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We are proud of the 2011 "Bookshelf" Mural Project created by the ArtSpring Participants at the Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center, facilitated by Markus Tracy. Please read more about this successful project in "The J Times" article below, followed by a photo journal of the workshop progress, which began on April 11th, through the unveiling celebration on May 15th.

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JJCS
WE CARE



Juvenile Justice Center School

We serve as catalysts for change in the outlooks of our students and plant seeds for change by demonstrating that we care about the individuals welfare and future success.

A Miami Dade Regional The J Times Detention Center School (MDRJDCS)

Behind the secured gates of DJJ, there lies a piece of encouragement, many may consider a roadmap that unlocks the creativity and curiosity of those that partake of its benefits-aesthetically and notably the message detailed in the art, on one of the converted concrete walls. The bookcase mural designed by Markus Tracy defines how art and literature intertwine and merge beautifully. ArtSpring, Inc., a not-for-profit organization in Florida, has provided the longest ongoing arts-in-corrections programming in the State of Florida. Their mission is to use arts-based educational programming to develop self-growth and effective life skills for incarcerated women, men and youth as well as other at-risk populations in underserved communities.

ArtSpring programs incorporate theater, dance, writing, visual art, and music-based creative exercises to expand awareness, stimulate imagination, strengthen the capacity for feeling and develop skills of expression.

Their programs teach commitment, responsibility, communication, group dynamics and decision-making. Facilitators use the arts to develop confidence, self-esteem and expressive skills, which in turn influence outcomes such as an improvement in academic work and positive social behavior. ArtSpring has provided ongoing arts-based programs for girls at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center since February 2003. We recently began a weekly program offering for boys in detention, in addition to completing the 5-week intensive community mural project that Markus Tracy directed. ArtSpring is grateful for funding from BankAtlantic Foundation, with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. The mural project was also funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. If you would like to know more about this organization, please contact Leslie Neal or Nicole Bible, for more information at 305-278-1601.

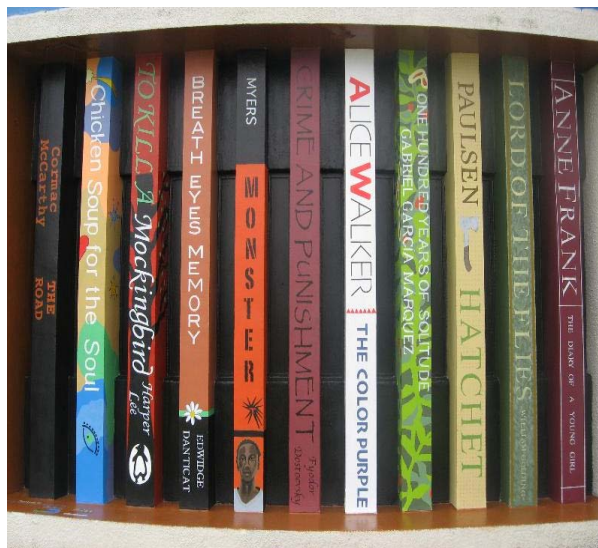


Photo journal of "Bookshelf" Mural at DJJ



(1) Blank destination wall for "Bookshelf" mural, (2) Lesson on selecting, mixing, and applying colors, (3) Mural planning session, (4) Participant creates mural blueprint, (5) Blueprint of "Bookshelf" mural (6) Participants create a grid with chalk line, (7) Participants draw the outline of the mural, (8) "Bookshelf" mural, (9) Families gather to view the wonderful work of their children, (10) Artist and funder acknowledgements painted into the mural

ArtSpring, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in Florida, believes in the power of art to transform individuals and strengthen communities. Our mission is to use arts-based educational programming to develop self-growth and effective life skills for incarcerated women, men and youth as well as other at-risk populations in under-served communities. Since 1994, ArtSpring has provided the longest ongoing arts-in-corrections programming in the State of Florida, providing quality, arts-based educational workshops to over 600 inmates and juveniles a year.

Please make a donation today to support ArtSpring programs in Florida!

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