

Program Description

Path to Picasso is a collaborative program of the City of Livermore's Housing and Human Services Division of the Community Development Department and Horizons Family Counseling of the Police Department. The program works with artistic Livermore youth ages 14 to 18 who have been impacted by life's challenges. In Path to Picasso, a local professional and student artist teach participants how to create more socially accepted methods of presenting their art. Because each of the program's art projects requires collaboration, the adults guide the young artists to reach compromise. The goal is for the participants to develop self-esteem and empowerment that will act as a catalyst for a positive change of direction in their lives.

Path to Picasso is currently in our seventh year of operation.

- In the first year, the youth created three 5'X15' murals for the City's Multi-Service Center main Conference Room. The triptych conveys the youth's unique interpretation of the fundamental principles of dialog and discussion- Issue/Speak, Hear/Understand, and Action/Solution with an emphasis on environmentalism.
- The second year participants produced six individual works of art expressing important character and community values that are displayed throughout City Hall and the Police Department.
- In 2009, the youth created a 400 square foot transportation-themed mural on the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority's main bus and Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) transit center in downtown Livermore.
- In the fourth year, Path to Picasso artists transformed five recycling containers into works of art that were placed throughout the plaza surrounding the Bankhead Theatre. The goal was to raise awareness and encourage participation in the City's recycling program.
- In 2011, the students completed two projects. The first was a triptych of murals placed on First Street in the heart of our downtown to celebrate the Amgen Tour of California Bike race. During the summer, Sandia National Laboratory commissioned five works of art celebrating their work in sustainable technology.
- During the summer of 2012 the youth created three small murals that were placed in downtown Livermore to celebrate the establishment of Element #116 on the Periodic Table, Livermorium.

When interviewing participants, we learned that many of the youth believed their best art had been painted over. In addition, they had difficulty believing their art would be displayed in public areas and they were not going to be arrested or expelled for completing this work. To date, several previous program participants are attending art school and pursuing a variety of other artistic activities.

For more information please contact

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