



Press Release

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Abbott Elementary School Students Celebrate New Mural with Festive Unveiling

LYNWOOD, CA – Abbott Elementary School sixth-grade students put their imagination and art skills to the test, officially unveiling a colorful mural they created for their school community during a festive celebration on Feb. 3.

The project – sponsored by nonprofit Turnaround Arts: California – was spearheaded by Abbott Elementary teacher Ann Salvador and artist Lilia “Liliflor” Ramirez, who worked with nearly 70 students over the last several months to bring their vision of honoring the Earth, its people and its beauty to life.

“We were inspired by the butterfly representing peace and rights – peace for the indigenous people who fought for a better way of life and rights for African Americans who fought for a better world,” Abbot student Miranda Puentes said. “We also added flowers and trees to represent our desire to care for the Earth. The mural is inspired by Janie P. Abbot Elementary because we love our school.”

Using a polytab technique, Ramirez worked with students to paint their original sketch on a malleable, woven fabric material – measuring just under 13 feet by 12.6 feet – which was then pasted onto a platform facing Clark Street.

“As an artist born and raised in Los Angeles, I am passionate about using art as a tool for civic engagement, personal transformation and as a way to envision a better future,” Ramirez said. “This mural is truly a labor of love and we are very excited for the entire community to enjoy it.”

Named “We Are All Connected,” the mural is inspired by the indigenous Tongva people, the California poppy and climate change. It aims to unite the community as well as encourage students to take pride in their work and recognize their potential to impact change in the world.

“I wanted to show the students that even though they’re young, they can leave an impact,” Salvador said. “This project shows them that we see and hear them, and hopefully in the future we can create more legacy projects like this.”

MORE

The **Lynwood Unified School District** is dedicated to offering students a world-class education to prepare them for success in college and career in the 21st century. Under its Achieving Greatness Initiative, the district is realigning all aspects of its organization to strengthen and expand instructional programs, enrichment and extracurricular activities, and support system for students and staff. For more information, visit www.lynwood.k12.ca.us.

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A Turnaround Arts school since 2018, Abbott has expanded its arts education program to every student. The nonprofit provides arts resources, teacher training and support to integrate arts into core academic subjects. Washington Elementary became LUSD's second Turnaround Arts school in 2021.

"At our Turnaround Arts schools, innovation and imagination are thriving, student engagement and achievement are improving, and school cultures are radiating with positivity," Superintendent Dr. Gudiel Crosthwaite said. "Art teaches our students about the potential impact of their imagination and gives them the freedom to express it. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this art project and for working with our students to create a piece that they will always remember."

PHOTO CAPTIONS

LUSD_ABBOTT_1: Artist Lilia "LiliFlor" Ramirez and Abbott Elementary School students unveil the "We Are All Connected" legacy mural during an event on Feb. 3.

LUSD_ABBOTT_2: Artist Lilia "LiliFlor" Ramirez celebrates the unveiling of the "We Are All Connected" legacy mural on Feb. 3 at Abbot Elementary School.

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The mission of **Lynwood Unified School District**, the cultivator of innovative thinkers, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves his or her highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to the greater society through a unique system distinguished by:

- ★ People of great character who inspire and lead by example
- ★ The instilling of courage to be creative
- ★ The transformative uses of technology
- ★ Safe and clean environments
- ★ The honoring of all voices of our community