



**EVERY BEAUTIFUL  
HEART DESERVES  
TO BE EDUCATED.**



# 29 PIECES USES ART TO:



Awaken,



uplift,



give voice to



the creative human spirit



to make genuine, positive, social change

**THE  
AMERICAN** **LOVE**™  
**P R O J E C T**

Our nation's founding ideals

- + the power of art
- + words that inspire love
- + the creativity of thousands  
and thousands of educators,  
students, organizations and artists

**= AMERICAN HEALING**



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

# OBJECTIVES OF THE AMERICAN LOVE PROJECT

1. LEARN HISTORY of the Dallas and Grand Prairie LOVE Projects.
2. UNDERSTAND the meanings of the word LOVE.
3. APPRECIATE the history of your town or city.
4. FEEL COMPASSION and EMPATHY about the issues we face in today's world.
5. GET INSPIRED about the power of art to ignite positive social change.
6. SHARE The American LOVE Project Lesson.
7. CREATE Art that will be displayed on the American LOVE Project online gallery, in your school, community and in Washington D.C.



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# DALLAS LOVE PROJECT

**10,000**  
Pieces of Art  
**20,000**  
Artists  
**67**  
Exhibit Venues

29 Pieces conceived the Dallas LOVE Project to honor the legacy of President John F. Kennedy. Following the president's assassination in 1963, Dallas was labeled by some as a "City of Hate."



In 2013, through the Dallas LOVE Project, 29 Pieces brought artists together to express the idea that Dallas is a city where LOVE thrives.

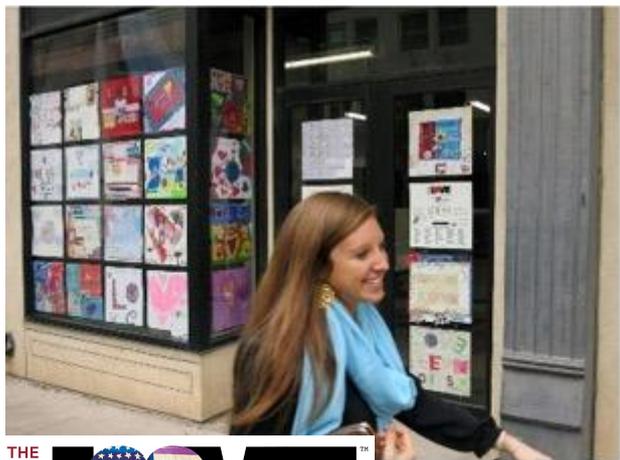


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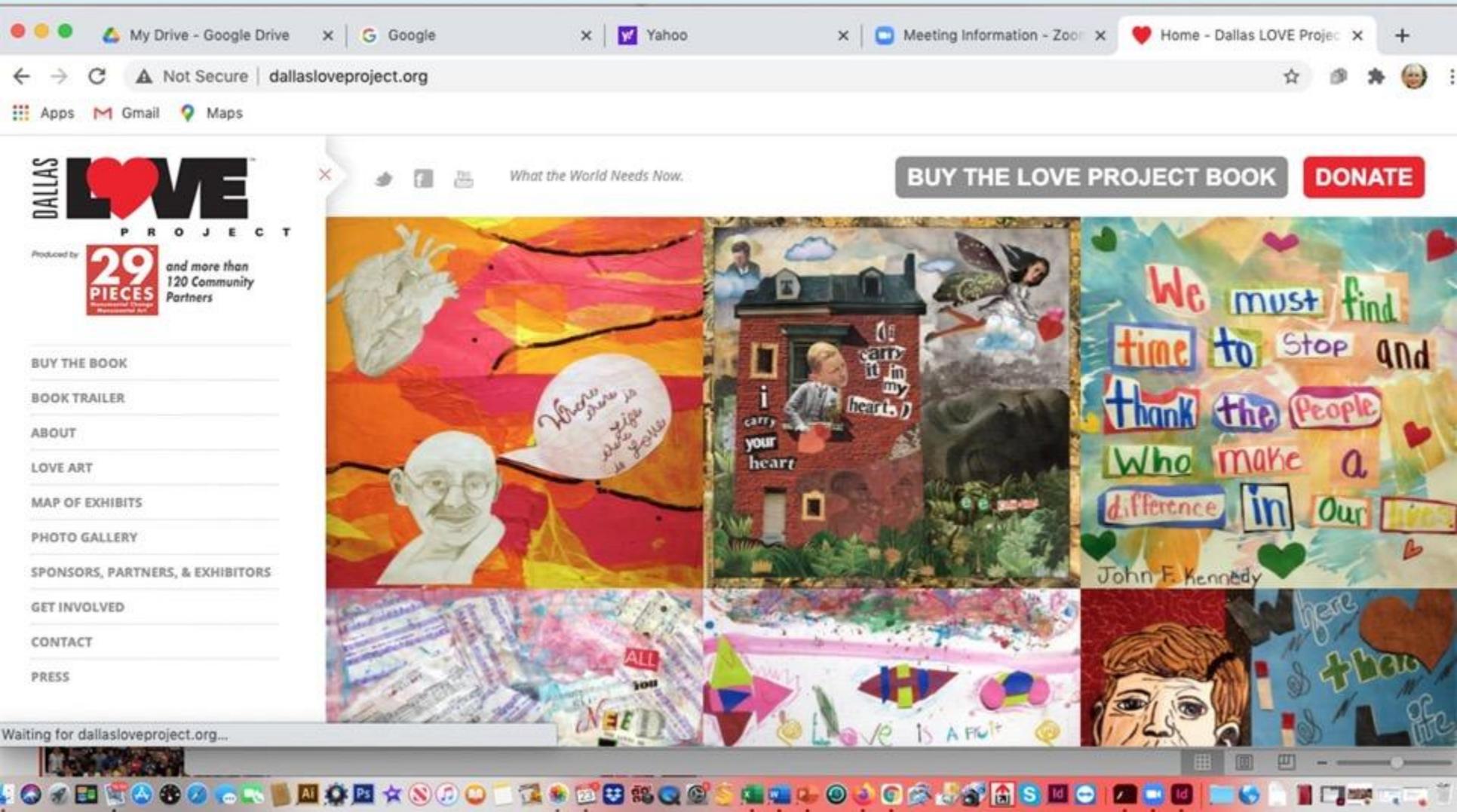




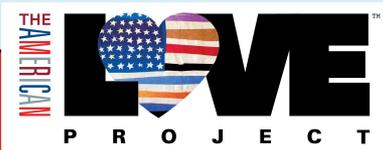
67 EXHIBIT VENUES



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ONLINE Gallery: Dallas LOVE Project. [Dallasloveproject.org](https://dallasloveproject.org)

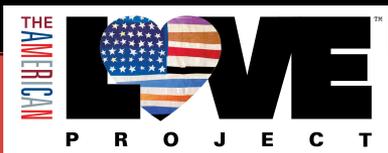


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GRAND PRAIRIE  
**LOVE**  
PROJECT

**Grand Prairie ISD, TX did the LOVE Project district wide.  
Midland-Odessa and Lubbock, TX also did the LOVE Project**



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# The American LOVE Project is built on four pillars.



**1. LOVE REPAIRS AND HEALS** the divides that separate us and keep us from working together to solve urgent problems in our country and world.

**2. THE IDEALS** contained in founding documents and laws of the United States of America challenge us to create a more just country for all.

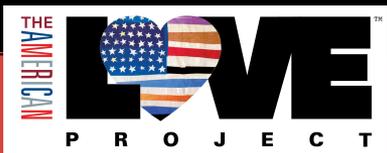
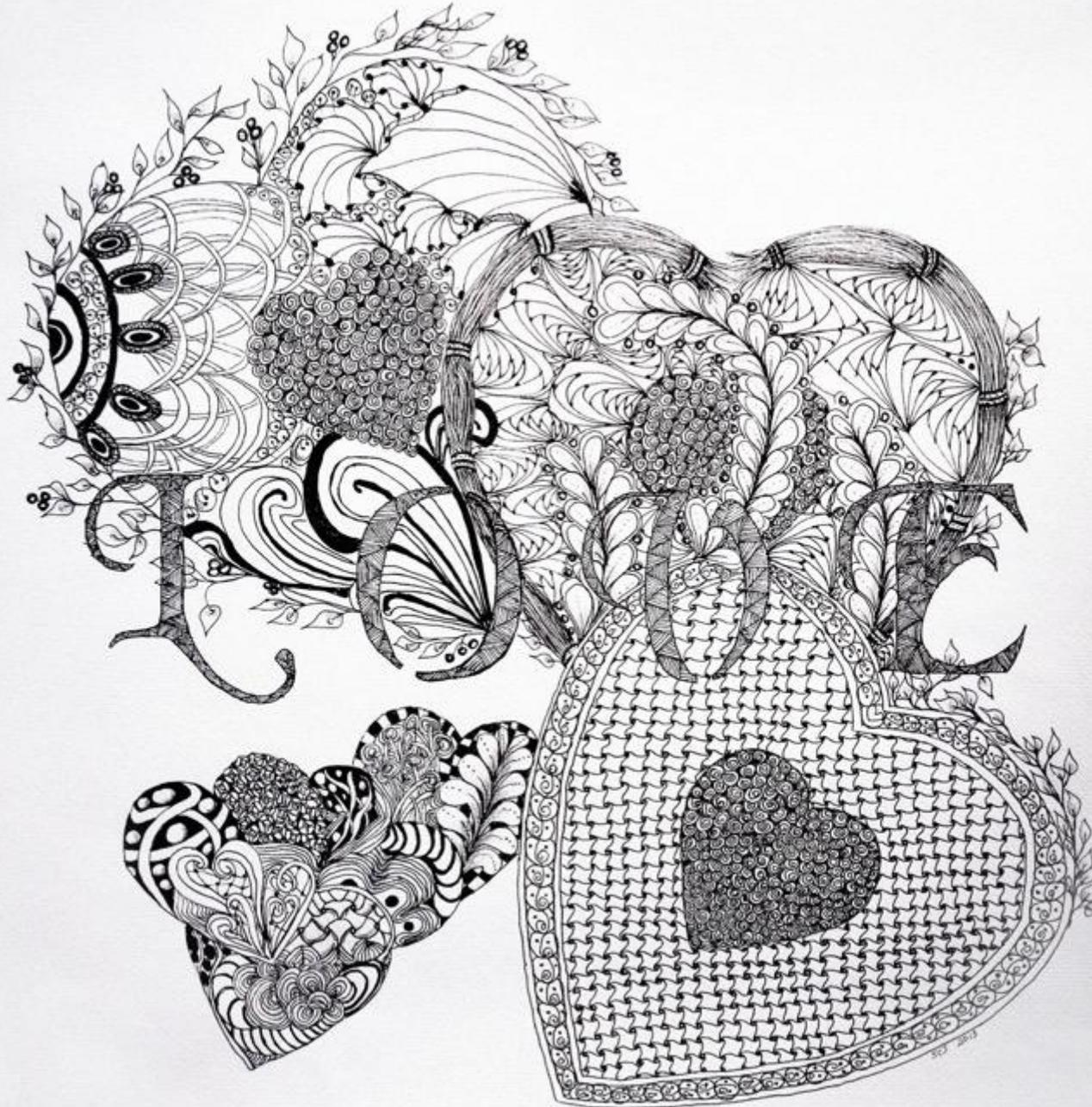
**3. ART HAS THE POWER** to awaken and educate hearts, uplift our voices and make positive social change.

**4. WORDS OF A GREATER LOVE** from great philosophers, artists, musicians, poets and peacemakers speak through time and remind us of the spark of love in each of us.

