

Community Mural Project on 8th Ave. & 22nd St. With Greeley High School Students

May 8th, 2014



There is a new community mural going up in Greeley at [8th Avenue and 22nd Street](#) (on the side of [Botanica Ciudad De Las Brujas](#)) thanks to the [Make TODAY Count!](#) campaign and students at [Greeley West High School](#). The project was supposed to take place this weekend (May 10th and 11th, 2014), but has been **postponed until next week** due to weather. It will be the first of (hopefully) many murals that go up around Greeley and Weld County throughout the summer.

The multicultural group of students involved represent over eight countries around the world and they've created a mural based on the ideas of respect, acceptance, and difference. I'm pretty sure I am not alone in being excited to see what the finished mural will look like.

The Make TODAY Count! campaign is a three-year effort to build a stronger and healthier community. Mural projects have historically been used as a vehicle for education and cultural expression, and can play a key role in building a healthy community. They have been used throughout the world to share a community's history, culture, and beliefs with outsiders. By giving a voice to residents, a mural project can empower and enliven the community, improving overall health and well-being. Marte Samuelsteun, Community Liason for English Learners & Newcomers Program for Greeley-Evans School District 6, has been helping to coordinate the project. "This mural project has shown these students that they can have a voice here, and that their perspective and experience matters," says Sameulsten. "It's great that the students can share their story and a bit of who they are through collective artwork," she says. The students have planned, designed, and will paint the mural themselves. Local artist Wesley Bruce has been mentoring the project, and is very excited that the kids are getting this opportunity. The students brainstormed themes and ideas, and picked three words that they wanted to mural to say: "Respect, Acceptance, and Difference." "The hope is that those words and concepts will lead to action within the neighborhood and student's lives," says Bruce.

You can learn more about [Make TODAY Count! here](#) or [find them on Facebook](#).

It's fun to live in a community where there is such an interest in public art.