


# Youth for Justice Project

Afterschool Arts & Advocacy Program




A Photo-Narrative Exhibit of the  
Guadalupe-Washington Community



**Youth for Justice Project (YJP)** is an Afterschool Arts & Advocacy Program, under the leadership of Jesica S. Fernández ([jsfernandez@scu.edu](mailto:jsfernandez@scu.edu)), and student facilitators, Maria de la Lima and Jacqueline Ramirez, in the Ethnic Studies Department at Santa Clara University.

YJP develops the leadership, civic engagement and community-based research skills of youth in the Guadalupe-Washington community by having them engage in a participatory action research (PAR) process that involves the development of art projects, such as self-portraits, collages and photo-voice, to document via images and stories, their hopes and dreams for their neighborhood, the social issues they wish to see addressed, and to think about solutions that can help create change in their communities and their environment.



# Who, What, How, Where & Why

- **Who:** Youth, 6-8th graders, in transition from elementary to middle school
- **What:** Develop youth critical thinking, civic engagement and leadership through art and advocacy, via community-based research skills training and capacity building
- **How:** Weekly 1 hour sessions to learn about youth experiences in their school, family and community contexts; to support youth radical hopes for change; and to develop action-projects to address identified problems or issues in their community
- **Where:** Sacred Heart Nativity School, Guadalupe-Washington Neighborhood
- **Why:** Youth are the present and future leaders! Supporting them in making change is one way to create more just, humanizing and thriving communities



# Participatory Action Research

*“Nothing about Us, without Us, is for Us”*

- YJP follows a PAR (Participatory Action Research) approach – it is a way of doing research that is community-based
- Youth in the community identify & determine the issue or condition that impact them, they learn about the root cause to the issue – what caused it & why – then they come up with actions/an action-project to address the issue
- Through this process, youth determine whether the issue was addressed via an action-project, & if social change is possible
- PAR is an iterative, cyclical and relational process – the work is ongoing!





# Advocacy, Art Making & Auto-Portraits

- Over the course of 22 YJP Afterschool Program Sessions, from September 2021 through Spring 2022, we've engaged SHNS youth in various advocacy art & activism oriented projects – from auto-portraits (self-portraits) to drawings to collages, sketches & photographs with narratives
- All of the art making SHNS youth have created are meant to convey who they are – their identities, lived experiences & future aspirations – along with their hopes & dreams for their school, families & communities
- At every session we've been joined by an average of 7 youth, most of whom are 6th grade youth & young girls

# What is advocacy?

## Art types

- Self-portraits
- collages



- you show your personality
- you stand up for yourself
- you stand up for causes / what you believe

↳ climate change: habitats / ice melting / people's living pl

↳ injustices: racism, homophobia, exclusion, tre  
wasting resources, police brutality

- talking about problems so we can solve them through art

# Auto-Retratos / Self-Portraits - Drawings

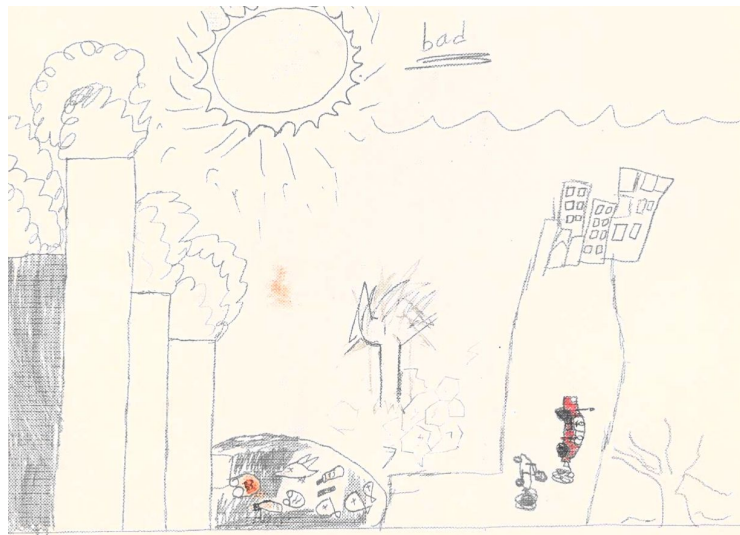




# Auto-Retratos / Self-Portraits







bad



Efrata Abas

# HOW CAN YOU MAKE A CHANGE IN THE WORLD?

change the world, before its too late.



plant based item : bamboo tooth brush



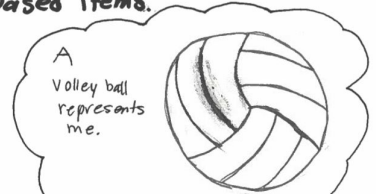
Eco-friendly supplies



Garbage

You can change the world for good by throwing your trash in the garbage. Also, having eco-friendly supplies. Including, plant based items.

- Rashaell Ormeño S



A Volley ball represents me.



# Questions

- What are your favorite things about your neighborhood?