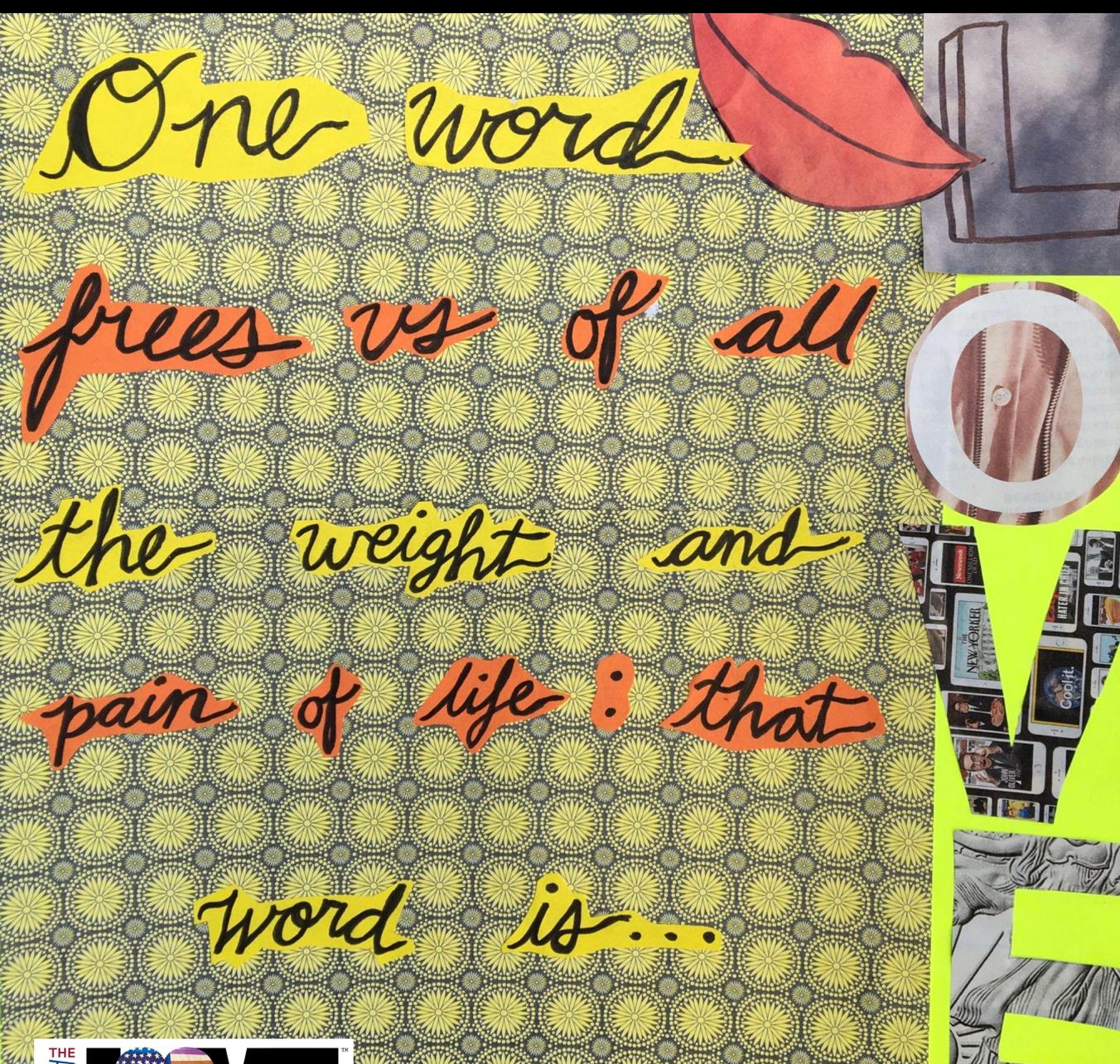
# 1. FIRST PILLAR: LOVE Repairs and Heals

What does it mean  
to you?

# LOVE



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The dictionary meaning of LOVE:

A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection for someone or something. A virtue representing all of human kindness, compassion and affection.



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**But ancient cultures had 3 or more words to describe different kinds of LOVE.**

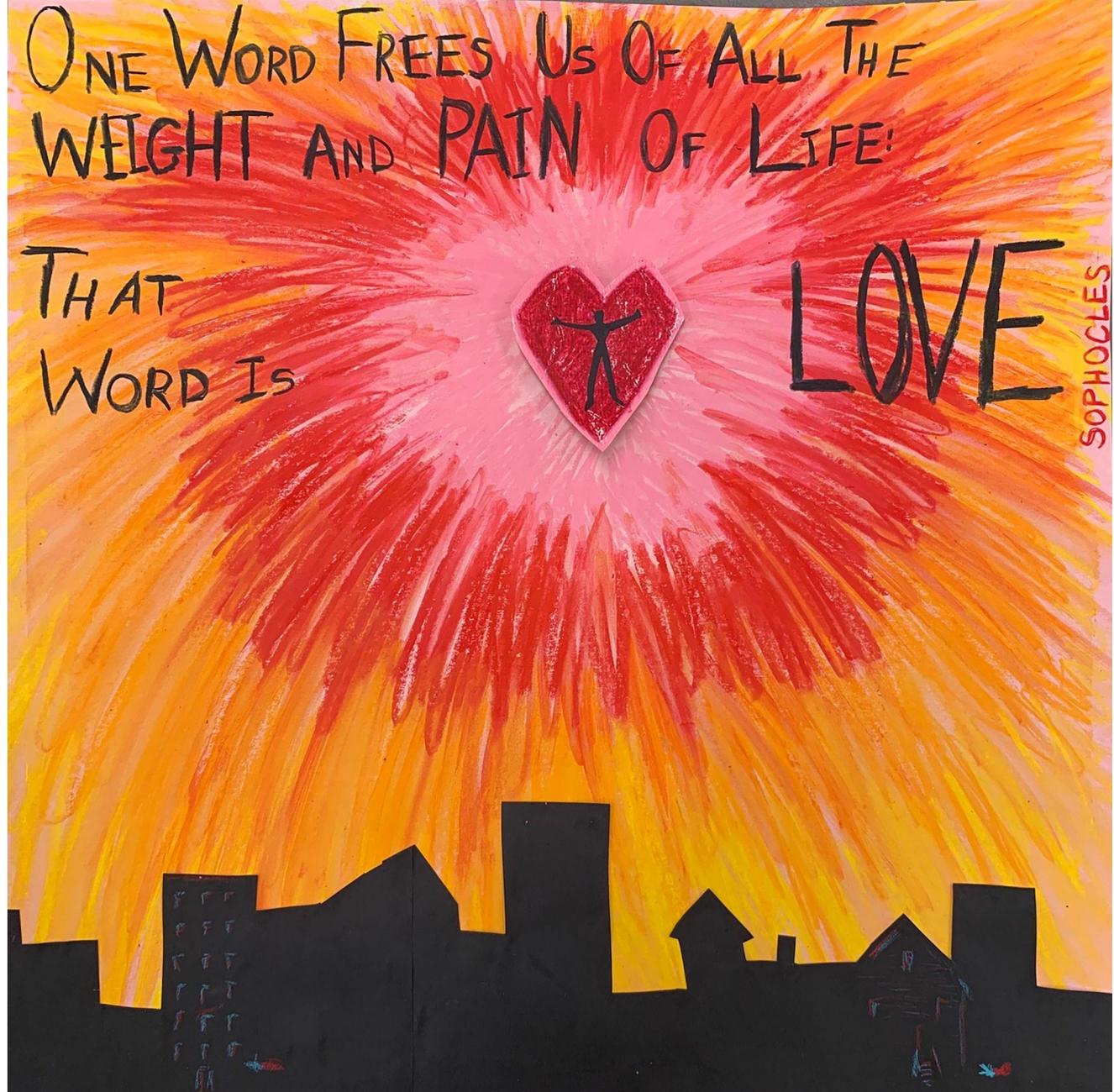
Here are 3 words the Greeks used.

**Agápe:** Unconditional love for one another. To will good for others.

**Éros:** intimate or romantic love.

**Philia:** friendship, usually between equals.

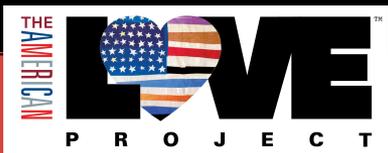
For the American LOVE Project, we'll make art focused on **AGAPE**, the bigger kind of **LOVE**.



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We'll use quotes about this bigger LOVE from great artists, peacemakers, musicians, and writers.

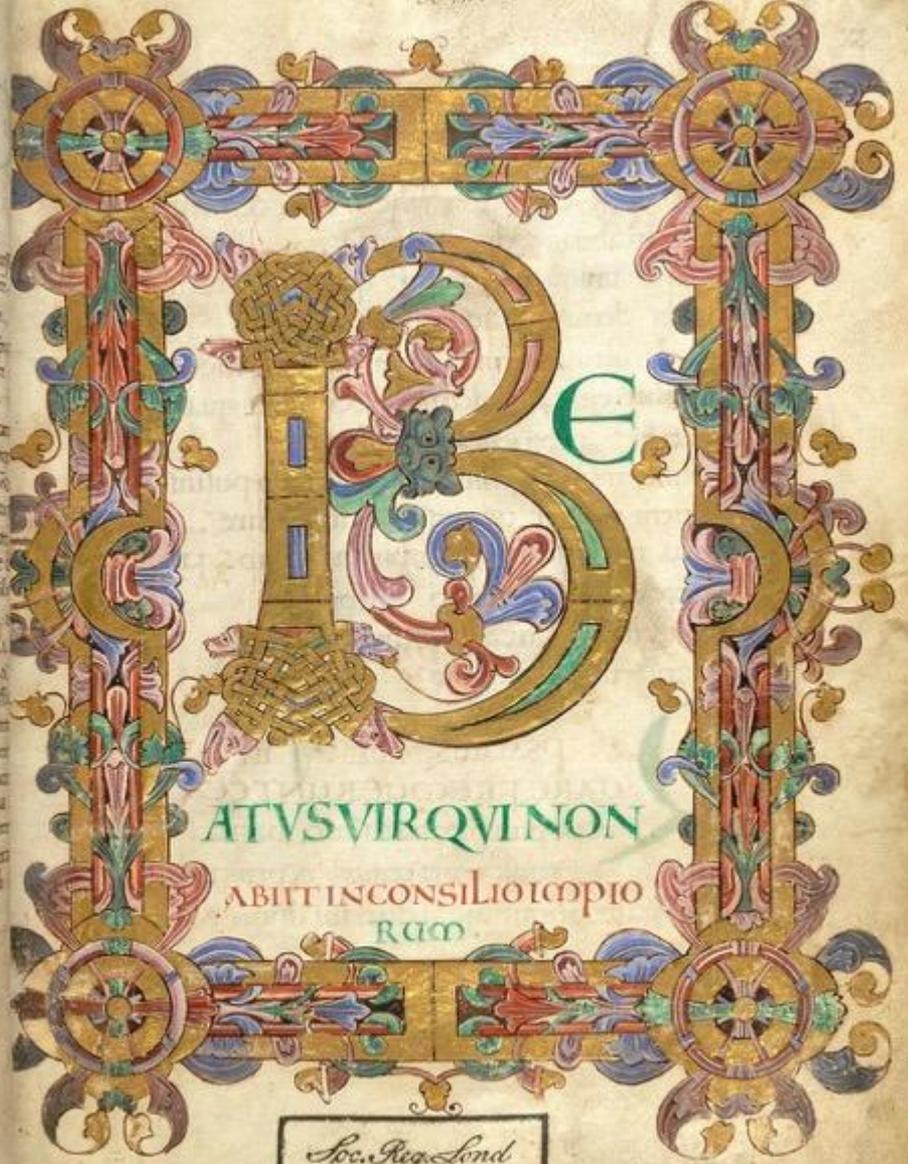
We ask you to use one of their quotes for the subject of your art.



