

April 7, 2011
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Mural painting workshop ready to go

The Thriving Youth Task Force out **of** the **Community Fund of Darien** recently awarded the **Darien** Arts Center a mini-grant to help finance a one-day painting project, **My Darien: A Mural Painting Workshop**. The DAC hopes the project pushes their initiative forward, and raises interest and participation in the arts at the middle and high school level.

The DAC and members **of** the Youth Asset Team will collaborate closely with **Darien** High School art students to prepare them to lead and mentor the project's participants.

The Youth Asset Team will focus on specific techniques for creating lasting mentoring bonds between art assistants and Middlesex Middle School students, as well as tools for boosting confidence in each child and nurturing their enthusiasm for art.

Involvement at the seventh grade level in creative activities sits at only 10% according to the Search Institute survey taken by **Darien** students just two short years ago.

On Monday, April 11, middle school students will be invited to participate in this mural painting session under the guidance and expertise **of** instructor Mathew Burcaw.

Sessions start at 4:45, 6:15 and 7:45. Students will participate in painting a mural that represents a vision **of** their hometown.

Darien High School art students will provide assistance prior to and on the day **of** the sessions.

In advance **of** the project, Burcaw and DHS art students will collaborate to create a rough sketch for the mural depicting modern day **Darien**.

The intent is to link this mural to the historic WPA murals displayed at **Darien** Town Hall representing early colonial life in **Darien**. DAC, Board Member and Art Historian, Judy Groppa will provide a tour and short lecture **of** these historic murals to educate the instructor and the assistants on the importance and history **of** public art. Upon completion, the **My Darien** mural hangs in the **Darien** Town Hall lobby from May 2 to 27.

Burcaw is a Greenwich native and has been teaching at the DAC for over 10 years. He received his MFA from Parsons School **of** Design and remains active in the art **community** both locally and regionally.

Mr. Burcaw was a member **of** the Loft Artists Association **of** Stamford for seven years and was president for two years. His teaching experience includes the Whitney Museum **of** American Art, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, Trailblazers Academy and the Boys & Girls Club **of** Greenwich.

The project will take place in the **Darien** Arts Center's Visual Arts Studio and will be open on a first come, first serve basis. To sign up participants should e-mail anne@darienarts.org by April 11. In the e-mail body include name **of** participant, grade level, age and parent contact number, as well as desired session.

More info: 203-655-8683, arts.darien.org