

YWCA Santa Monica / Westside Girl House Art Project

Issue #3 2006 Editor: Kesa Kivel



Girl House Art Project: Over a 10-month period, a diverse group of girls ages 11-13 will explore gender issues, express their findings through art, and empower themselves in the process. Using a small cottage and surrounding area on the YWCA Santa Monica / Westside campus, the girls will create an art environment that reflects their issues and educates the public. The project runs from September 2005 to June 2006.



Angelica, Amanda, and Kaitlyn (above) helped create a digital mural at SPARC, a nonprofit organization under the artistic direction of muralist Judy Baca, with Debra Padilla at the helm.

Through the generosity of Debra Padilla, Judy Baca, and the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) in Venice, California, the Girl House girls helped create a beautiful 4' x 10' digital mural entitled *Find Your Passion!*. The mural was designed by the amazing Pilar Castillo with input from wonderful Betty Marin, Kesa Kivel, and of course, the Girl House girls.

Digital photos were taken of each girl engaged in an activity she loves (art, music, basketball) to inspire viewers to find their passions. Then, the images were printed onto canvas and painted. The mural-making process provided the girls an opportunity to learn about murals, work collaboratively, and develop new art skills. The mural will be part of the Girl House Public Exhibition at the YWCA on Saturday, June 17, 2006.



Pilar Castillo at her desk at SPARC

*"We are the ones
we have been
waiting for."*

-June Jordan, poet

Recent Topics/Speakers: Personal Safety Skills, led by Lisa Gaeta, the CEO/head trainer of Impact Personal Safety; The Salem Witch Trials, taught by Cal State University Long Beach student Sarah Young; Financial Literacy Skills, led by Libbie Agran of Libbie Agran Financial Services. Thanks so much to each one of the speakers! Other Recent Topics: Identifying North Star Values, Men as Allies, and Women's History. Future Activity: This spring the girls will create the Girl House Art Project installation, based on the gender issues that they have studied.



A section (above) of Lily's "I Am the Hero of My Life Story" picture book, based on the Mayan codex. For this Girl House activity, each girl identified the challenges she faces (at home, in school) then depicted these as scary-looking creatures that the girls "confronted" within their individual codex.

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday

June 17, 2006, Daytime

Girl House Public Exhibition
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