- What represents your community?

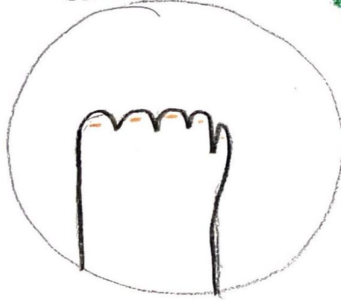
- What would you take a picture of?  
- pretty things - culture & lifestyle

- Why is there \_\_\_\_\_ in your neighborhood?

LOVE



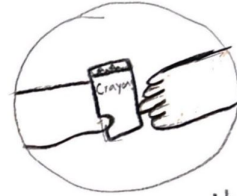
We are



helpful



Caring



Here together



trusting

# Neighborhood Walk Activity & Photovoice

- In the Spring, youth engaged in a Neighborhood Walk Activity where together we walked around the neighborhood & surrounding areas of SHNS – Calle Willow, Edwards, Oak, First Street
- As we walked these streets, we took photographs & notes of what we observed & talked about – we took photos of aspects of the community that youth cared about, were positive, & thriving representations of the community that made us feel happy!
- We also took photos of those aspects that we saw were challenging the wellbeing of the community – or that we hoped could be changed, improved & addressed
- Our process of taking photos & adding a description is known as photovoice – our photos + captions are our narratives/stories about our community hopes & dreams!



I took a photo of the restaurant, El Camaron, with a shrimp on it because it's a Mexican restaurant where people eat that is nice. - Jose, 7th Grader



The pictures with the trash on the sidewalk make me sad because it shows how people don't take care of the planet when they don't recycle. - Jose, 7th Grader





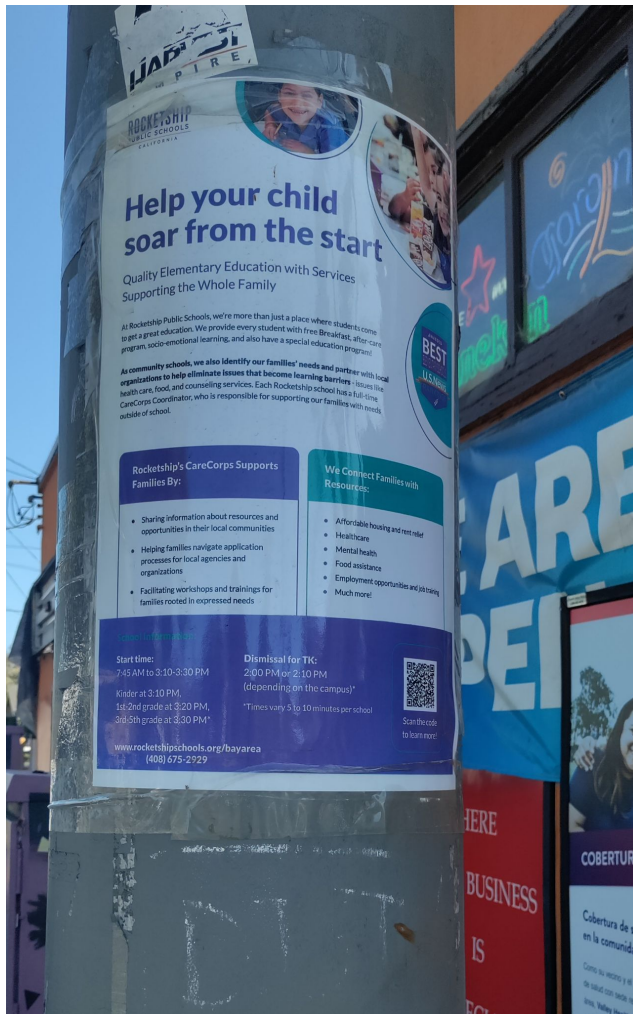


I like communities that give poor people food to eat because some people don't have money to buy food. It is good to give food to people because it shows that people care about others. Martha's Kitchen is a place that gives people food for free. - Jose, 7th Grader





I like the photo of this mural that shows Latino culture. I also like how it tells the story about important Mexican figures in our community, like folklorico dancer Brenda Lopez. It is also very beautiful. - Allisson, 6th Grader



People are helping each other  
by sharing information. -  
Allisson, 6th Grader

The liquor store is part of the history of the community because it's been there since 2002. I buy things there like food and snacks. - Allisson, 6th Grader

