

Art teacher honored

Revered art teacher Eugenia Marve retired from the Grand Rapids Public Schools last spring after 30 years, but she still is a regular at Riverside Middle School, volunteering to run a program in which Grand Valley State University education majors tutor in the public schools.

Marve's legacy appears in numerous places around the city through tile murals depicting diversity.

Now Marve is being recognized with one of the most prestigious awards in the state: the Arts in Education Award from the Michigan ArtServe Governor's Awards for Arts & Culture.

The award will be presented at the 21st annual ArtServe event Nov. 16 at the Detroit Opera House. Marve described the honor as "seriously lovely."

Marve is especially passionate about teaching diversity and tolerance, and virtually all of her art follows that theme: Her "Tree of Life" is a series of tile panels showing figures — black, white, Asian, Hispanic, Native-American — with panels of a tree in between.

"We are not one face but many faces, each with unique and wonderfully diverse gifts to share," reads the inscription; four versions of the "Tree of Life" are installed around Grand Rapids, including one at God's Kitchen (above).

The ArtServe awards event starts with a strolling dinner followed by the awards presentation, including videos about Marve and other winners. **SEE SPECIAL EVENTS**

