



"I Am Centennial"

**A Collaborative Mural Project
for Centennial Elementary,
Loveland, CO**

**Created by:
Amelia Furman with the Centennial
Elementary Student body of 2020**

The Process

In 2020, I worked with Principal Carmen Polka and CES art educator, Lora Patrick to bring a collaborative mural project to Centennial Elementary School. We chose for the work to be on braced, cradled panels for removability for possible relocation. Utilizing 2 mural club groups, 50 3rd – 5th grade students worked closely with me to prepare, create, and glue down collage materials on 2 of the 5 foot square panels. The mural consists of 6 5 foot square panels, each panel representing a grade level.



Design and Selected Materials

For this project, we brought 4 different school related designs to the student body. Each student was able to cast a vote for the one they preferred. This democratic process empowered the students and helped them feel invested in the entire process of the mural creation.

Each student was represented by a colored handprint that coincided with their grade level. These handprints became the underlying design element that anchored the other collage elements. Samples of writing and artwork was also copied and selected to represent each grade level. Staff were also encouraged to include handwritten notes speaking to what being a teacher at CES means to them.



Mural Club

50 3rd – 5th grade students joined me and Lora Patrick (CES art teacher) for 5, 45 minutes sessions from February – March of 2020. Once their sessions were complete, I produced the mural in my studio.



6 panels, 5' x 5', utilizing paper collage, supplied and created by the CES students, representing each grade level: K – 5)





Installation

This mural was completed over the summer of 2020 and installed through school district staff in September of 2020 in the main through way of the building. The mural was sealed with three coats of Spar-Urathane containing a UV protection component to prevent color change and fading. The budget for this project is estimated to be 5000.00 including artist fee, materials, and workshop instruction. This project was completed through funds supplied by the school PTA and artist's time being donated. Funds provided: \$1000.00

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1555 W 37th Street, Loveland, CO 80538



For questions regarding this project, please contact Carmen Polka at carmen.polka@tsd.org