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Can two projects create new public works? YES, they can
Youths make art for Summit ArtSpace, hospital
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Two summer youth art projects will create new art works for Akron public spaces.

Coordinated by area artists Anitra Redlefsen and Linda Hutchinson, the two programs are each using similar techniques for two radically different projects -- an outdoor building sign for the Summit Street entrance to Summit ArtSpace and five paintings for the new wing of Akron Children's Hospital, set to open in August.

Under Redlefsen's guidance, about 12 young men and women in the Summit County Youth Employment for Success (YES) program will design, construct and paint a sign for Summit ArtSpace, 140 E. Market St., Akron.

The sign, about 3 ½ feet by 14 feet, is to be the focus of several contractor-client experiences, including researching symbols, their use and meaning; meeting with the client and interested parties to determine the content and possible composition for the sign; creating the design; presenting it to the client; building the sign; transferring the composition to the sign; and displaying the finished work.

The five paintings for Children's Hospital by Hutchinson's group, six art students from Field High School's Independent Art Class, were also worked on as a group.

When she proposed the project to the art class, Hutchinson said, "these six students responded even though it meant lots of extra work."

Hutchinson's students began working on their concepts in March, perfected them, then "drew, drew and redrew," working on them in several sessions during the summer.

The theme of the paintings, Hutchinson said, is "kids doing impossible things."

Students created the concepts while the drawing was shared by Hutchinson and the students. The paintings were begun by the students and fine-tuned by Hutchinson.

The formal opening for the new Children's Hospital wing is set for October, Hutchinson said.

Eight original concepts were whittled down to five: "Superkids," "Circus Kids," "Zoo Kids," "Performing Kids" and "Kids Dream Big."

The six students who worked on the paintings are Heather Jakubisin, Julie Prior, Angie Warman, Chris Mars, Jim Shell and Meghan Molli.

This is the second summer that YES has worked with Akron Area Arts Alliance and Redlefsen on an art/work experience project.

Last year's program culminated in the creation of an 8-by-12-foot mural, now permanently displayed in the Summit ArtSpace gallery.

Youth Employment for Success is a program of Summit County Executive James B. McCarthy's Department of Communications.

Funded through Summit County Department of Jobs & Family Services, the program's goal is to prepare youth for adulthood and to help at-risk young people in overcoming barriers and achieving academic and career goals.

The program identifies the needs of individuals by providing work experience, academic support, leadership development, personal guidance and follow-up services.

Pottery classes

Bob Yost, potter and owner of Yost Tile Company, is offering several pottery classes beginning Saturday at the Middlebury Pottery & School, 1643 Massillon Road, Akron.

Yost is offering:

- Eight weeks of potter's wheel classes from 6 to 9 p.m. today through Sept. 25 (excluding Labor Day weekend) for \$195.
- Five weeks of beginning pottery (hand building) classes from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Sept. 1 for \$115.
- Five weeks of intermediate (advanced hand building) pottery classes from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Sept. 3 for \$135.
- Two Saturday Night Raku classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 9 and 23 for \$75.

For more information call 330-734-0763.