



The Mural Music & Arts Project

The Mural Music & Arts Project (“MMAP”) educates, empowers, and inspires at-risk youth through participation in the arts. MMAP offers year-round youth development programs, serving the communities of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, and the Potrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco. MMAP began in 2001 as the East Palo Alto Mural Art Project, employing local teens to design and create a mural for every school in the local school district. Since then, MMAP’s teen artists have researched, planned, and installed 13 murals in East Palo Alto and the surrounding community’s schools. These murals reflect themes of community, cooperation, equity, justice, environment, and local history. The community’s active and enthusiastic support inspired MMAP to expand and diversify its programs to include arts education, hip hop music production, and ethnic dance. To date, MMAP has served over 672 youth, created 63 murals and produced original music that was written, recorded, and performed by MMAP youth.

MMAP’s current programs include the Teen Mural Program, the Health Education Through Art Program, the History Through Hip Hop Program, the Public Art Consulting Group, and the Graffiti Art Project. The Teen Mural Program employs local teens for 14 weeks during the summer to research, design and install a large, socially conscious public art mural in their community. The Health Education through Art Program utilizes visual and performing arts such as tile mosaics, ceramics, murals, ethnic dance and hip hop music production to promote health education for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. History through Hip Hop is an after school program that employs students to write, record, and produce original music and thereby increases literacy and provides students with the tools to become a positive voice in their community. The Public Art Consulting Group employs teens after school and during the summer to work with professional artists to fulfill public and private art commissions. The Graffiti Arts Project is a collaboration with the East Palo Alto Police Department and the Department of Justice to combat youth vandalism and graffiti crimes in Silicon Valley with a 12 week curriculum that focuses on artistic skill development, property restoration, and using artistic talent for positive expression.

MMAP’s plans to increase programs to middle school students and to new communities, expand collaborations with local and international arts organizations, grow current programs, and advance Web and interactive projects like the Virtual Tour Initiative.