

BENEFITS TO ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY (AIR) PROGRAMS

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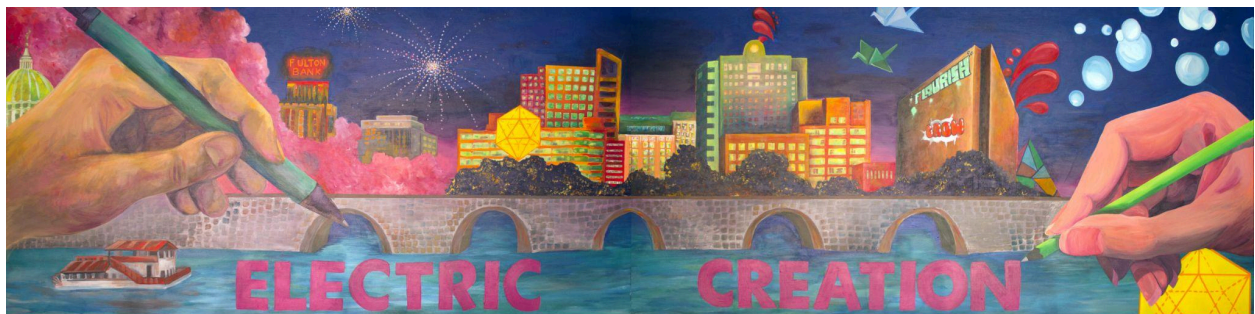
Dana Attivo is a Secondary Art Teacher at Lower Dauphin High School in Hummelstown PA. Dana serves as the Art Department Coordinator within her school community, NAHS Advisor, and Conference Consultant for PAEA.

Benefits to Artist-in-Residency (AIR) Programs

During my tenure, I have hosted three different artists in two different residencies and I'm in the process of planning my third. And let me tell you... they were some of the most rewarding experiences for both myself and my students. I asked a couple of seniors who worked with the artists a few years ago what was impactful to them. One student told me that *"it was an opportunity to work with a medium (glass) that I otherwise would never have*

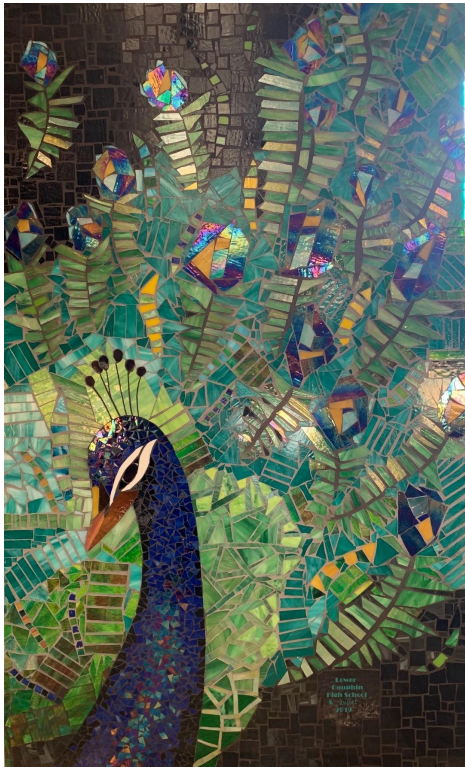
experienced.” A second student chimed in with *“yeah, and it was a chance to work collaboratively, something we don’t always do in art class because we all just usually work on our own pieces.”* A third student reminisced on the quirky personality of one of the artists. And even though they were not always a fan of the work, they did like making individual pieces that worked together in a larger collaborative piece. I would add that the two residencies we worked on were for the community, not for our school, and that added a lot of meaning to the pieces. The work is being enjoyed by people outside the school community.

In 2017, we worked with Harrisburg artist Megan Caruso and the ArtSparks program parented by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). It was a collaboration between PCA, the PA Turnpike Commission, and the Greater Harrisburg/Hershey Visitors Bureau. We created two 4-foot x 16-foot murals that were installed in the Lawn service area along the turnpike.



Then in 2019, we created 13 murals that were installed (in 2021) in the adolescent unit of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute.

For this project, we created six glass mosaics with a local Hummelstown artist Linda Billet; six botanical collages with Reading-based artist Beth Krumholz; and one large lotus flower piece that was



made with the community over Memorial Day weekend at the annual Arts Fest in downtown Harrisburg.



The third residency I am planning will be created for our Lower Dauphin high school but with a community component. We are inviting Symone Salib, Philadelphia muralist, to work with our students in the fall of 2022. Like the mural titled "*Para mi familia y para mi*", she created in 2020 at the Philadelphia International Airport,



we will embrace Symone's style while showcasing members of the student body, staff, and supportive community. I am most excited for the students to experience her bubbly personality and to hear her inspiring story of how she came to be a full-time artist. For some students who may be on the edge of "next step choices" I hope they are inspired by Symone's story and know that it is okay for life to be a little messy. Isn't that a valuable lesson in itself?

Funding for these projects came from many different sources. The current AIR we are planning is being funded by our school's Falcon Foundation and the National Art Honor Society. We held a few fundraisers to cover a third of the cost and the rest is coming from the foundation. Typical residencies conducted through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is an Arts in Education (AIE) Division often requires a percentage of the cost to be paid by the participating district. Hold a bake sale and sell some subs because the hard work you put in will come back 10 fold when you see the delight on your student's faces when they experience this fun and unique opportunity.

If you are interested in hosting an AIR, check out PCA's [website](#) to apply for funding. If you would like to chat more about my experience or how I "*make it happen*" feel free to email me at conferenceconsultant@paea.org.