

Proposal to partner with D97 on a community mosaic mural

Hi Dr. Kelley,

I'm writing with an exciting offer for D97 to partner with OPEF to create a stunning mosaic mural we're planning as part of our 2017 BASE Camp. We are looking for a location for this community-based art installation project and our first choice is on a District 97 school.

We're working with OPRFHS art teacher (and soon-to-be-D97-parent) Tracy VanDuinen to create a multi-week, multi-age, mosaic mural-making camp that is not only themed around our community, but will get the community involved in creating the mural over the next 8 months.

While OPEF is definitely running this camp with Tracy next summer, there are still numerous unknowns, including the location and the theme. Our initial idea is to build the mural around a Gwendolyn Brooks theme since 2017 is the 100th anniversary of her birth, and site the mural on the east wall or south pillars of Brooks Middle School. We are having initial conversations with Brooks art teacher Kristi Murray as she has already volunteered to create the permanent art piece to honor Gwendolyn Brooks and would be interested in a collaboration with OPEF. If the Brooks location is unworkable for the district or Brooks, we'd be interested in the north wall of Longfellow School, an exterior wall at Julian or perhaps an interior wall at Brooks. If a D97 school isn't possible, we will find a location in Oak Park as we have in previous years, but our dream is to have this student-built community effort to be an asset to the district for many years to come!

OPEF will cover all the costs of this project through BASE Camp fees as well as community fundraising specifically for this project. What we'd like from you is permission to beautify a D97 school wall, preferably a visible outdoor wall that's at least 10' x 10,' and your ok to invite art teachers, principals and the entire Oak Park community to get involved with ideas and by creating mosaic pieces leading up to next summer's installation.

Tracy and Brooks art teacher Kristi Murray will be working together at our January 16 "Maker Day" BASE Camp at Brooks. We need to have our theme and location determined by December 1 in order to start students working on this fascinating project that will teach kids lifelong lessons relating not only to art but also literature, math, science, engineering, design and teamwork!

Thanks for your consideration,
Deb