How To Paint a Mural

Wilson Style

The mural process is harder than it seems. It’s more than painting a wall. We hope to illustrate in this book how to make a successful community mural using our experience at the Alexander Wilson Elementary School in Penn’s Fall 2008 class “The Big Picture: Mural Art in Philadelphia” with Jane Golden, Shira Walinsky, Maria Rajewski, Joe Brenman and the Mural Arts Program.

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Step 1: Find a wall

Alexander Wilson Elementary School

Step 2: Interview the community
Step 3: Using interviews and site for inspiration, research imagery to narrow design content

Step 4: Design the mural
Step 5: Present final design to the community, repeating Steps 2 – 4, if necessary

Step 6: Set a date for paint day with the community and flyer the neighborhood with invitations
Step 7: Prime the wall

Step 8: Cut & prime parachute cloth
Step 9: Project sections of design on 5 - foot squares to trace and number colors

Step 10: Roll Novagel on everything and adhere cloth to wall by scraping out air bubbles
Step 11: Mix paint & organize into numbered containers

Step 12: Community Paint Day
Bring the community together to paint the mural
Plan activities for young aspiring muralists

Play lively music to set the painting mood
Serve lots of food to keep the painters happy

Step 13: Repeat Steps 7 - 11 until the mural is done!
Step 14: Acknowledge everyone who contributed to the mural at the dedication ceremony

Step 15: Admire the mural and the community’s hard work for years to come