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William Howard

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ione sup ind  
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Lamine mo  
ncef. ut inno  
m spm dñi m  
ne salcerun  
eliberit atq. p  
geo. ut ualea  
p. ALIA  
ndignit & pau  
sime semp un  
archarum. p  
omniū scōrum  
et mes. uero  
uueribus sic  
pfiat ad  
dura xernan  
umam. ALIA  
ego peccato  
natiuitatis. p  
hu xpi. & p  
o mundi. & p  
te omniū am  
sexu mlticari  
mū meo fidei  
& pōmum fidei  
Dñe exaud



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RAM

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ex dono Henr. VIII. R. 1547  
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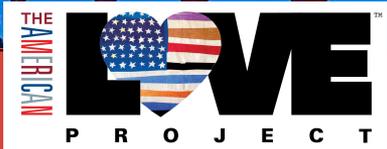
We'll learn how letters can be decorated and become works of art.



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Then we ask  
you to create  
your message  
of LOVE.



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## 2. SECOND PILLAR: the IDEALS STATED IN FOUNDING DOCUMENTS AND LAWS OF THE USA

The ideals in the Declaration of Independence and the preamble to the US Constitution spoke into being the dream of a nation based on equality and justice.



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# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**”



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# PREAMBLE TO THE U.S.CONSTITUTION



**“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”**



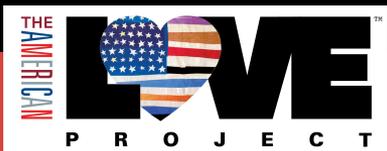
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# Have we achieved these ideals in our country?



*“It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it.”*  
— Amanda Gorman, US Youth Poet Laureate

What difficult issues impact our nation, and will benefit by our love and efforts to work together to repair them?



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Feeling safe in school.



Protecting the environment



DACA and immigration



Bias, prejudice, racism.



American Indian nation's tribal sovereignty.



1.5 million students in the USA are homeless.



Gender Issues



Inequities in health care



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If you would like to add history of your community or issues concerning your students, here is a model to follow.



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Founded as a cattle and farming community, Grand Prairie was established on Jan 2, 1863. The town was called Grand Prairie, because the railroad called the area the “Grand Prairie” between Dallas and Fort Worth.



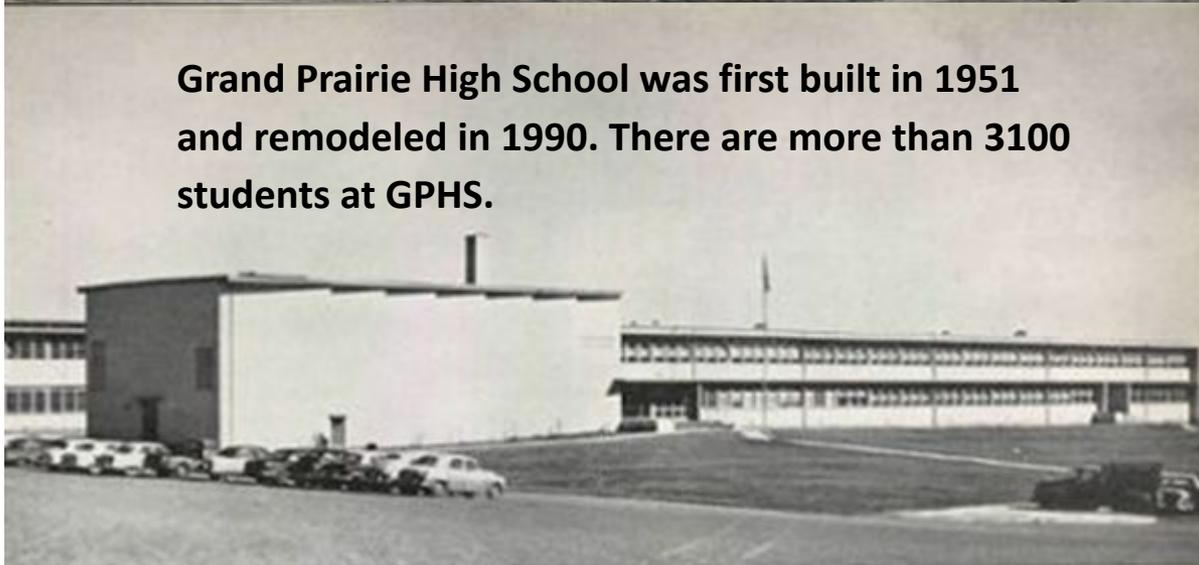
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**South Grand Prairie High School was built in 1969 with an enrollment of 448 students. Today there are about 3500 students**



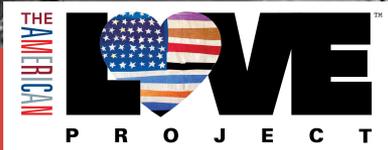
**Grand Prairie High School was first built in 1951 and remodeled in 1990. There are more than 3100 students at GPHS.**

**GRAND PRAIRIE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

When John F. Kennedy campaigned for the 1960 presidential election, Grand Prairie was one of his stops.



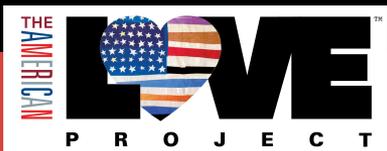
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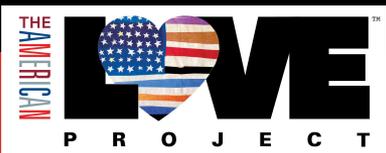
***Democracy is fragile.***

***On January 6, 2021, a violent event occurred at our nation's Capitol which sought to disrupt the democratic transfer of power in the United States.***



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**JANUARY 6, 2021  
VIOLENCE AT THE  
UNITED STATES CAPITOL,  
WASHINGTON D.C.**



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Many people are willing to peacefully take a stand to ask America to live up to the ideals as promised in the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and US laws.

What are some ways to do that ?



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Here are just a few ideas:

Vote

Teach

Human Rights Attorney

Peace Activist

Doctors Without Borders

Service Organizations

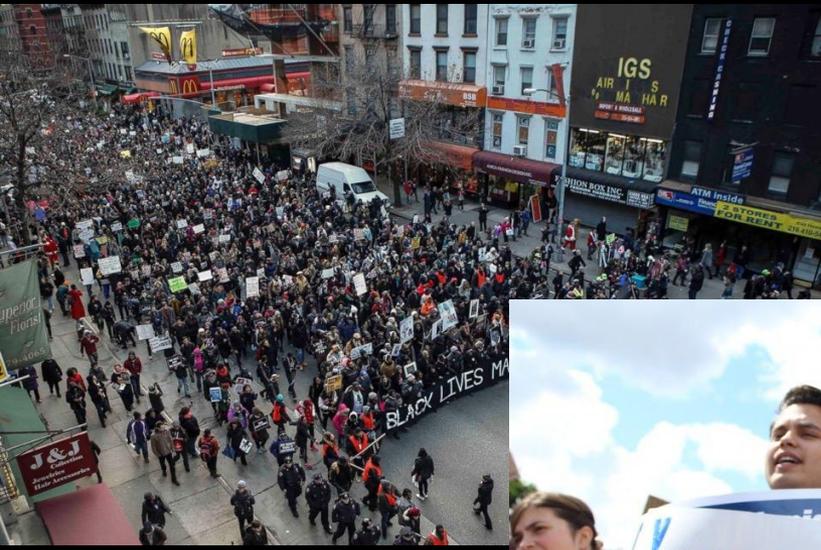
Church Organizations

Environmental Activism



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# Peaceful Demonstrations



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WE ARE HERE  
TO HEAL not harm.

LOVE

We are here to

NOT HATE.

*Wakan Tanka  
(Great Mystery)  
Lakota*

♥ We are here to create, not destroy.

3. THIRD PILLAR:  
The POWER OF  
ART TO REPAIR  
AND HEAL

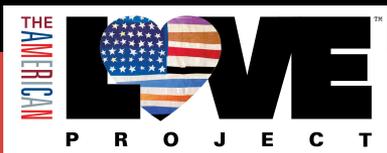
ART IS OUR  
STRATEGY  
TO OPEN AND HEAL  
HEARTS, EXPRESS  
AND GIVE LOVE,  
AND CHALLENGE  
OUR COUNTRY TO  
LIVE UP TO ITS  
IDEALS.



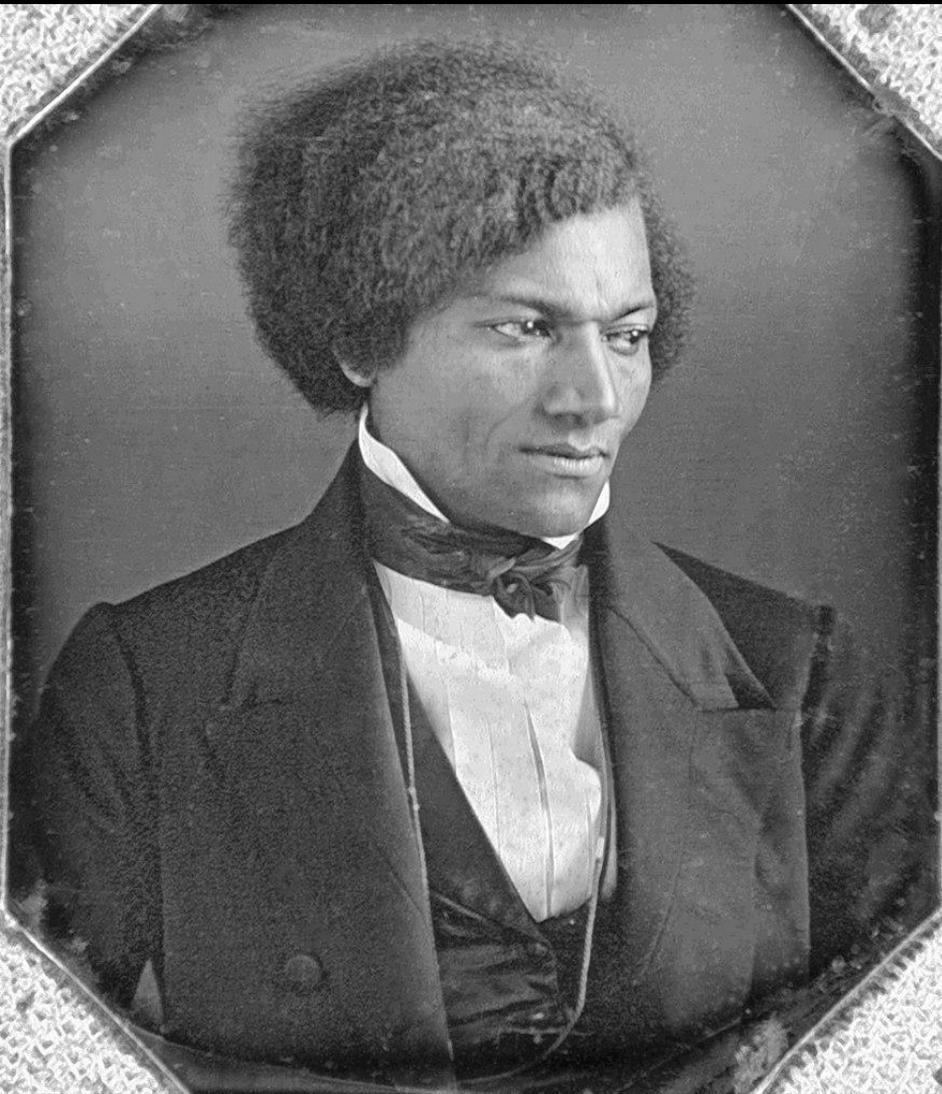
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How can we – as artists - work together to build a nation that shows more LOVE?



