

## Ernest Barka Elementary School in Derry: Garden of Learning

Laura Campbell, teaching artist and landscape designer

### Garden of Learning Project

Students at the [Ernest Barka Elementary School](#) in Derry created an artistically researched and designed garden with the help of Peterborough teaching artist and landscape designer Laura Campbell.

The Butterfly Garden utilizes the STEAM concept by acknowledging the importance of the arts in the standard STEM curriculum, which focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math.

Championed by the Rhode Island School of Design, STEAM encourages the addition that "quality learning experiences in the arts during the school day nurtures creativity that benefits engagement in all other subject areas." The Butterfly Garden made use of skills from a variety of disciplines, including counting, measuring, researching, listening, sequencing, sketching, and painting.

Teachers were also able to embrace the Common Core State Standards in this project by allowing students to engage hands-on by creating 2-D and 3-D models during the initial planning stages. The Butterfly Garden officially opened in June 2013.

Coordinated by teaching artist and landscape designer [Laura Campbell](#).

This project was made possible by an AIR Grant from the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#).



A Garden of Learning

Students work with artist Laura Campbell to design their own garden



A close-up view of the Butterfly Garden



A 3-D model of the Butterfly Garden during the planning stages

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## Merrimack High School Glass Program

Visual Art, Design, Chemistry, Mathematics

### Quotes:

"For 2 years running I have been able to bring 20 different students into the hot glass world. It is a once in a lifetime experience for many and completely altered their understanding of what is possible in the world of glass art." —Project Coordinator

"In addition, glass can enhance a student's self-confidence by succeeding at an unusual and difficult art medium." —Project Coordinator

### Article:

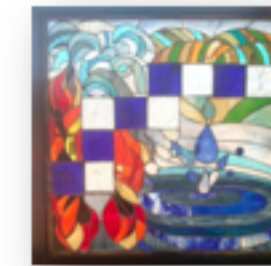
Eight years ago, professional glass artist Carolyn Rordam had a vision to bring glass art to her students when she started as an art teacher at Merrimack High School.

She felt the windows in the "catwalk hallway" were just screaming for stained glass windows. The glass art class is now in its fourth year and working towards the completion of their fourth stained glass window for the school. Students work on the competencies of the arts, design, and use mathematics and engineering to construct and install the windows in the school. Rordam has a professional background in glass research and design and the students learn the chemical make-up of glass and processes of chemistry that go into creating a successful piece of glass. Students also sell their small projects throughout the year, which are sold online and at craft fairs to pay for their supplies.

After several successful years of glass class, students showed interest in creating a glass club to expand their knowledge and fundraise for more advanced glass opportunities not possible during school. Fundraising manifested itself in a field trip to Terrapin Glassblowing Studio in Rindge, NH.

Students' continued enthusiasm for this art that's been around for over 5,000 years has increased the school's glass art class from two to three sections with 20 members in each. Stained Glass Club now has 16 members. Merrimack is one of the only known high school level glass programs in the state.

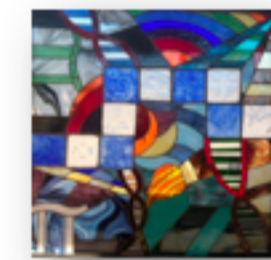
Coordinated by professional glass artist and art teacher Carolyn Rordam.



Completed window at Merrimack High School



Completed window at Merrimack High School



Completed window at Merrimack High School

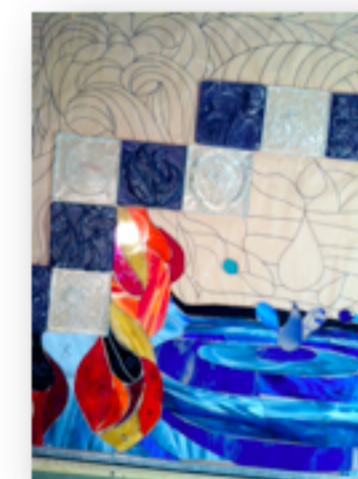


Image of window #3 in progress with student-made tiles in place



Students blowing glass at Terrapin Glass Studio in Rindge, NH



## Spotlight: Portsmouth Middle School: Vision, Verse & Verve

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### Artist in Residence: In Ears 'n' Eyes

Portsmouth Middle School students grabbed a bunch of brushes and put them to canvas while In Ears 'n' Eyes (IENE) played in the background. The paintings that resulted kicked off the students' study of the Harlem Renaissance.

IENE, developed by Roger Goldenberg and Matt Langley, plays with other local artists to compose music based on what certain colors might "sound like," like in a painting, and how brush strokes vary with the music's rhythm. IENE set up their five-piece jazz band and played impromptu music based on opposing words, chosen by the students. As IENE played live, the students responded to the music by creating collaborative abstract paintings, which popped with movement and color.

Eighty-five students participated in this project and attended the Romare Bearden "A Black Odyssey" exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. Vision, Verse & Verve: Timeless Themes of the Harlem Renaissance opened on Saturday, April 12, at the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, located at 10 Middle St., and will remain on display until the end of June.

