

Woodman "Mural of Meaning & Memory" proposal



What would be the focus of the mural?

Building on our recent school-wide Wellness Day learning of cultural understanding and diversity, we would like to create a mural of meaning and memory that celebrates the cultural and language diversity we are so proud of at Woodman. We want to create a mural that reflects our current Woodman students and their families.



This mural would replace the “Van Gogh” style mural on the east end of the main gym hallway.



This hallway is one of the first things people see when visiting our building. The existing mural has served our school for ten years. However, we think it's time to update it with a new mosaic mural, created by our current students and filled with meaning and significance for them.

Where did this idea come from?

1. Several years leading students in designing & creating installation art for Woodman
2. Teacher's Convention 2024 - mosaic workshop with Michelena Bamford
3. Spring 2024 - Relationship building & discussions began with Michelena to discuss possibilities.



Mosaic: a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone, tile, glass, etc.

Some of Michelena's collaborative work



What impressed me about Michelena Bamford?



- a desire to include student voice
 - consideration of place & people
 - skill in leading collaborative creation
 - Encouraging, respectful with students
 - mural & student personal work
 - long term durability of mosaic art
 - knowledge & skill as a mosaic artist
 - past collaborative work
 - e.g. use of text (see next slide)
 - e.g. Calgary Girls School project using gr. 9 girls' personal objects (see in two slides)
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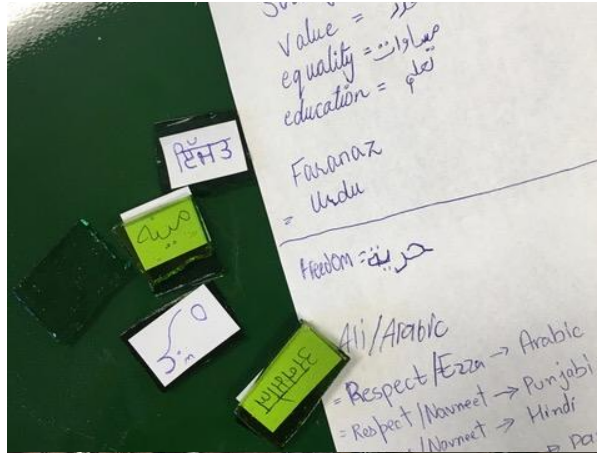
Example: Use of Text

@ Nelson Mandela High School

“We took school values and students wrote them in their native language and then I cut out and compressed the paper between two pieces of transparent glass that was then used as tesserae (the pieces that make up a mosaic) with other stained glass into the larger mural.”

@ Westgate Elementary School

“School motto written in French, Spanish and English for the immersion programs.”



Example: **Use of** **Personal** **Objects -** **“Memorywar** **eprojects”**

@ Calgary Girls
School

@ Equinox Vigil
event



Discussion with the Student Council working group - “School Beautification Squad”?

1. Student voice important
2. Student installation art - more connected
3. Modernize school with art

“It would really represent our identity and our Woodman culture as we are a wolf pack.” - Aila S.

“It would bring some cheer to our school atmosphere.”
- Brielle M.

“It would inspire other students to do art and be creative.”
- Sofiia P.

“It would light up our school.” - Anika N.



- **Grade 7-9 art students:**
 - an artist residency (several visits)
 - create a small personal mosaic to take home
 - participate in school mural creation
- **All students:**
 - brainstorming process
 - potentially add some personal memories/meaning

Plan to Document the Project



- a small sign by front doors
 - recognize significance and meaning
 - draw attention
 - thanks for funding/donations
- a photo essay
 - document steps involved in making mural
 - provide updates as we create

Why would parent council want to financially support the creation of a legacy mural at Woodman?

Our students would learn about mosaic & work with a skilled mosaic artist.

For our current students to be able to create a new meaningful mural.

Students take pride in having their own work displayed permanently.

Giving our school more visual appeal can impact student mental health.

We have the opportunity to work with Michelena Bamford in Nov. 2025.

This project benefits all Woodman students, staff & others using our space.

When students are invested in a space they care for it, like the library.

This mural would be designed with important student voice & skill.

Our building is old & in need of updating for our current students.

Cost?

**Michelena
will help us
work
within our
budget, but
here are
some cost
estimates.**

- Michelena's facilitation fees are \$60/hour. We might be able to reduce that cost a bit by doing some tasks ourselves, in consultation with Michelena.
 - Mural installation budgets are in the \$5000-\$15,000 range depending on multiple factors.
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How might we reduce the cost of materials?



- Soliciting donations of materials (e.g. Woodman parents, Home Depot and Lowe's)
- Using recycled materials (thrift store pottery broken into pieces)
- Making our own clay tiles, glazing and breaking them
- Grants? (*although required timing might be an issue*)



What are we asking of parent council?



Your support & financial support to do a collaborative meaningful mosaic mural with Michelena Bamford in November of 2025.

As to how much, it would be great if parent council could commit somewhere in the range of \$5000 to \$10,000.

Michelena is willing to work within our budget. An art option fee for the cost of the residency & small take-home mosaics for art students. However, the wall mosaic should be covered another way.

**I hope you will help us fund
this important & meaningful
mosaic mural that we want
to create in the fall of 2025.**

Thanks for your time
and dedication to our
students and our
school,... and for
listening to this
presentation and
considering our
request.