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**Frederick Douglass plants the seed of how we can begin to think about using art to act and channel our powers:**

**“Poets, prophets and reformers are all picture makers—and this ability is the secret of their power and of their achievements. They see what ought to be by the reflection of what is, and endeavor to remove the contradiction.”**

*— Frederick Douglass (1817-1895), abolitionist, orator, newspaper publisher, from his Lecture on Pictures, delivered in 1861*

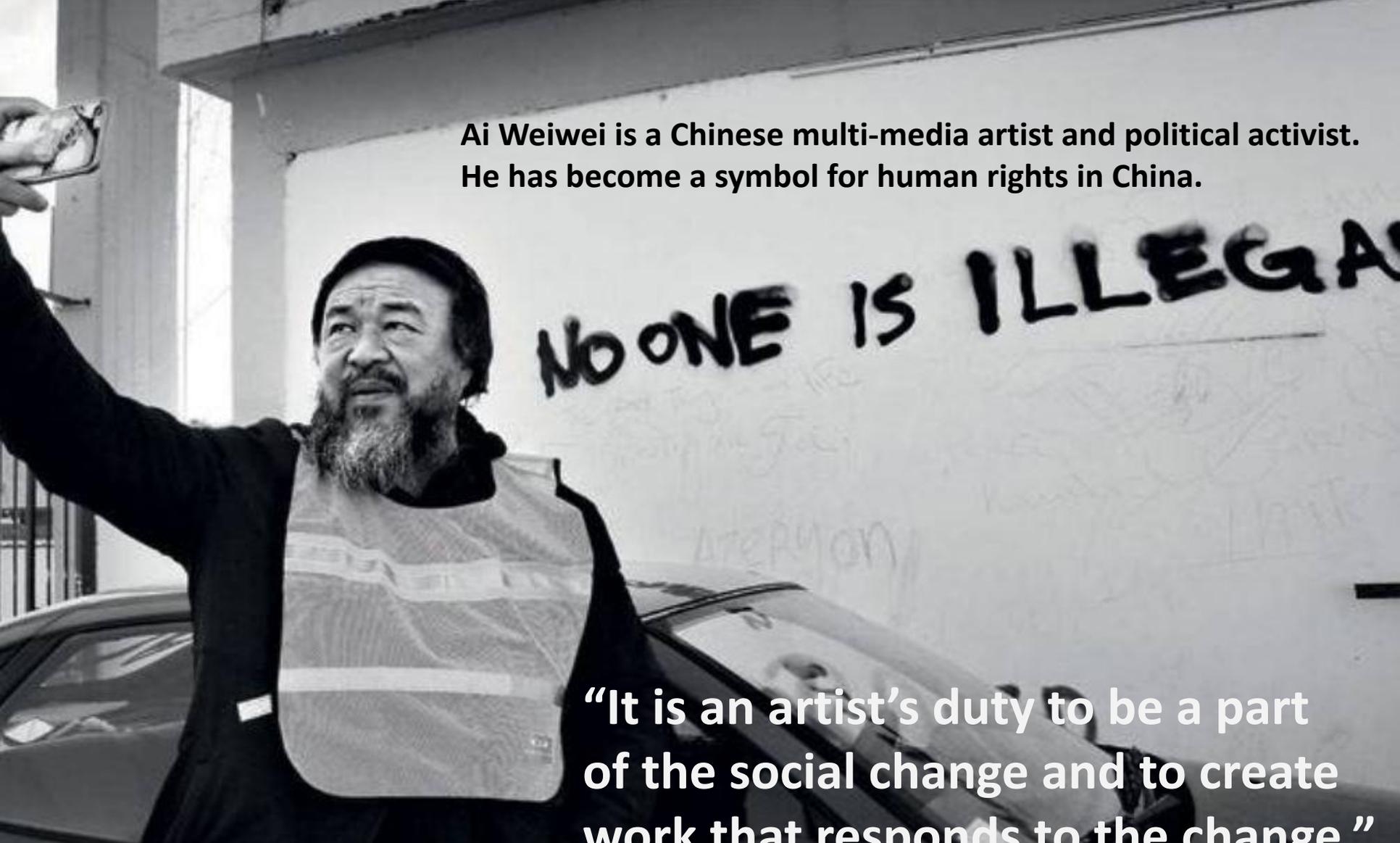


**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

Here are artists who inspire us  
by using art to bring attention  
to social justice issues.



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**Ai Weiwei is a Chinese multi-media artist and political activist. He has become a symbol for human rights in China.**

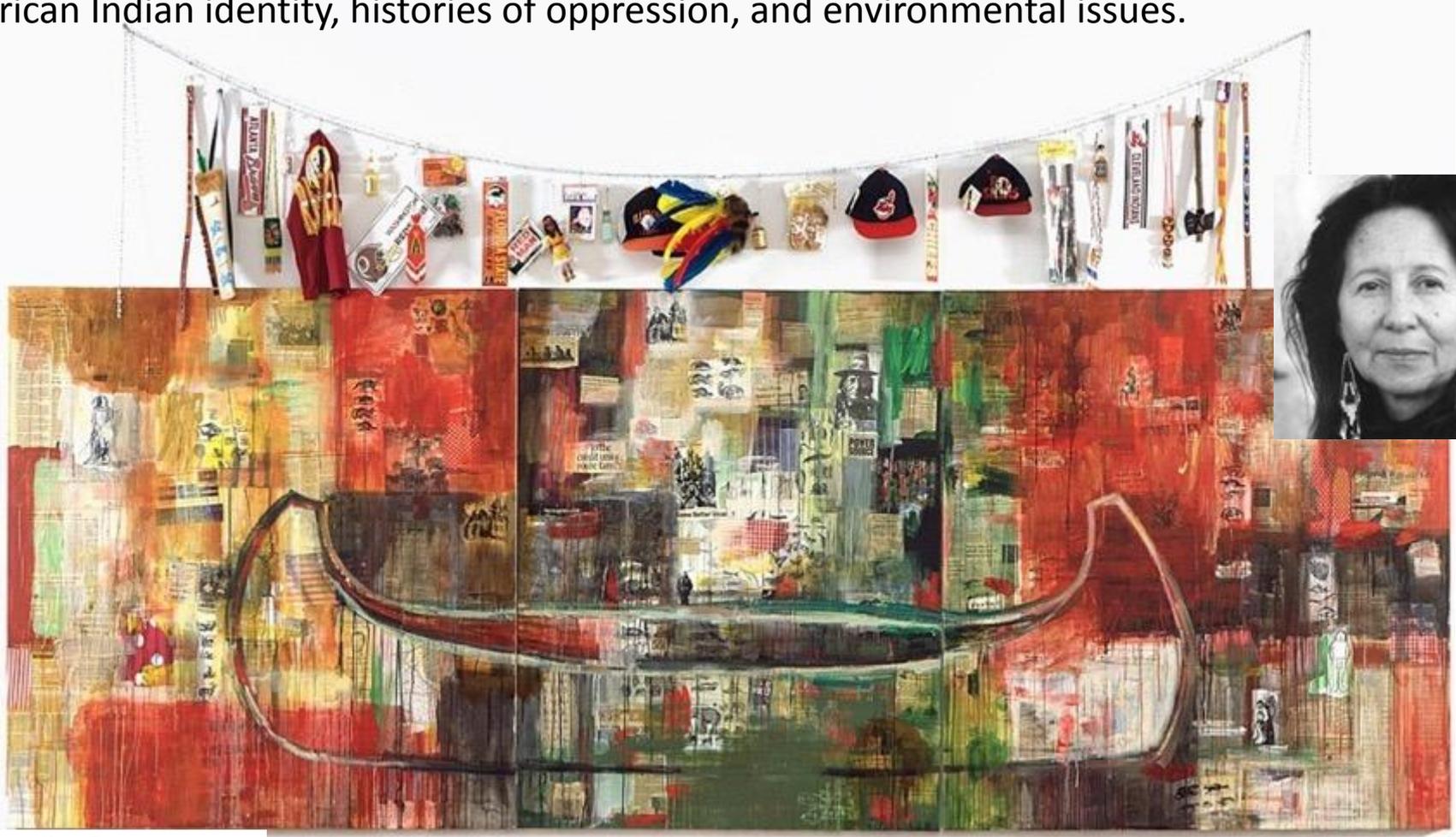
**“It is an artist’s duty to be a part of the social change and to create work that responds to the change.”**

**— Ai Weiwei, artist**



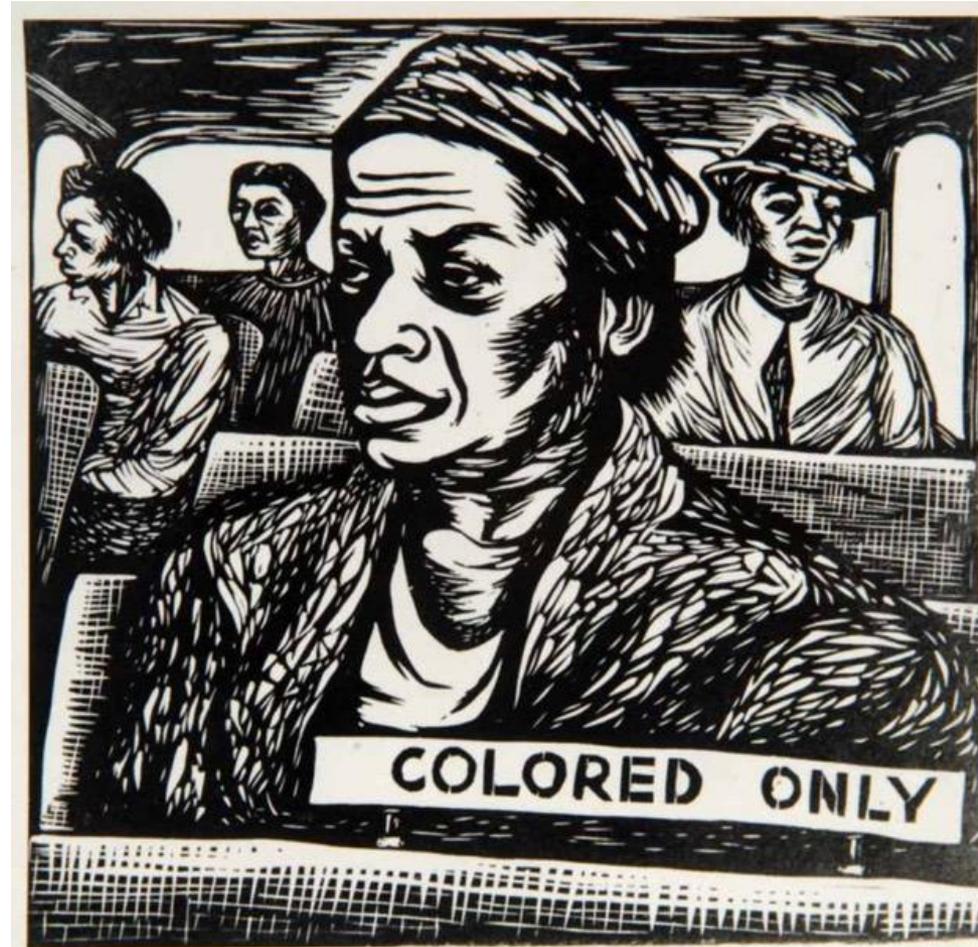
**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

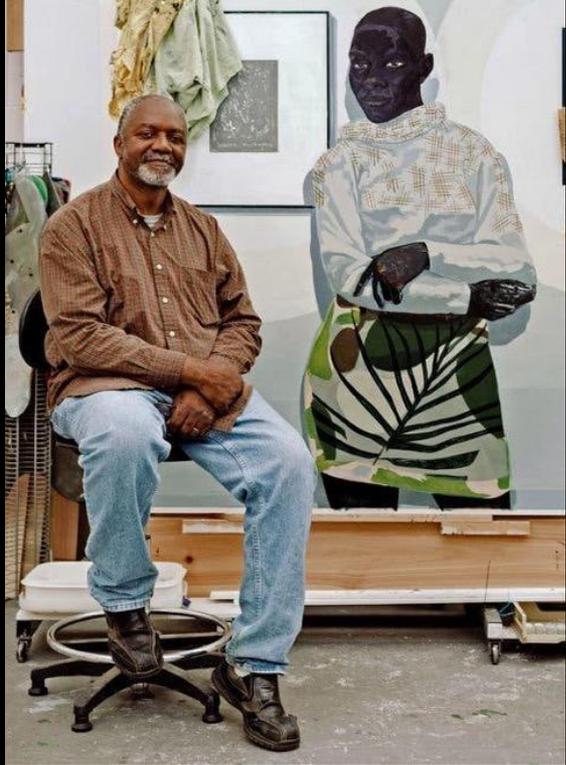
**JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE-SMITH**, (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation) “Trade (Gifts for Trading Land with White People)” 1992. She combines appropriated imagery from commercial slogans and signage, art history and personal narratives to create a visual language for her socio-political commentary. Her work draws from a Native worldview and comments on American Indian identity, histories of oppression, and environmental issues.



