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News Release

James B. McCarthy ? Summit County

Executive

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Youth Employment For Success Participants Engaged In Art Work Experience

This month, the Summit County Youth Employment for Success (YES) program, Akron Area Arts Alliance (AAAA), and artist, Anitra Redlefsen are teaming up to engage students in the YES program in an art/work experience at Summit ArtSpace, 140 E. Market Street in downtown Akron.

Under the guidance of Ms. Redlefsen, who has designed a curriculum to instruct the participants in art concepts and messages portrayed through signs & symbols, approximately 12 young men and women are creating a public artwork in the form of an outdoor building sign for the Summit Street entrance to Summit ArtSpace.

The group activity will include designing, constructing, and painting the sign. YES youth will construct the sign from signboard, approximately 3-1/2' x 14' in size; construct mounting frames; prepare the surfaces; conduct a focus group meeting with clients and interested parties to determine possible compositions for the sign; transfer the composition to the sign (using outdoor enamel sign paint); and complete an individual art project related to the theme of signs and symbols.

"This is a great opportunity for many of our young people to gain valuable experience and cultural insight, said Summit County Executive James B. McCarthy. ? The continued cooperation of the Akron Area Arts Alliance, Ms. Redlefsen and the local arts community gives Summit County the opportunity to enhance the skills and education of our future workforce."

Youth Employment for Success (YES) is a program of Executive McCarthy's Department of Communications and is funded through Summit County Department of Jobs & Family Services.

YES prepares youth for adulthood and strives to assist Summit County's at-risk young people in overcoming barriers and achieving academic and career goals. The program addresses the needs of individual youth by providing work experience, academic support, leadership development, personal guidance, and follow-up services.

This is the second summer that YES has worked with Akron Area Arts Alliance and artist, Anitra Redlefsen on an art/work experience project. Last summer, the group studied master and contemporary artists, the principles and elements of art, art as a career, how to manage a project, and how to paint a mural. The program culminated in the creation of an 8 foot by 12 foot mural, now permanently displayed in the Summit ArtSpace gallery.