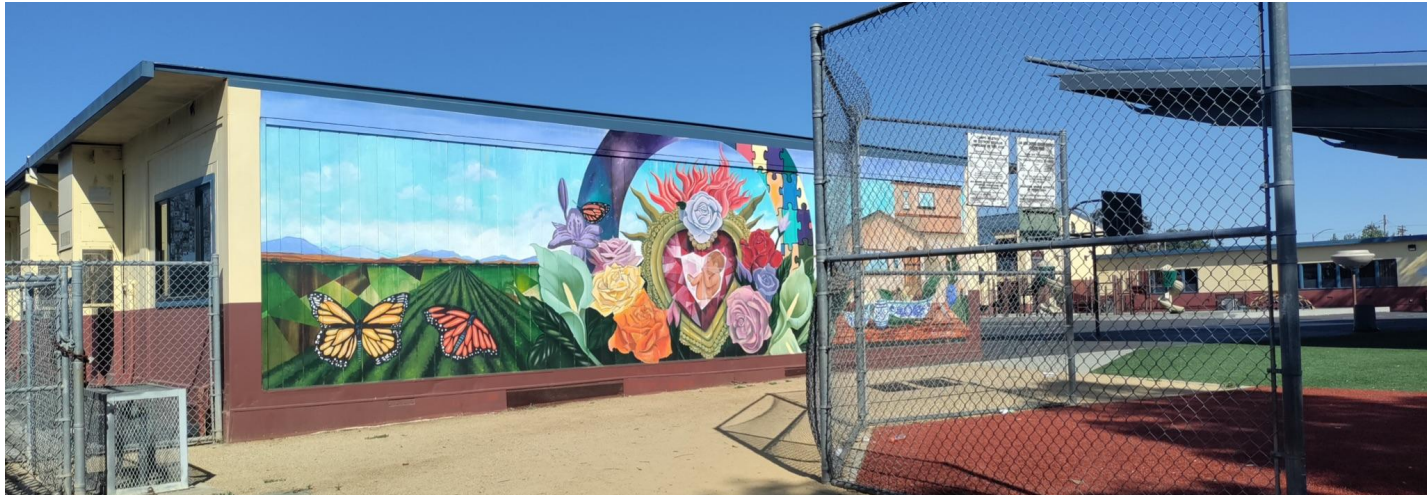






I love how even schools try to spread kindness. Schools are trying to tell the community to start spreading kindness, like confetti – but that can be littering so they should have it changed to “Spread Kindness Like Butter.” - Tanya, 6th Grader





I love this mural because it represents different moms, including my mom. It took awhile to make the mural, but it's beautiful because it was made by moms. -  
Tanya, 6th Grader

The mural has many meanings. It represents a lot about our community. For example, it shows students can blossom to learn new things. It also represents the heritage and history of the community. - Alisson, 6th Grader



The shoes hanging from the electricity wire show gangs in the community. These are used by cholos to mark their territory. - Tanya, 6th Grader





The sign tells the community to not use tobacco on school property. This helps protect the children and keep us healthy. - Tanya, 6th Grader



The hearts on the concrete wall are cool and make me feel happy. I'd say the community is super cool. This is important because it shows the community is loving and cares about each other. - Alejandra, 6th Grader

The art on this wall shows the love for the community. For example, it shows love. Like the love and care we have for others, and to help each other in the community. We help each other because we care. - Alisson, 7th Grader







The price of gas is very expensive. It is not okay. I took this picture because I don't agree with the price of gas. Gas is bad for the environment. But it is also bad that people cannot buy gas to drive to work or school. - Efrata, 6th Grader

The flowers and hummingbird mural is really pretty and nice to look at. It shows the beauty in random places in the community. - Efrata, 6th Grader







Turning the newsstand into a trashcan is not okay. This is for the news and not the trash. People who deliver the newspaper cannot do their job because they don't have a place to put the news articles. - Efrata, 6th Grader



Without color these utility boxes are boring, but this one is beautiful and nice to look at. It's great! I also like that it's pretty and really nice to look at. It can make people happy. - Efrata, 6th Grader





I like what is shown in this photo because it shows what I think is a protest for workers, and how much people work. - Stephanie, 7th Grader

I picked this picture because these flyers show how important politics are in our world. And it shows the beliefs of people about politics, and how influential politics are to a community. - Stephanie, 7th Grader

I picked these signs because it shows how people put things to support and show their beliefs. Politics are very influential to a community because they get to have a lot of power over a community. - Stephanie, 7th Grader

The flyers on this photo show us about the important political events that are happening in the community.

It also shows us that Pancho Barraza is cool. - Allisson, 6th Grader





The photo of the information flyers at the library makes me feel okay. It shows and tells the community is cool because it shares information. This picture is cool because it also shows the community must be informed on what's going on. - Alejandra, 6th Grader

What if there is a serial killer loose, how will people know? - Alejandra, 6th Grader



It's a photo of a mural that reminds me of a sad time. When I look at it, It makes me feel bad. I fell near there and I have a scar from the fall. - Allisson, 6th Grader





I like this because it can help lots of people with no bikes. And it's great. I also like this because it helps people. - Efrata, 6th Grader

The bicycle is a way to get around and how to move around. - Richard, 7th Grader



**Youth for Justice Project (YJP)** is a collaboration between the Ethnic Studies Department at Santa Clara University, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office (SCCDAO) Bend the Arc Grant Program, the Guadalupe-Washington Neighborhood, and Sacred Heart Nativity School.





Thank You!