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**ELIZABETH CATLETT**, (1915 - 2012), American and Mexican graphic artist and sculptor, is best known for her depictions of African American experience in the 20th century, giving voice to the enduring dignity and strength of Black women and men. She expanded the idea of what is “acceptable subject matter” in art by exploring the personal and political.





**KERRY JAMES  
MARSHALL** explores  
issues of identity and  
African-American  
history in his paintings.



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

## CORITA

(1918-1986)  
was an artist,  
educator and  
advocate for  
social justice  
who used pop  
art imagery,  
poetry and  
cultural  
quotes to  
create  
messages of  
hope.



**SHEPARD FAIREY**, "We the People" 2017. Posters created highlighting Black, Muslim and Latina women for the 2017 inauguration and women's march.



• WE THE PEOPLE •

DEFEND DIGNITY

WWW.ILLUMINATE.US



• WE THE PEOPLE •

ARE GREATER THAN FEAR

WWW.KICKASS.US



• WE THE PEOPLE •

PROTECT EACH OTHER

WWW.KICKASS.US



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**



## **YOLANDA LOPEZ,**

“Portrait of the Artist as the Virgin of Guadalupe” 1978.  
Lopez explores and reimagines representations of women within Chicano/a/x culture and society at large.



**GUERILLA GIRLS** are anonymous feminist activist artists.

They wear gorilla masks in public and use facts, humor and outrageous visuals to expose gender and ethnic bias. They call themselves the conscience of the art world.



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

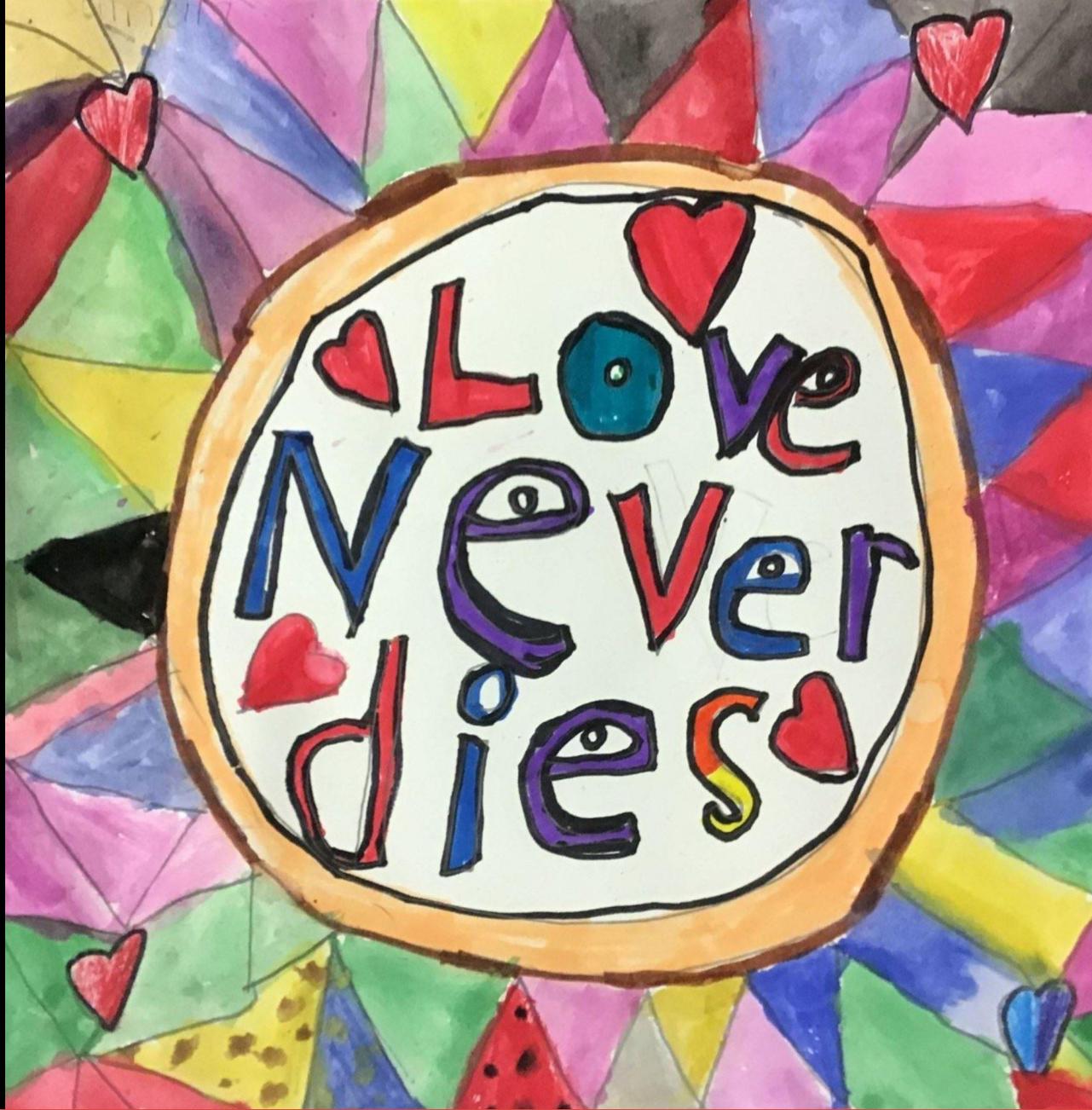
Love  
all you need

Now - to prepare  
for MAKING  
AMERICAN LOVE  
PROJECT ART,  
let's reflect on  
**YOUR** thoughts  
on LOVE.



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How have you used the word LOVE in the last few days?



For the American LOVE Project, we are talking about AGAPE LOVE.

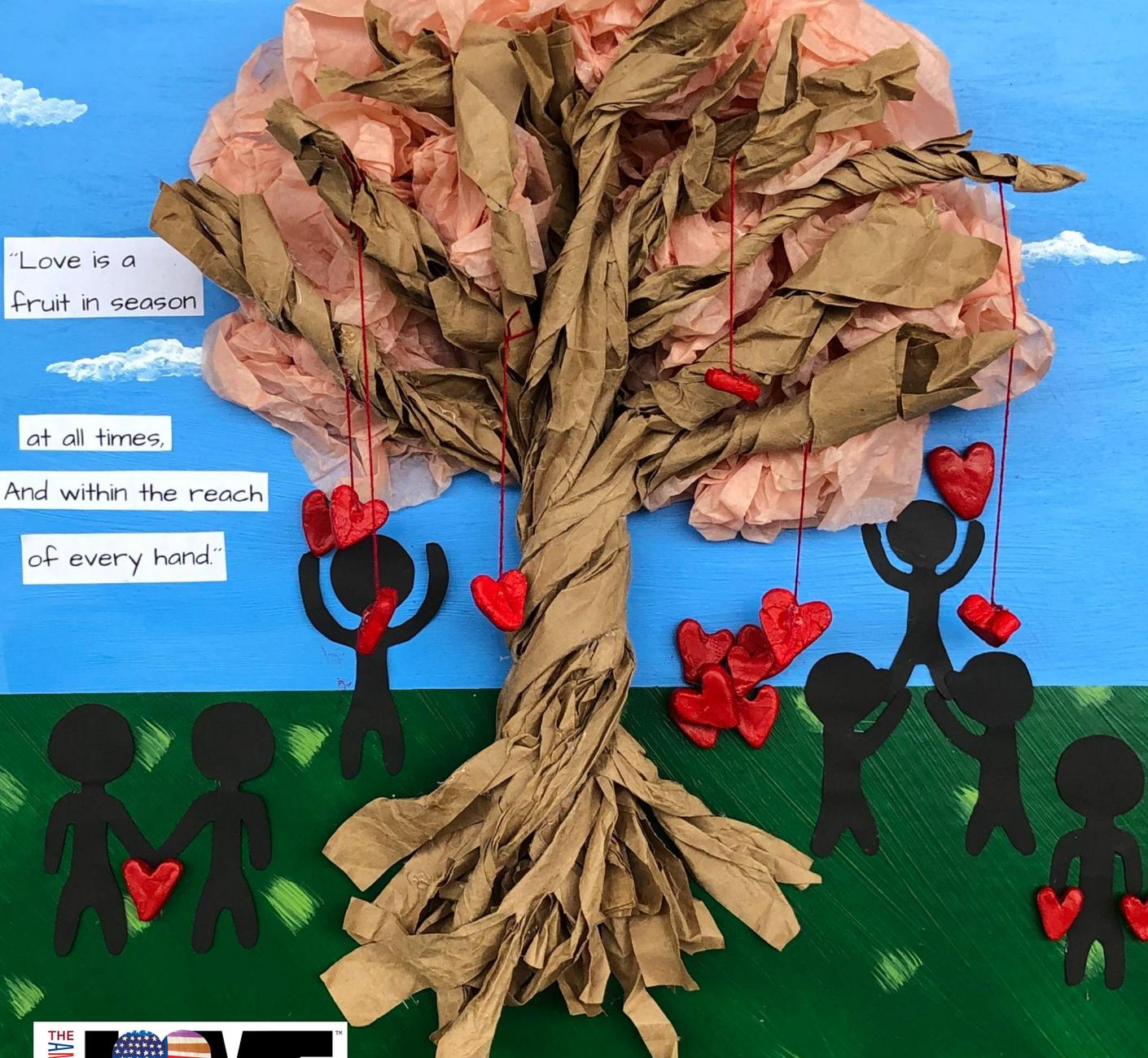
Remind us what that is.

# LOVE

POWER Without LOVE IS **reckLESS** and **A BUsiNeS**  
and **LOVE** Without **POwer** is **SENTI-**  
**MENTal** and **AnomIc.** - Martin Luther King, Jr.



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"Love is a fruit in season

at all times,

And within the reach

of every hand."

1. What are some of the emotions we feel when we have love in our heart?
2. What are some ways that you can show LOVE?



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This BIGGER LOVE is more than just what we sense with our eyes or tummy. We're talking about the LOVE we feel in our hearts and want to share with others.

The **BIG LOVE** might be for our pets.



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Or the **BIG LOVE**  
might be for  
parents, siblings,  
or friends.



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The **BIG LOVE** might be for the world  
around us –the oceans, the sky, the earth,  
the environment, our country.

