

# West Woods After-School Mural Program Proposal

Proposed Start: January/February 2026 Projected Completion: May 2026

## Overview

This after-school mural program is designed to engage students in grades 4 through 6 in a collaborative, SEL-based visual arts experience. Over the course of up to 18 sessions, students will explore the purpose, history, and impact of public murals while co-creating a large-scale artwork that reflects school culture, student voice, and community identity.

The program integrates visual arts education, social-emotional learning, and civic engagement, culminating in a final mural installation to be completed by May 2026.

## Goals

- Support SEL Development: Foster self-awareness, collaboration, empathy, and responsible decision-making through creative teamwork.
- Strengthen School Culture: Create visual representation of student pride, values, and belonging.
- Encourage Community Engagement: Involve staff, and the school student body in design ideas and celebration events.
- Teach mural and public art foundations: Introduce students to mural history, purpose, and modern-day relevance across communities and cultures.
- Build Art Skills: Guide students through a full design-to-execution process, including brainstorming, sketching, scaling, painting, and finishing techniques.

## Program Schedule

- Frequency: 1–2 sessions per week (based on school preference)
- Duration: January/February 2026 through May 2026
- Total Sessions: Up to 18
- Session Length: 60 to 75 minutes (flexible per school needs)

## Curriculum Outline

### Introduction to Mural Art

- Understanding what murals are and how they function in schools and communities
- Types of murals (historical, cultural, social justice, narrative, abstract, environmental, etc.)
- Relevance of murals in student and community settings

## **Mural History & Cultural Context**

- Global and local mural traditions
- Murals as tools for communication, resistance, storytelling, and identity
- How this mural might help the West Woods community

## **SEL-Centered Artmaking**

Each lesson integrates:

- Collaboration & communication
- Visioning and respectful feedback
- Identity exploration & belonging
- Mindful artmaking practices

## **Planning & Design Development**

- Theme selection informed by student voice and school values
- Collaborative sketching and brainstorming
- Creating a final design and color palette
- Scaling and planning detailed artwork on Polytab for wall application
- Exploration of the methods of getting artwork on the wall i.e; freehand, projection, gridding, doodles

## **Community & School Inclusion**

- Input from staff and school community through surveys and or classroom discussions
- Student presentations of design concepts.

## **Mural Execution**

- Preparing the walls surface
- Projection of design
- Outlining, blocking color, detail work on Polytab material
- Layering, shading, lettering, and finishing techniques
- Painting of the background on the exterior wall chosen
- Sealing, maintenance, and caretaking of the final mural

## **Final Celebration**

- Unveiling event for students, families, and staff
- Reflection on student learning and SEL growth

## Supplies & Materials

Includes but is not limited to:

- Acrylic mural paint & sealants
- Polytab Material
- Brushes, rollers, trays
- Drop cloths, tape, magic erasers
- Sketchbooks, drawing materials
- Buckets, paint rags, wipes
- Projector and or gridding materials
- Protective equipment

## Program Facilitator Bio

Alicia Cobb is an award winning visual artist, body painter, teaching artist, and muralist from Bridgeport, Connecticut. With her unique artistic vision Alicia has carved a prominent place for herself in her creative community. As a dedicated teaching artist, Alicia shares her knowledge and passion for art with aspiring creators. Through her workshops and residencies, she empowers individuals to find their artistic voice, encourages self-discovery, and fosters a sense of community among students. Alicia's students not only learn technical skills but also discover the transformative power of art as a medium of social change. She is certified in therapeutic arts. She enjoys giving back and participates in community events and organizations frequently.

As a muralist, her murals do not only beautify communities of Bridgeport and beyond, but also convey powerful messages of unity, empowerment, and hope. Inspired by the diverse cultures and histories of her surroundings, she breathes life into images relevant to the spaces they're created in.

Alicia was named a 2024 Arts Hero by The Connecticut Office of The Arts.

<https://www.artsimplicated.com/meet-the-artist>

## Expected Outcomes

- A completed student-designed mural that enhances school climate and visual culture
- Strong student ownership and pride in a permanent piece of campus artwork
- Increased SEL skills including cooperation, self-expression, stress management, and social awareness
- Strengthened relationships between students, teachers, and the wider school community
- Sustainable arts programming model replicable in future years

