

# Building Bridges

Within a few days after their final examinations at school, Rosheika Anderson, Latonya Graham, Thao Huynh, Jamilla Jennings, Domonique Johnson, Thuy Ngo, Brendaly Oquendo, Damaris Rodriguez, Luzinka Vander, and Jason Zaxhary began a special mission.

Their task is to create a mural depicting the mission of the Grand Rapids Urban League, "... to build bridges of understanding between the races."

Before the first brush stroke, they began their study with research and discussions. They wanted to know more about the purpose and activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, more about different cultures, and more about art as a media message.

Artist and teacher Eugenia Marve has been their leader, mentor and coach. They have created colorful images and designs — all reflecting their discovery about various cultures, including their own.

The multicultural mural will be permanently displayed in the Urban League Building, 745 Eastern,

SE. A public unveiling will be announced later this summer.

"The multicultural mural project is one of several enrichment programs Grand Rapids Community College is offering this summer between June 13 and August 26, for elementary, middle school, and high school students," said Elias Lumpkins, Dean of Student Services.

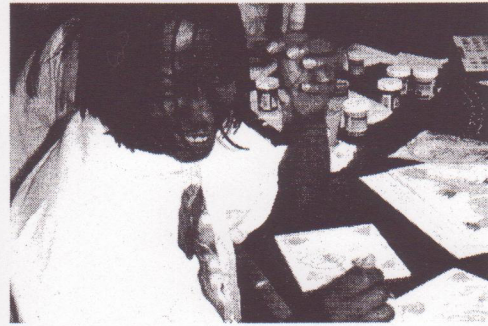
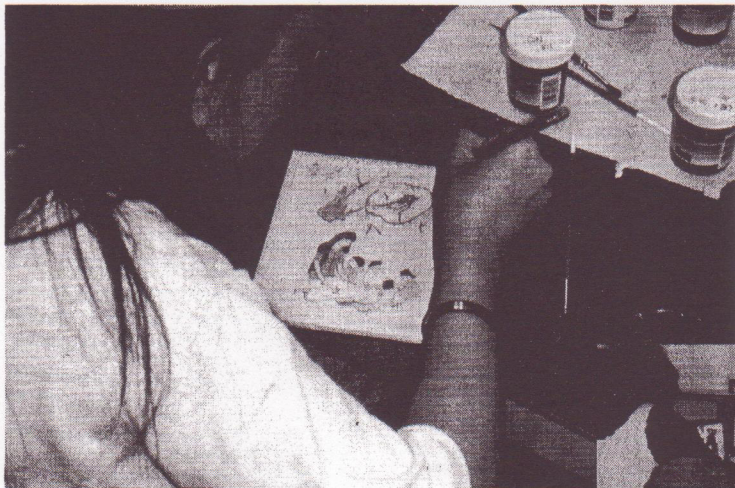
"Some students between the ages of 7 and 19 will be on campus in full-day and mini-session computer camps testing their skills at graphics and desktop publishing, animation, and programming in BACIS, LOGO and other languages. Other options include photography, music, and sports camps."

The mural project is funded by the college, the Grand Rapids Urban League, the Grand Rapids Public Schools Youth Employment Program, and the Michigan Educational Opportunity Program.

Under the leadership of artist and teacher Eugenia Marve, a team of ten students have spent time together at the Grand Rapids Urban League, as artists, painting and glazing ceramic tiles.



Eugenia Marve (3rd R.) and students give Rev. David Baak of GRACE (4th R.) and Rodney Brooks, CEO of the Grand Rapids Urban League a brief preview of the artwork for the multicultural mural to be unveiled later this summer.



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