



STEPHANIE MERCADO CO-CREATE MURALS

www.stephaniemercado.com



Collaborative Mural with Stephanie Mercado

Objective

This project invites students to co-create a vibrant stencil-based mural that reflects the spirit of their school, celebrates the diversity of the student body, and inspires cultural affirmation and self-determination. By engaging students directly in the creative process, the mural becomes not only a work of art but also a symbol of inclusion, imagination, and collective pride.

Process

Artist Stephanie Mercado will guide students through a collaborative design process, beginning with open conversations about the themes, symbols, and imagery that best represent their school community and aspirations. From these ideas, Mercado will use existing stencils and develop custom stencils for students to use in painting their designs onto fabric swatches.

Each student's creation will then be collaged into the larger mural composition using marouflage, a traditional technique where painted fabric is adhered to a wall with mural glue. The result will be an eclectic, colorful, and unified artwork where every student's voice is visible.

To ensure longevity, high-quality acrylic paints and protective varnishes will be used, making the mural resistant to fading and wear over time.



Medium

The mural will combine hand-painted background elements by the artist—such as sky, landscape, or symbolic imagery—with collaged student-created swatches. This layered approach creates a lively and dynamic composition, while ensuring every participant's contribution is highlighted within the larger



Timeline (2 - 5 Sessions with students)

Session 1

Introduction to the artist's practice and examples of past collaborative murals
Project overview and discussion of the mural's theme
Brainstorming: students share ideas of what they want represented in the mural

Session 2

Distribution of prepared fabric swatches
Students apply background color (minimum 3 coats for durability)



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Timeline (continued)

Session 3

**Students use stencils to paint their chosen imagery
Add details and finishing touches
Drying time**

Session 4

**Cutting out student-created elements
Preparation for installation**

Session 5

**Collage process: students add their painted fabric pieces onto the background mural
Final assembly of the complete collaborative artwork**

(A week between Sessions 4 and 5 allows the artist to prepare the mural background.)



Budget: Materials

- Primer, for panel preparation
- Paint rollers
- Paint trays
- Acrylic paints (high-quality, color-fast)
- Brushes for students
- Sponges
- Buckets/cups for water
- Drop cloths/plastic
- Varnish (for protection and durability)

Sample budget:

Materials expenses depend on the dimensions of the mural.

- For smaller murals 8 x 8 ft, materials can be approximately \$500 - \$800
- Stipend for the artist based on the number of meetings, sessions, and artist labor ranges from \$2,000 - \$3,500 based on the scope of work and scale of the artwork
- Timelines for production with students can be held in two sessions, or approximately 4 - 5 hours.
- The professional grade materials used ensure a longevity of 25 - 50 years per project.
- This special pricing is specific to schools and youth-based organizations.
- Inquiries for commissions can be made: stephanie.x.mercado@gmail.com



This collaborative mural process ensures every student not only contributes their vision but also gains hands-on experience in artmaking, teamwork, and cultural expression. The finished mural will stand as a lasting testament to the creativity, identity, and collective spirit of the school community.