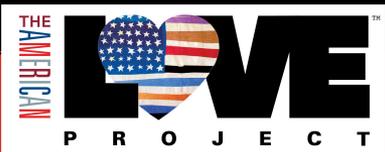
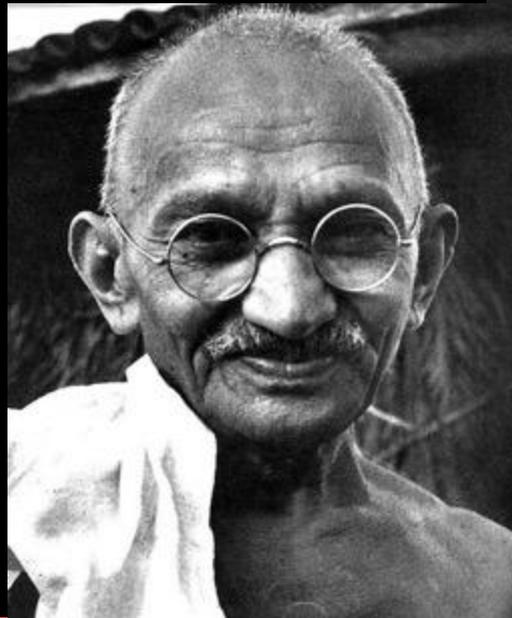
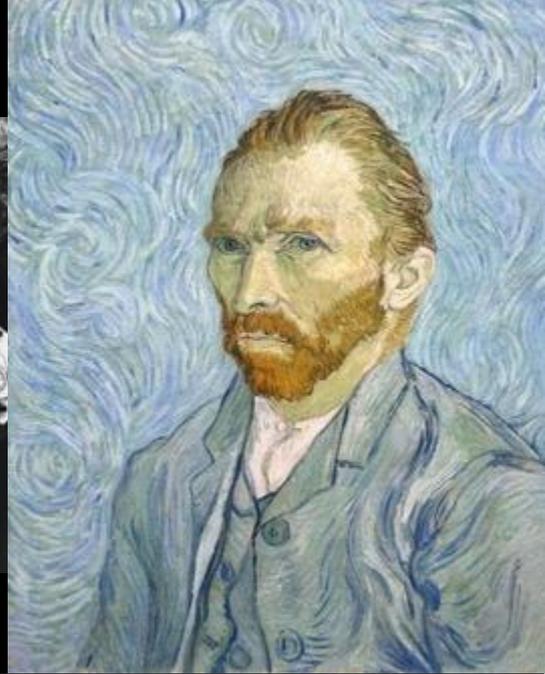


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## 4<sup>th</sup> PILLAR: WORDS OF A GREATER LOVE THAT STAND THE TEST OF TIME

We ask you to use a quote  
in your art from the list we  
are providing you.

Here are some thoughts  
about LOVE from a great  
artist, musician,  
peacemaker, and poet.

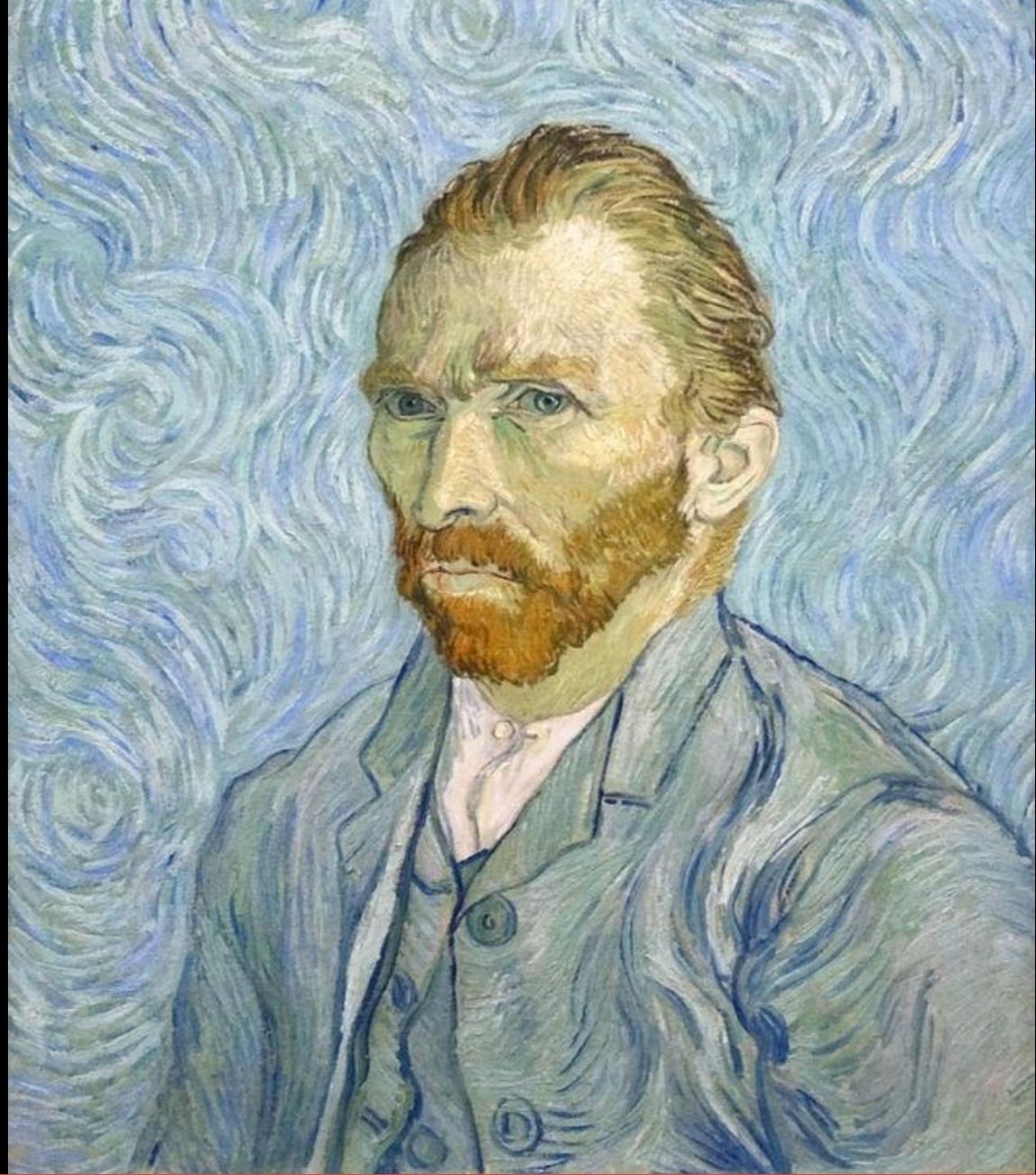


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# Vincent Van Gogh

1853-1890

Van Gogh is  
recognized as one  
of the greatest  
artists of all time.



The more I think it over, the more  
I feel that there is nothing more  
truly artistic than to



“The more I think  
it over, the more I  
feel that there is  
nothing more truly  
artistic than to  
Love People.”

— Vincent Van Gogh



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# Alicia Keys

Born 1981

**Alicia Keys** is an American singer, songwriter, record producer, pianist, and actress.



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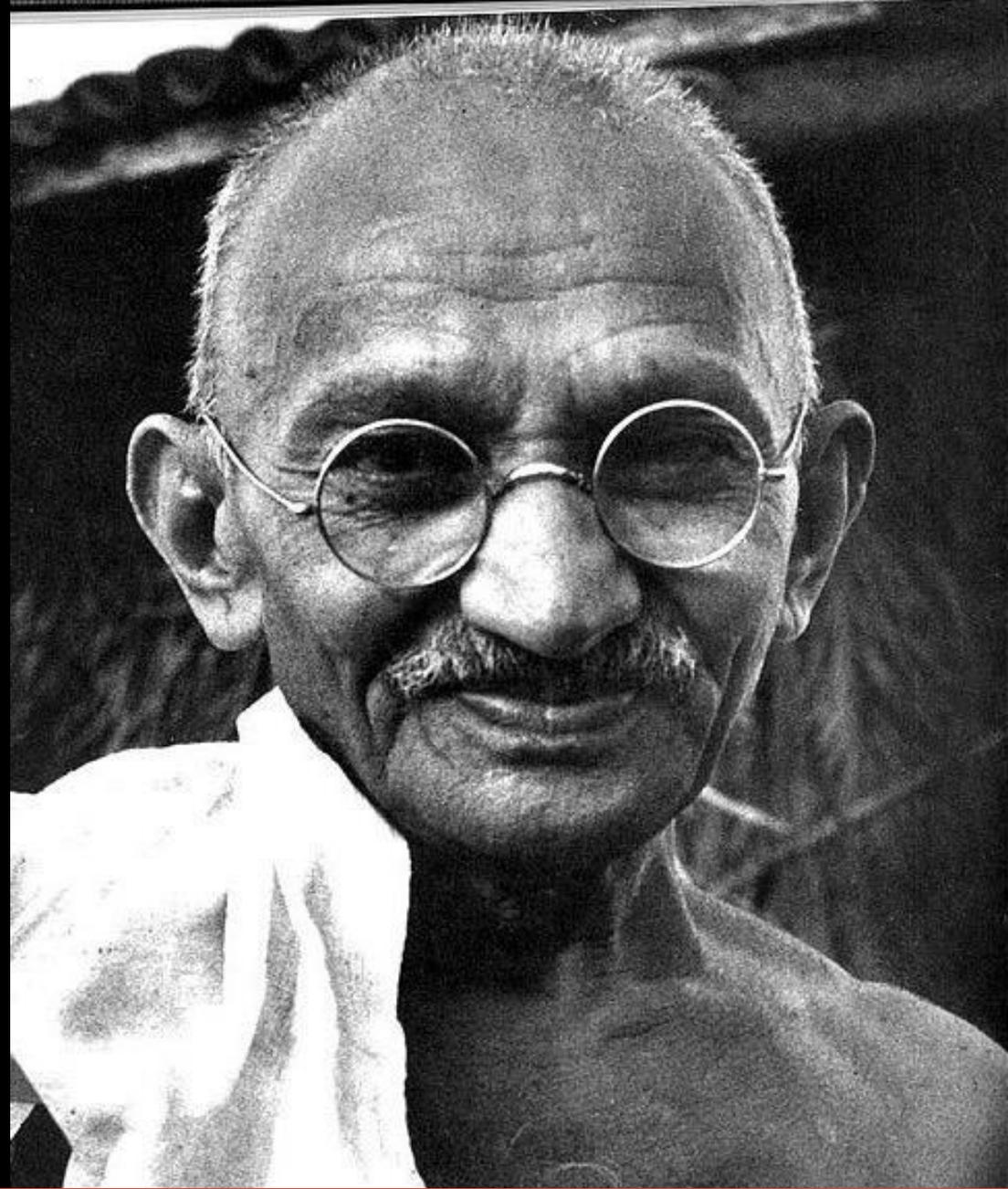
“Love will come find you just to remind you of who you are.”

— Alicia Keys

# Mahatma Gandhi

1869-1948

Gandhi was a peaceful leader who used non-violence to lead the people of India to independence.



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Gandhi said:  
"Where there is  
Love there is Life."

Question:  
What happens in  
life when there  
isn't love?



# Maya Angelou

1928-2014

**Maya Angelou** was an internationally known American poet, writer, and civil rights activist.



“Love recognizes  
no barriers. It  
jumps hurdles,  
leaps fences,  
penetrates walls  
to arrive at its  
destination,  
full of hope.”  
— Maya Angelou



These quotes about LOVE from ancient and contemporary visionaries uplift us with their positive power.

