

Wall of Diversity



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Jennifer Matott &
Clint Niedzwiecki

Liverpool Central School District
Liverpool High School Annex

matott@liverpool.k12.ny.us
niedzwiecki@liverpool.k12.ny.us

NYS STANDARDS (IN THE ARTS):

1. Creating, performing, and participating in the Arts, 2. Knowing and using art materials and resources, 3. Responding to and analyzing works of art, 4. Understanding the cultural dimensions and contributions of the arts.

GRADE LEVEL

9th Grade Studio in Art

STUDENTS SERVED

350 students involved

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“Wall of Diversity” was a collaborative project between the Studio in Art and Global History curriculums. The final outcome of this lesson resulted in a permanent ceramic mural that illustrates cultural diversity and symbols. The project required students to research global cultures crossing many centuries and used the Elements of Art and Principles of Design in designing a visual symbol that was interpreted in ceramic relief. This project satisfied the educational need to connect the Visual Arts with past and current history studied in the ninth grade Global History curriculum. It added a permanent visual artwork to the building that reinforces this connection. Important ceramic handbuilding techniques were demonstrated and practiced. Students benefited from viewing and learning about cultures other than their own and demonstrated their knowledge of composition and design.

We created a website where students could access links to resources for national symbols and world history. Students completed research using teacher-guided worksheets and created two ceramic relief tiles that were consistent in size and shape. They chose the best work to be hung and completed their tiles with ceramic glazes in appropriate colors and textures. The final mural was assessed through group discussion and individual evaluation rubrics.

Materials used in this project: clay (approximately 1-2 lbs. per student), modeling/ carving tools, sheetrock (for drying), underglazes, tile cutters (4 ¼ x 4 ¼ “).

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students achieved higher level thinking skills through the process of researching information on their chosen country, identifying symbols pertaining to the country, applying visual concepts to information found in order to create a sketch of ideas, identifying similarities in icons and symbols to create a final design that summarizes the recognizable images that illustrate the country. Students were better able to explain their design choices after conducting research on visual symbols and icons of their country. They were also able to compare and contrast color and design choices from various student interpretations of the same country. The students were better able to appreciate different images used to illustrate the various countries after understanding the process.