Children's Public Art Program



(VIEW MORE CHILDREN'S ART IMAGES BELOW THE TEXT)

The Children's Public Art Program was initiated in December 2001 by the Rosemere Neighborhood Association as part of a safety campaign. The Rosemere Neighborhood Association collaborated with children and administrators of Washington Elementary School to create 22 delightfully original posters cautioning motorists to "Slow For Children". Two of the 22 designs were replicated into weatherproof signs, (2 ft. x 3 ft.), that attach to existing street poles. The city of Vancouver funded production of 20 weatherproof signs. Public response to the colorful reminders was overwhelmingly positive.

The Board of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association submitted a grant proposal to the Vancouver City Cultural Commission to expand the art program. New themes encompassed "Welcome to Rosemere!", "Rosemere Blooms!", and "Rosemere - Garden of Diversity". Once again, the children of Washington Elementary School created more incredible works of art. One child said of her art, "It shows that everyone is different. There is a lot of diversity in Rosemere. Its nice to know that other kids are trying to make Rosemere a lot better." Another child said she created her poster so that "if someone was coming from a different culture they would feel invited and welcomed here."

Many local businesses and individuals pitched in with enthusiasm and money to make the project viable*. The Cultural Commission awarded the additional required funds to create 80 additional posters in July of 2002.

Word of the marvelous art program traveled. Vancouver's sister city in Japan, Joyo*, became inspired upon hearing about it. Joyo, meaning, "castle of the sun", paints the city's image as one of "greenery, sunshine, and tranquility". Their city charter promotes education and culture.

Joyo officials desired to place Washington Elementary School children's art on public display. The art was bundled up and shipped across the ocean where it was a prominently displayed in a public forum, (October 2002). Local newspapers featured articles and pictures. Joyo children responded by creating their own works of art and sent them to Vancouver. You can view these delightful images on this website.

An installation ceremony will be forthcoming in April. As flowers begin to emerge with the progression of spring, Rosemere's signposts will also burst into colorful blooming art.



















































