



Template for cARTie's 2024 state-wide mural project, sponsored by DecoArt.

cARTie Partners with DecoArt on Statewide Mural Project Engaging Students Across CT to Use Art to Connect Our World

cARTie, Connecticut's nonprofit art museum bus is proud to partner with DecoArt, a leading provider of art supplies, for its second annual state-wide school mural project. This year, cARTie's mural project will empower children to think about the ways art connects our world. This exciting initiative will involve more than 1,200 PreK-2 students at 10 different schools with limited access to the arts across CT.

Inspired by the theme of the cARTie's 2023-2024 Juried Art Exhibition ('The Power of Art as Language'), this year's mural project aims to showcase how art can connect people from different backgrounds and cultures. Students at each participating school have already gone on two art museum field trips aboard cARTie this 2023-2024 school year. They have gotten to know the art and artists whose stories are told through 'The Power of Art as Language' and understand the exhibition grew out of an exchange between students at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT and the Machakos School for the Deaf in Kenya, facilitated by cARTie's partner nonprofit organization, Creative Connections. They have explored what it means to be Deaf, and how art can be a universal language. Now, they will have a chance to collaborate and make a mural for their school communities that shows exactly how art can connect our world. Working together with support and facilitation by cARTie's education team, students will design their own worlds, highlighting the people, places, and things they wish to see connected through art.

DecoArt's sponsorship of the project includes providing canvases and eco-friendly DecoEARTH paints, ensuring that the children have all the materials they need to create their masterpieces.

Through this culminating project, students will continue developing their critical and creative thinking skills, as well as their ability to collaborate and make a positive impact in their communities.

DecoArt joins key donors and sponsors of cARTie's work bridging inequities in education and arts access across CT, including: The Connecticut Office of the Arts, which also receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; CT Humanities, with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts from the Connecticut State Legislature; the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation; the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven; the Valley Community Foundation; the Barnum Foundation for Life; and many more. The success of the project will be measured by the number of students engaged, as well as feedback from school principals, teachers, families, and the wider community.

cARTie is excited to work with DecoArt on this transformative initiative, which not only beautifies schools across CT, but also empowers students to become world leaders and creative thinkers. By fostering creativity, collaboration, and a sense of connection, the mural project will leave a lasting impact on the participating children and their communities. Stay tuned for the unveiling of these extraordinary murals between March and May, 2024!

For over 35 years, DecoArt has been working to create the highest quality acrylic paints for consumers across the world. DecoArt is passionate about supporting artists, makers, doers, and creatives of all kinds, including nonprofits like cARTie! DecoArt's newest product, DecoEARTH is a revolutionary new sustainable paint that is made from over 70% reclaimed house paint (premium water-based and non-toxic too). More information may be found at: www.shop.decoart.com/content/decoearth-infographic.pdf.

cARTie is CT's first and only nonprofit art museum bus committed to bridging inequities in education and arts access across the state through its mobile art museum bus with a focus on young children, emerging student-artists, and entire communities. To learn more about cARTie, please visit www.cartie.org and [@CTcARTie](#) on social media.