Coordinated by AIR school coordinator and art educator Anna Nuttall.

This project was made possible by a \$4,500 Artists in Residence Grant from the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#).

### Quotes from Students:

"I've sketched before while listening to music, but it wasn't anything like this."  
—AIR Participant

"You could see the relation between the music and the art. Now I understand the whole process of making a painting, too."  
—AIR Participant

"It's a conversation between two forms of art. They're similar languages."  
— AIR Volunteer Artist



Students paint what they think the music sounds like, while IENE plays live in the classroom



Students' completed paintings on display



In Ears 'n' Eyes (IENE) plays music in the background, while students paint what they think the music sounds like

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Don't miss this special exhibition:

**VISION, VERSE & VERVE:  
Timeless Themes of the Harlem Renaissance**

**Common Dust**  
BY GEORGIA DOUGLASS JOHNSON

And who shall separate the dust  
What later we shall be:  
Whose keen discerning eye will scan  
And solve the mystery?

The high, the low, the rich, the poor,  
The black, the white, the red,  
And all the chromatic between,  
Of whom shall it be said:

Here lies the dust of Africa;  
Here are the sons of Rome;  
Here lies the one unlabelled,  
The world at large his home!

Can one then separate the dust?  
Will mankind be apart,  
When life has settled back again  
The same as from the start?



Over 100 works of art created by Portsmouth Middle School 8th grade students.

**An opening reception will be held on Saturday APRIL 12th 2-4pm at the Seacoast African-American Cultural Center**

@ Discover Portsmouth Center Bldg, 10 Middle St. Portsmouth, NH  
Questions? Email Anna Nuttall Portsmoutharts@gmail.com



Student paintings inspired by the different rhythms in the jazz music



# New Hampshire Arts Learning Network

A collaborative working to support quality arts learning for all students in NH by sharing information resources and services

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## Spotlight: MoCo Arts

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*"MoCo Arts is THE best! It has changed my life."* —MoCo Arts student

*"MoCo is my second home. I have met so many incredible friends here and the teachers inspire me."* —MoCo Arts student

*"I'm a senior in high school and I've been coming to MoCo since I was 3 years old. The rest is self-evident."* —MoCo Arts student

### MoCo Arts in Keene, NH Offers Multi-Arts Programs From Dance to Creative Writing to Video Production

**MoCo Arts** in Keene provides an outlet for students to express themselves through the arts in classes, dance, theatre, and summer camps. This non-profit, multi-arts studio offers 75 classes a week in everything from hip hop to ballet and tap to modern, and more

Over 2,000 students in the Monadnock region benefit from these programs, including their summer camps, including C.A.K.E. and cupCAKE. Students may participate in camp anywhere from one to four weeks. [Tuition assistance](#) and scholarships are available.

**C.A.K.E.** (Creative Arts at Keene) allows students to be their true selves by connecting through the arts at tis award-winning camp. Students in grades two through twelve may study creative writing, dance, drama, music, video production, and more.

Festival Week gives students a chance to showcase their final work. Visual art is presented at the Festival Eve Gala, while Festival Day focuses on the performing arts projects.

Students from four years old through second grade are encouraged to think outside the box at [cupCAKE](#) summer camp. They express their creativity through dance, art, multi-arts, or musical theatre by answering questions like: "If you could create your own world, what color would the sky be?"

In addition to serving over 2,000 students in a creative capacity throughout the Monadnock region, MoCo increases the awareness of arts education and its importance on positive youth development.

Recognized for excellence through their production of Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr., MoCo Arts received 8 nominations, including a finalist for Best Production—Youth and Best Actor—Youth, and winner for Best Choreographer—Community by the 2012 NH Theatre Awards.

Leadership for MoCO is provided by executive director and artistic director of dance [Reagan Messer](#) along with their dedicated board members, talented volunteers, staff and teachers.

MoCo received a \$5,514 Operating Grant from the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#), which helps provide funding support for programs.



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## Spotlight: Community Arts Open Studio at AVA Gallery

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*"When I was little I used to go to AVA for art lessons, but now I'm taking my niece and nephew for a wonderful program called CAOS. For \$5 kids can be their own artist in a variety of mediums: clay, paint, drawing, etc. Such a great deal and the kids love it. I'm so happy that AVA has expanded once again."*—CAOS Participant

*"A little off the beaten path, this gallery is worth the detour. It is a gem. AVA offers art classes at every level and shows a wide variety of top-notch work. Housed in a former clothing factory, the building alone is worth a look-see."*—AVA Gallery Visitor

### About CAOS-

[CAOS \(Community Arts Open Studio\)](#) is a weekly workshop where children with caregivers work together to make their own self-directed art projects using AVA's diverse assortment of art supplies. CAOS meets in AVA's Children's Studio between 11am–4pm on Saturdays throughout the school year and is supervised by AVA faculty and interns who can offer guidance with materials, and when necessary, inspiration.

