

Public painting begins on Multnomah Arts Center's 175-foot mural

By Allison Voigts
The Southwest Portland Post

The artist population in Multnomah Village just got a lot bigger. Over 250 community members, ranging from kindergarteners to stay-at-home moms to seniors, will be moonlighting this summer as painters during the construction of the Multnomah Art Center's (MAC) lobby mural.

The 175-foot creation, entitled "Arts in the Heart of the Community," uses the painting method known as Pointillism to project a cohesive image from millions of dots scattered across the canvas.

Lead muralist Aimee Erickson, along with MAC art teachers, chose this method to allow community members of all skill levels to participate in the painting while still achieving a professional-looking outcome.

Michael Walsh, the Arts Center's

executive director, said his staff had talked about doing a mural for years. "We thought it would be a good way to build community, and we wanted to change the feel of the building when you walk inside," he said.

Early last year, they finally sat down with a dedicated grant writer and last summer sent the request to the City's Regional Arts & Culture Council (RAC). RAC responded by offering a \$4,437 grant; combined with a \$5,000 grant from The Safeway Foundation and \$2,000 from Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., they had everything they needed to move forward with the long-awaited mural.

When Multnomah residents heard about the project last April, they began sending in drawings, photographs, and memories of their encounters with art in the area, whether they took a class in weaving or acted in a community Shakespeare performance.

Erickson, a MAC art instructor who also leads art projects in area schools, poured over the ideas with three other artists until they had a vision for the nine panels that would encapsulate them.

Each panel represents a different artistic discipline—such as photography, painting, literature, or theater—and together they follow the development of art through the ages.

The four head artists painted the outlines for the mural in muted colors, which the community artists will fill with dots in combinations of vivid colors. MAC teachers and alumni posed for many of the scenes that depict people.



Head muralist Aimee Erickson doles out paint and instructions during each public painting session. (Post photo by Allison Voigts)



Kari Offerdal and Amy Whetter, both 14, worked on the mural during one of the first public painting sessions July 17. (Post photo by Allison Voigts)

"Of course, everything in the mural is also being taught here (at MAC)," Erickson said as she directed one of the first public painting sessions inside a MAC classroom July 17.

Erickson doled out paper cups of house paint (chosen for its durability) in colors like Key Largo, Day Lily, and Fire & Ice to prospective painters. After a few minutes forming practice dots on construction paper, each participant was assigned a Q-tip and an area of the painting to fill.

Lynn Lertzman, a resident of Multnomah, applied coffee-colored dots to a section that depicts a man working on a typewriter. "This place could certainly use some color," she said. "It's a beautiful building, but this is going to help a lot."

The panels will be mounted like wall-

paper on the upper half of the lobby walls. This enables them to be preserved in case the layout of the building ever changes, as well as creating a better angle for viewing the painting as a whole without noticing the tiny dots that compose it. After Erickson and her team put the finishing touches on the mural, they will tentatively unveil it November 6.

While most of the 13 sign-up days to work on the painting have been filled, three "drop-in" days remain when anyone can paint: Thursday, August 6, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm; August 7, during First Friday, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm; and August 15, during the Multnomah Days Festival, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. For more information, contact the Multnomah Arts Center at 503-823-2787.

Parker Realty, Inc.

503-977-1888

www.parkerrealtyportland.com
7830 SW 35th Ave

Jeff Parker

Your Neighborhood Realtor
Since 1980



Portland Heights \$729,000



New Listing! Charming Dutch Colonial. 5 BR, 2.5 BA, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces. Level yard w/ fabulous patio, outdoor fireplace & garage. Quiet street & private setting. Call Stacy Hawkins-Parker.

Portland Heights \$695,000



Charming Jaimeson Parker English Cottage in the grid of Portland Heights. 4 bedrooms, fireplace, eating nook, den, hardwoods and loads of built-ins. Partially finished basement. Call Jeff Parker.

Garden Home \$599,500



Your own private oasis on .92 acre lot! Light & bright living room with fireplace. Family room with french doors to deck. Great yard with garden space, fruit trees, detached garage & huge deck. 4+ bedrooms w/ unfinished basement.

Hillsdale \$499,000



This 3+ BR 2.5 BA home is in better than new condition w/ only one owner! Quiet area w/ beautiful sunsets. Kitchen recently remodeled w/ slab granite & SS appliances. Large family room off kitchen w/ nook. Office/den or nursery off master suite. Yard, deck & patio.

Multnomah Village \$395,000



Duplex Townhome w/ 2 BR, 1.5 BA in each unit. Fireplace in living rooms. Deck & storage area in back. Oversized 1 car garage. Wonderful Multnomah Village location. Great investment!

Vermont Hills \$387,500



Located near Gabriel Park. Impeccable inside & out. 1928 square feet. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths with large, private and level backyard. Cozy family room off kitchen with fireplace. New master suite with attached office or nursery and 2 decks. Sprinkler system in back yard.

Vermont Hills \$375,000



Great Dayranch w/ 4 bedrooms. Light & bright living room w/ french doors to large back deck. Updated kitchen w/ tons of cabinet space and new stainless steel appliances. Lower level has family room w/ fireplace & french doors to patio & 4th bedroom w/ bathroom. Hardwood floors throughout main level. New vinyl windows & deck.

Vermont Hills \$345,000



Wonderful wooded lot. Unique floor plan that offers many possibilities. 4 BD, 3 BA home w/ bonus studio above detached garage. Master w/ bath & walk-in closet. Kitchen w/ eating area & French doors to patio. Hardwood floors thru-out.

Vermont Hills \$319,000



Excellent value! Classic Mid-Century Day Ranch w/ sunset views. Living room w/ cozy fireplace. Large kitchen w/ eating area. Lower level offers office / den, family room w/ fireplace, laundry room & full bath. Hardwood floors under carpets.

Multnomah Village \$299,900



View of the coast range! 3 BR, 2 BA home. 1,652 sq ft. Light & bright living room w/ woodstove & slider to large deck. 2 kitchens & oak floors. View & private deck from master bedroom. Driveway & garage below.

Vermont Hills \$245,000



Light & bright living room with fireplace. French doors in dining room to back patio. Kitchen with large skylight. Updated bathroom, hardwood floors throughout, newer vinyl windows, tool shed & fully fenced back yard. Large corner lot.

Multnomah \$229,500



Great home located close to Multnomah Village. 4 BD, 2 BA with 1,440 sqft. Light & bright living room, kitchen w/ eating bar & dining room w/ slider to back deck overlooking greenspace. 2 car attached garage.

In my 29 years of experience there has been no better time to buy Real Estate than now!

Low interest rates and motivated sellers are the perfect combination for great values.

A donation is made to Neighborhood House, Inc., with each sale!