher will instruct all students in small groups, adapting the lesson as needed for varying abilities. Each student at Palm Avenue will embellish at least one rock for the collaborative sculpture garden. Faculty and visitors will be encouraged to contribute at an interactive kiosk that will be installed near the main office. The students will help the teacher lay out the final products, which will be dedicated to the school in an opening ceremony.

This project would require specialized art materials and signage that would not be covered by the current budget for art supplies expenses.

How many students will be directly involved? The "Palm Avenue Rocks!" project will serve all 143 students enrolled at Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center. All teachers, faculty, and visitors will also be encouraged to participate.

On the formal level, this project will serve to beautify the campus and visually orient visitors to the space. Creatively, this project allows students to choose their own unique color choices, images, and style into a collaborative project, showcasing individual strengths and promoting self-esteem and self-awareness.

Students will learn about the importance of contributing to their community in a meaningful way. The artwork will also help shape public awareness and foster a deeper understanding of individuals with exceptional needs as contributing members of society with individual voices.

How will the project specifically increase student learning?

This project is in alignment with state educational standards for visual art and will be incorporated into the art curriculum. Students at Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center learn at varying levels; this special project takes this into consideration by incorporating access points at the participatory, supported, and independent levels. This project has a "built-in success" factor; finished products will be visually appealing at any skill level.

Specific Access Art State Standards met by this project, include: Integrating curiosity, range of interests, attentiveness, complexity, and artistic intention in the art-making process to demonstrate self-expression (VA.912.C.1.1); using basic structural elements of art to create and respond to artworks (VA.912.O.2.Pa.a); concentrating on a particular style, theme, concept, or personal opinion to develop

artwork for a portfolio, display, or exhibition (VA.912.O.2.4); manipulating tools and media to enhance communication in personal artworks (VA.912.S.1.Su.a); applying a range of interests and contextual connections to influence the art-making and self-reflection process (VA.68.C.1.1), recognize selected visual or tactile characteristics of artworks (VA.68.C.1.Pa.b), following directions and completing art tasks in a timely manner to show development of 21st century skills (VA.68.F.3.4), identifying reasons to display artwork in public places (VA.68.H.2.In.c), identify the physical features or characteristics of artwork displayed in the community (VA.68.H.2.Su.c).

Overall, this artwork will emphasize student abilities, promote self-esteem, self-expression, and meaningful participation in a community-based public art project.

What is your plan for evaluating the success of your project? What artifacts (photographs, samples of student work, testimonials, etc...) would you use to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project?

The success of the project will be evaluated by the successful completion and installation of the artwork, as well as photographs, video, and student and faculty testimonials that will be collected throughout the creation of the project. Photographs, video, and testimonials will be posted (with permission) on the art teacher's public blog that will be linked to the school's website. Permanent signage will also include photographs that document student progress and communicate the goals of the project to the public. The public installation will include a reflective response piece, in which viewers may write their personal response to the artwork.