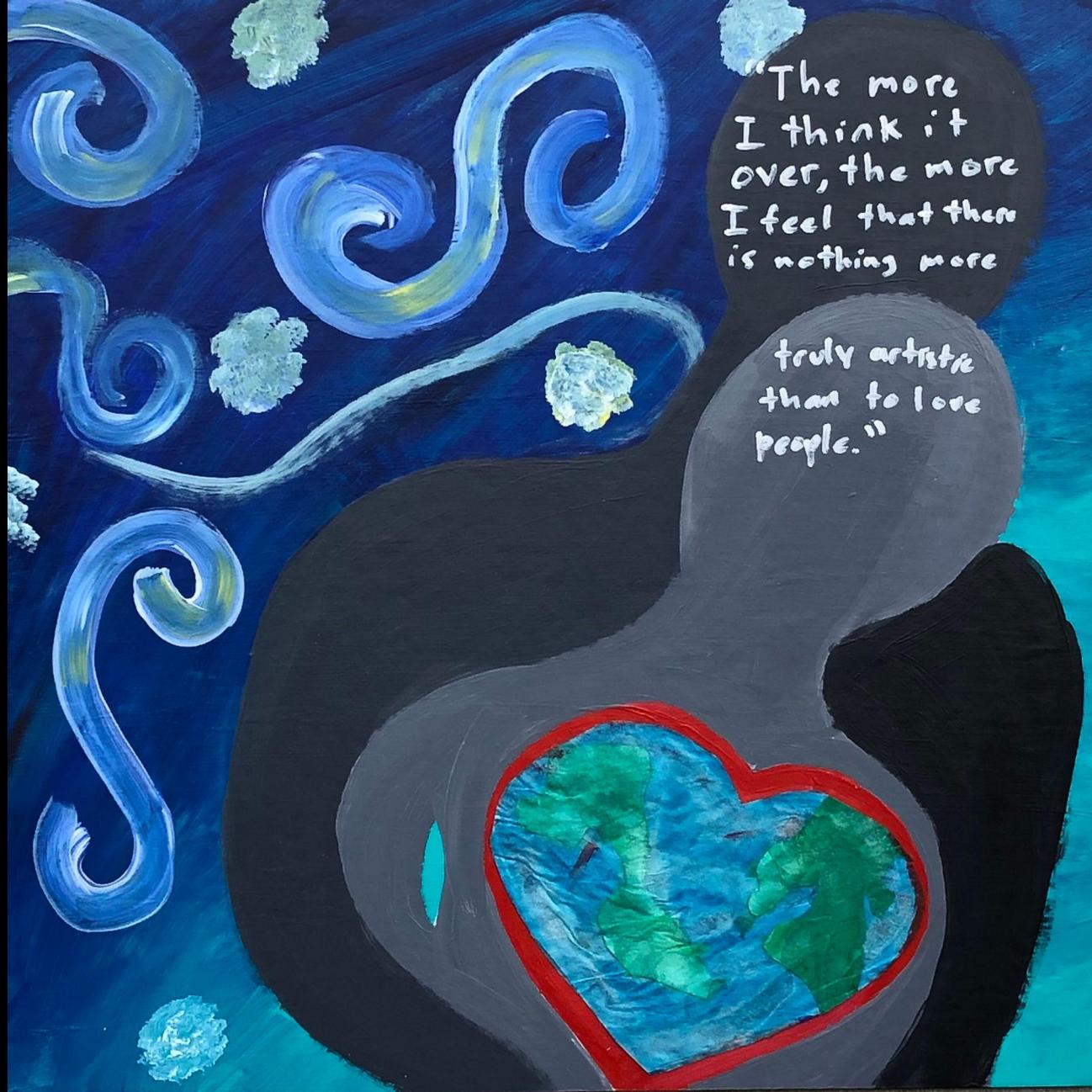


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Choose a quote from our list that inspires YOU.

Your art will be on a square format.

Plan a color combination that expresses your feelings.



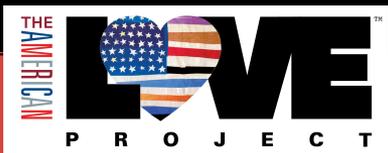
The letters in the words of your quote are part of your art form.

How can your letters be expressive?

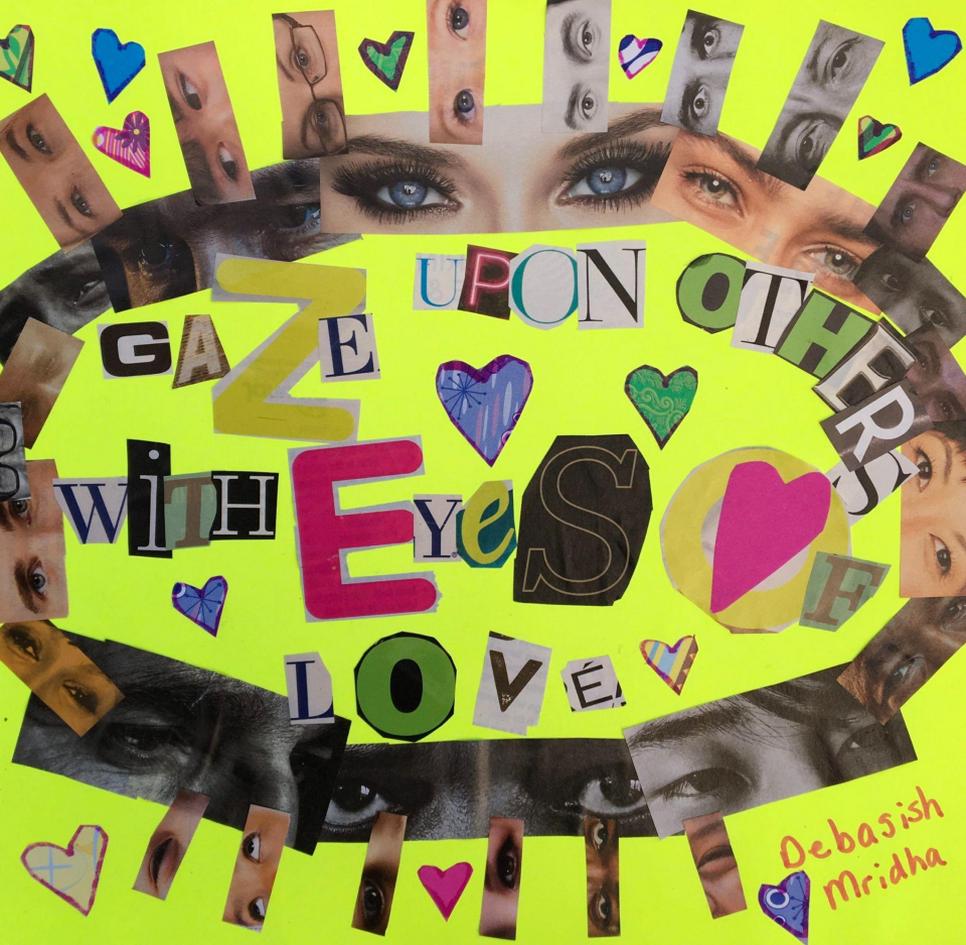




You can decorate letters with animal, plant, or abstract forms, as shown.

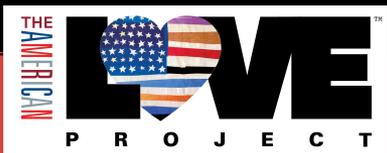


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Cut letters out of magazines.

Make up your own cut paper alphabet!

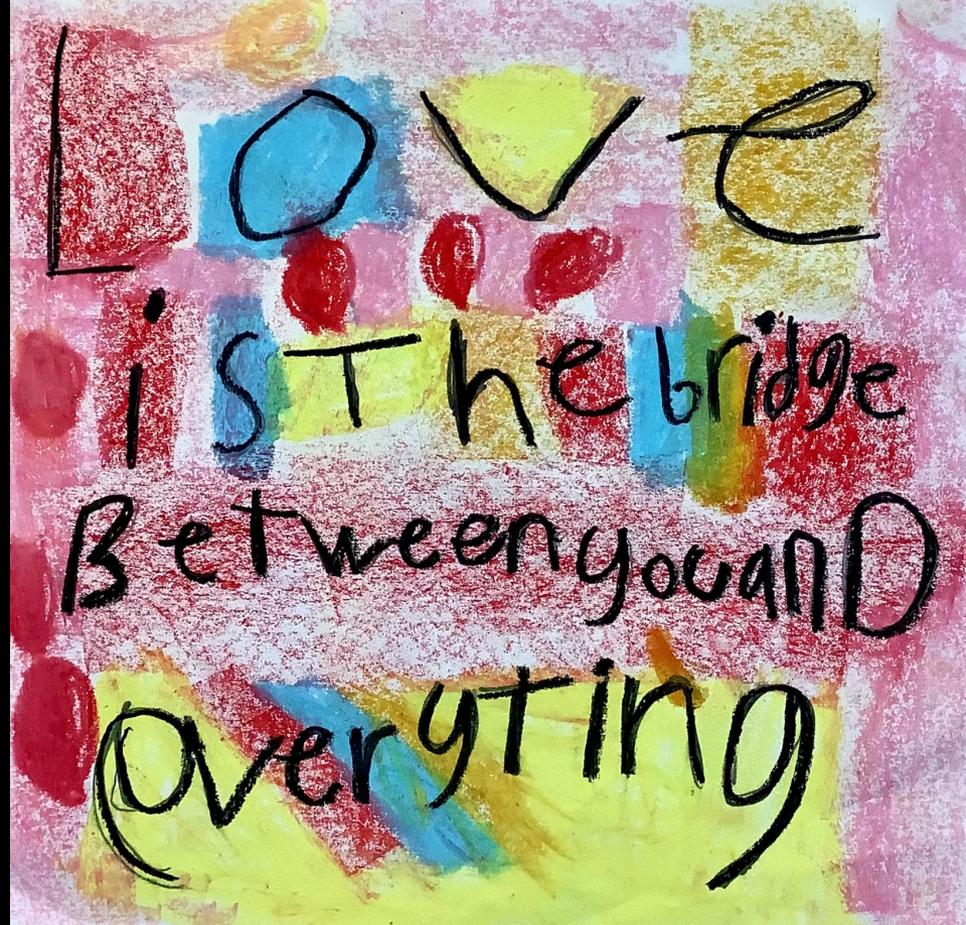


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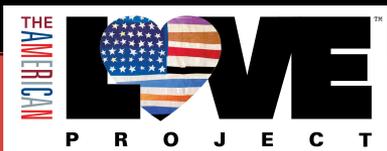


(reminder)

Letters and decorative elements can be drawn in ink, colored pencils and markers.



**USE YOUR  
HANDWRITING** as a  
design element.



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Your art can be done digitally, using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, or you can also use **free** apps such as ProCreate and Tayasui Sketches!



**LOVE**  
IS THE **ONLY** FORCE **CAPABLE**  
OF **TRANSFORMING** AN **ENEMY** INTO A **FRIEND**



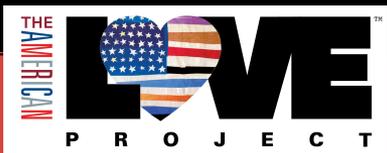
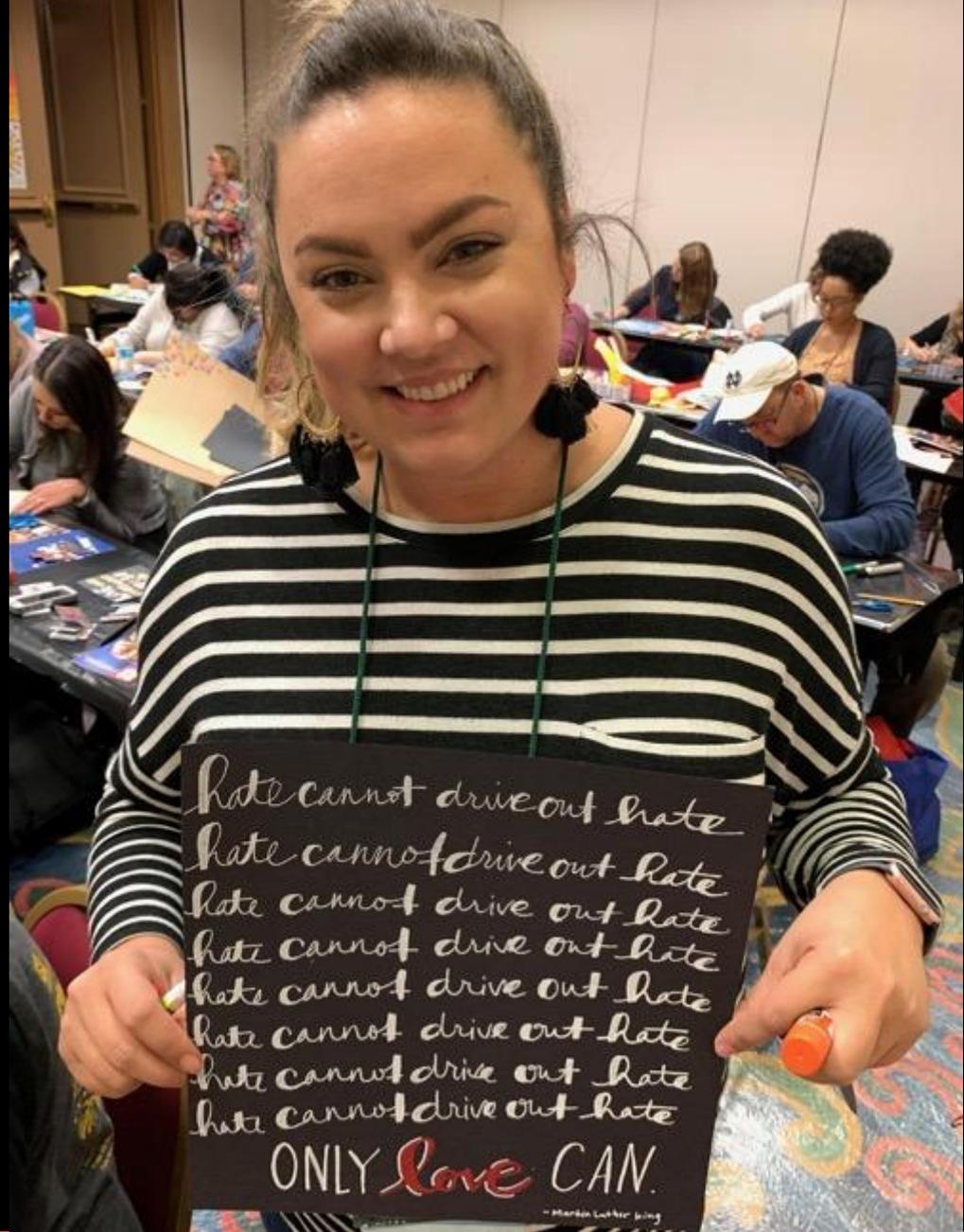
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# STEP ONE

Select a quote about LOVE from the quotes by great peacemakers, visionaries, poets and musicians we've given you.