Like CAOS, but intended for caregivers with children aged 1–4, [CAOS for Toddlers](#) meets in AVA's Children's Studio on Fridays from 9:30–11:30am throughout the school year. Caregivers must remain with their toddlers and are expected to help with clean-up. Participation is \$5 per child.

"The secret is out: CAOS provides a joyous opportunity for creative exploration in the company of family and friends. Its unhurried pace and nurturing environment is, for many, a most welcome break from the stress and rush of everyday life."

Coordinated by the [AVA](#) Gallery and Art Center.

This program was made possible in part by a \$10,764 [Operating Grant](#) from the [New Hampshire State Council on the Arts](#).



Kids Painting at AVA Gallery

### Glass, Tile, and Painted Mosaic Project

"The Ecology of Trees" is a floor-to-ceiling mural made with glass, tile, and paint by 85 students at [Greenfield Elementary School](#), as well as teachers, volunteers, and parents. The mural was unveiled on May 14.

Coordinated by one of the parents, [Angelique Moon](#) wrote the grant and brought in mural artist [David Fichter](#) for a ten-day residency. This was his first time working with younger students, in this case, kindergartners and first graders. Parents and teachers stood on ladders to paint the top, while younger students painted the bottom.

The school's art teacher, Carole Storro, was very supportive throughout the scope of this project. Storro works at seven other schools in the district and was recently nominated as "Teacher of the Year" for the ConVal School District.

The students' mosaic finalized their year-long studies on the theme "Reverence of Place." Students also made a PowerPoint presentation to show how it all came together.

This project was made possible by an [Artists Residency in Schools for Arts Learning Grant](#) from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.



Close-up views of the left-side panel on "The Ecology of Trees"



A close-up view of the tile mosaic

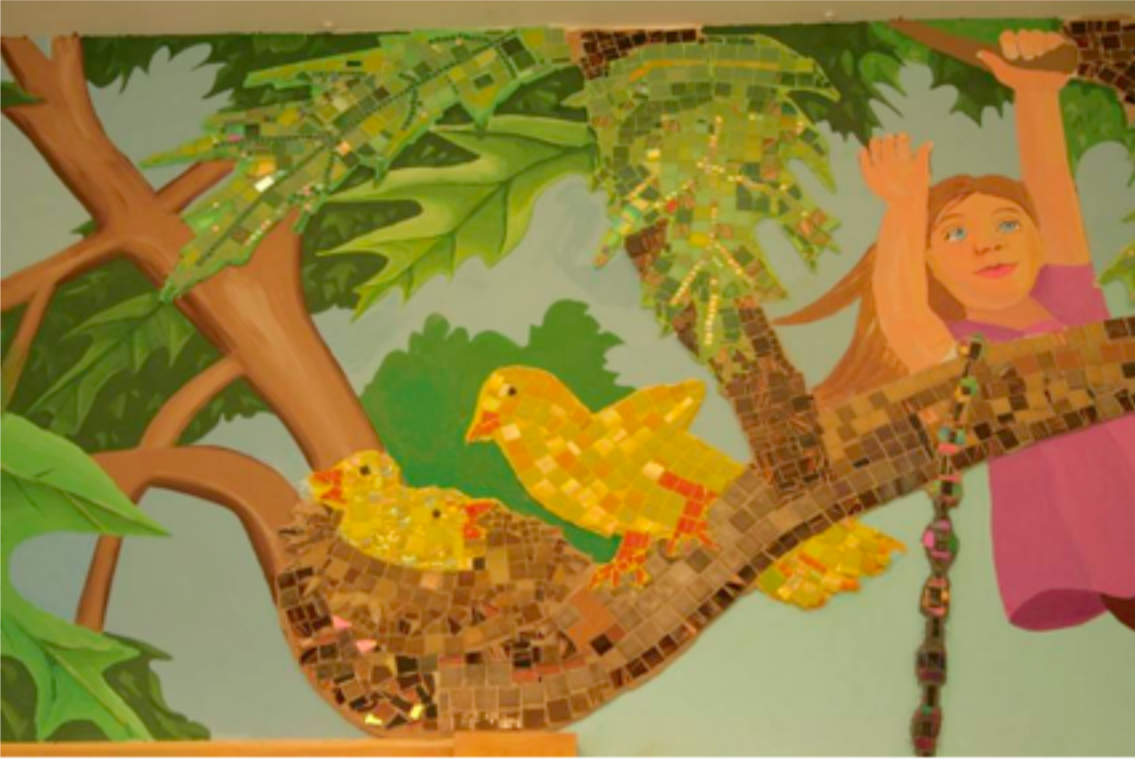


"The Ecology of Trees" mosaic was completed by students, teachers, volunteers, and parents



"The Ecology of Trees" entire left-side panel made from glass, tile, and paint

Close-up views of "The Ecology of Trees" mosaic



An incredible close-up of a snail created from tile mosaic



View of the right side of "The Ecology of Trees"



View of the right side of "The Ecology of Trees"



A floor-to-ceiling view of the mosaic students worked on at Greenfield Elementary School, while studying the theme "Reverence of Place"