

Last February the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester awarded a \$2,000 "Education Through the Arts" grant to John Walton Spencer School No. 16 to support their implementation of a proposal entitled "More Than a Village." The standards-based, interdisciplinary project involved the design and creation of a mural reflecting themes important to the school-community partnership. 5th and 6th graders explored the social history of murals, the artistic elements of the mural genre, the application of math to mural design and the use of music, poetry and non-fiction to analyze and interpret a work of art. Visual

Artist Calvin Hubbard and Poet M. J. Iuppa collaborated with Judy Via-Wolff, the school's art teacher, the 5th and 6th grade teachers, parents and community partners to translate the vision to reality.

"I've wanted to do a mural with the students for a long time," Via-Wolff said. "The 5th and 6th graders have been able to build on their skills to create this mural. When it is installed in the cafeteria, it will speak for itself about community partners and cooperation."

by Jennifer Litt



Stardasia White (Grade 6)

"A Day in the Neighborhood"

The sky was bluer than cotton candy
Then daylight's almost gone
Doors shutting and creaking
Finally the moon came up
Daylight's gone

Creative Writing Artist M. J. Iuppa worked with the children on poems about their neighborhood



My neighborhood moves like a turtle chasing a snail and sings like Alicia Keyes in concert and a church choir on Sunday.

It smells like roses just blooming and Grandma grilling and feels like parent love in a time of need, like pool water when you first get in and a little baby biting my finger.

My neighborhood sounds like an opera. Stop signs don't stop and doorbells – oh, they ring. Shh! Can you hear that? Listen again.

I can hear the baby's footsteps walking on the cool floor.

My neighborhood: the bright sun, the orange sunset, all the stop signs causing commotion.



Justin Fleming (Grade 6)

Me in the neighborhood

Not even a sound
No bells on the ice cream truck
No balls hitting the ground
This is my neighborhood
Do you hear the beat?
It's been a quiet day on my street

Kadejah Henderson (Grade 6)

"A Day on a Neighborhood Street"

Daylight roaming through the sky
Conversation in the corner store
The ice cream truck bells ringing
Upon the neighborhood the sun is gleaming
Doors open and shut
Then on my street there's night