Your art should be square.

Do a few small sketches with pencil to figure out how you will incorporate the quote into your design.



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# STEP TWO

Choose your **SQUARE** background paper and materials. Design your message of LOVE with a decorated quote about LOVE on it. It helps to plan how you will use the letters. Make your art!



# STEP THREE

When finished, take time to share your art with your group or class.

Listen quietly and respectfully as others talk about their choices in their art.



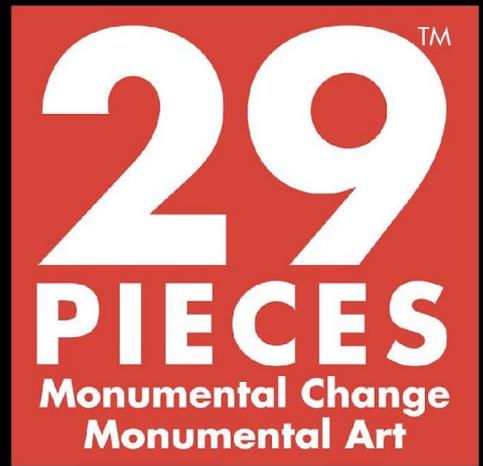
# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- 1. GO TO [THEAMERICANLOVEPROJECT.ORG](https://theamericanloveproject.org)**, click on 'Participate' and see our **simple steps to follow**. Then **download** our library of lesson resources. On your participant dashboard, you will have access to our American LOVE Project presentation, LOVE quotes and other materials you will need.
- 2. CREATE ART**. Across the nation, people will make art inspired by The American LOVE Project Lesson.
- 3. PHOTOGRAPH ART**. See our tips on the website for taking a great photo of art.
- 4. SUBMIT ART** for our online gallery. Watch for submissions to open soon.
- 5. COMMUNITY EXHIBITS** across the nation. Beginning in January 2022, please consider exhibits of LOVE art in your school and community. Watch for our suggestions on how to easily do an exhibit.



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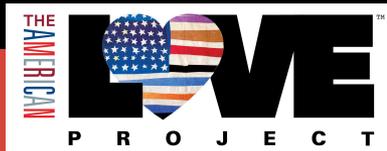
# HOPE



# HAS MANY BEGINNINGS.



# THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING.



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## **FOUR PROJECT SUPPLEMENTS**

**Social and Emotional learning**

**Native American Land Acknowledgement**

**Additional Social Justice Artists**

**Grand Prairie LOVE Project**



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# 1. Social and Emotional learning



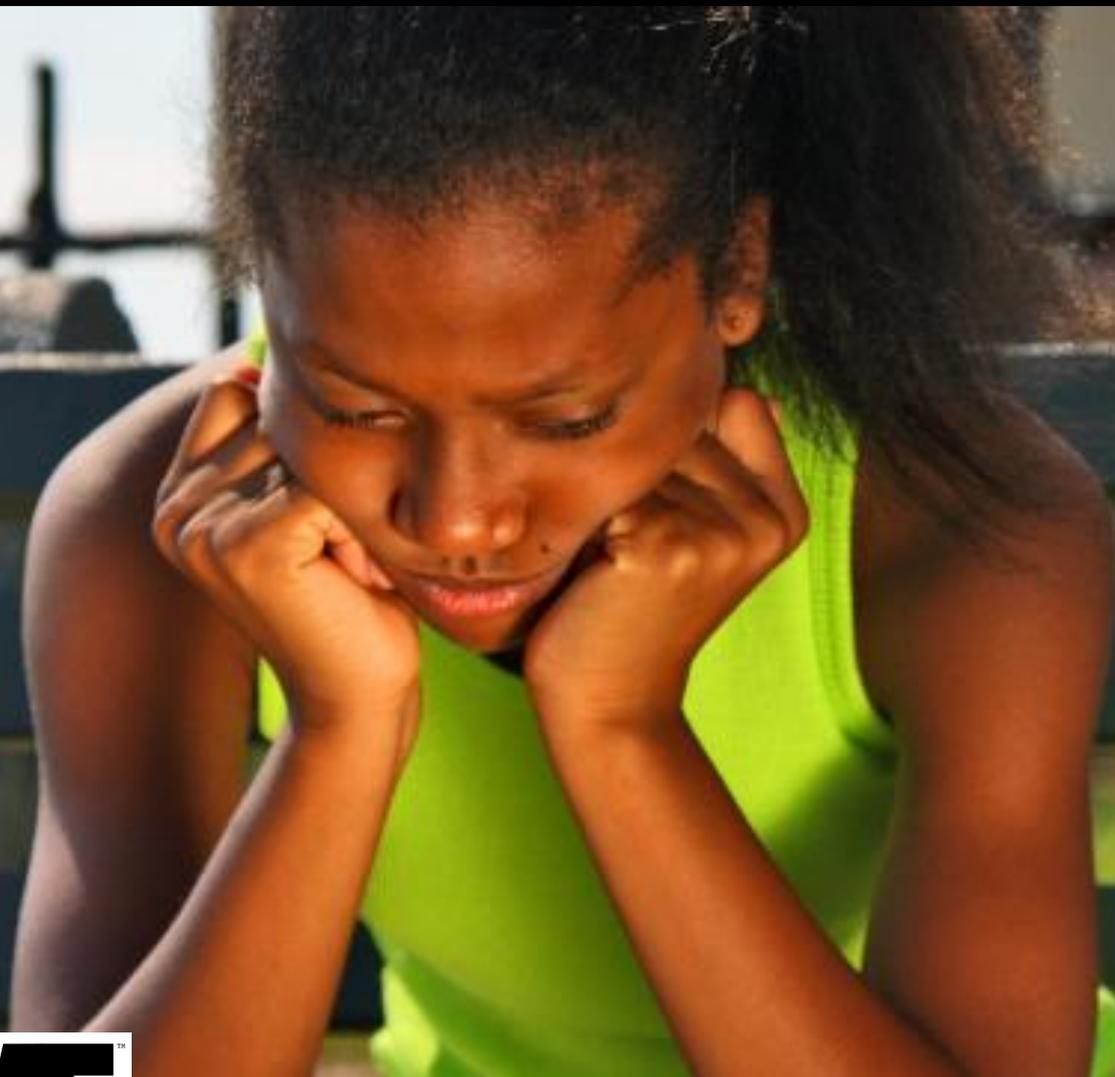
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Here's one of the most difficult challenges:  
HOW CAN WE SHOW LOVE TO OURSELVES AND ONE  
ANOTHER NO MATTER HOW COMPLEX LIFE IS?



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It helps to understand how to process complex feelings and emotions in our heart and mind and in others.



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# Charts like this help us figure out our feelings.

And there are counselors, teachers and friends we can talk to about our complex feelings.

Pick out a couple of emotions on this sheet and make faces with your neighbor.



# Model good citizenship and demonstrate core values.



Before I leave for school, I greet my neighbors with a friendly “Hello” or Good Morning!”



If I see someone in need, I offer my help, even if they don’t ask for it.



I always say ‘Please’ if I ask to borrow something that doesn’t belong to me. And I say ‘Thank You’ when returning it to the owner.

**PRACTICE LOVE AND KINDNESS  
STARTING WITH OURSELVES.**



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# WHAT CAN I SAY TO MYSELF?

## INSTEAD OF...

\* I AM NOT GOOD AT THIS.

\* I GIVE UP.

\* THIS IS TOO HARD

\* I CANNOT MAKE THIS ANY BETTER

\* PLAN A WAS A BIG BOMB.

\* SHE IS SO SMART. I WILL NEVER BE THAT SMART.

## TRY THINKING...

\* CAN I SLOW DOWN AND TAKE IT STEP BY STEP?

\* I WILL USE SOME OF THE STRATEGIES WE HAVE LEARNED.

\* THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME AND EFFORT

\* I CAN ALWAYS IMPROVE. SO I WILL KEEP TRYING.

\* GOOD THING THE ALPHABET HAS 25 MORE LETTERS.

\* I WILL ASK HER FOR TIPS SO I CAN DO BETTER.

We can make a better world if we:

1. **SUPPORT** each other, so that we can all thrive.

2. **ENCOURAGE** people to **BE LOVE**.

3. **SEE** injustice and **TAKE ACTION** to have a positive impact on our nation.



Empower students to empower each other



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## 2. Native American Land Acknowledgement



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## 2. Native American Land Acknowledgement Resources

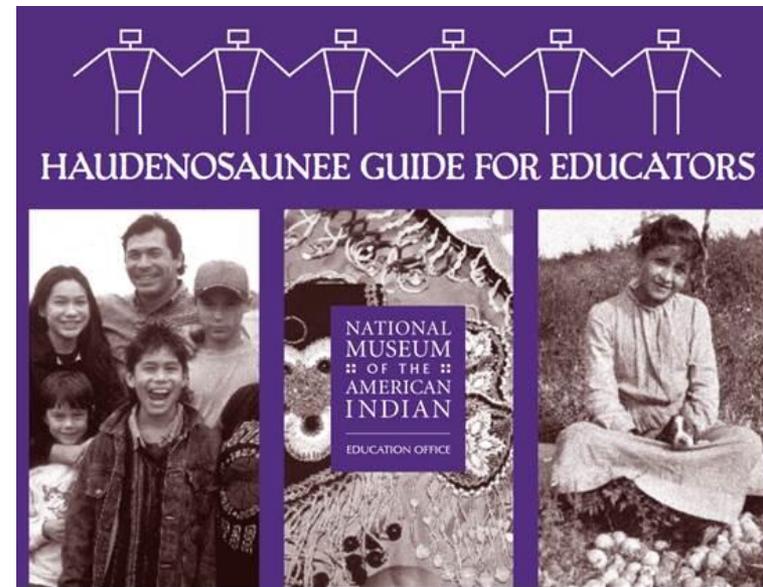
For more information about Native American Land Acknowledgements:

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources/Honoring-Original-Indigenous-Inhabitants-Land-Acknowledgement>

For more information about how the Haudensaunee Confederacy influenced the creation of the U.S. Constitution:

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources/Haudenosaunee-Guide-for-Educators>

<https://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/hconres331.pdf>



### 3. Additional Social Justice Artists

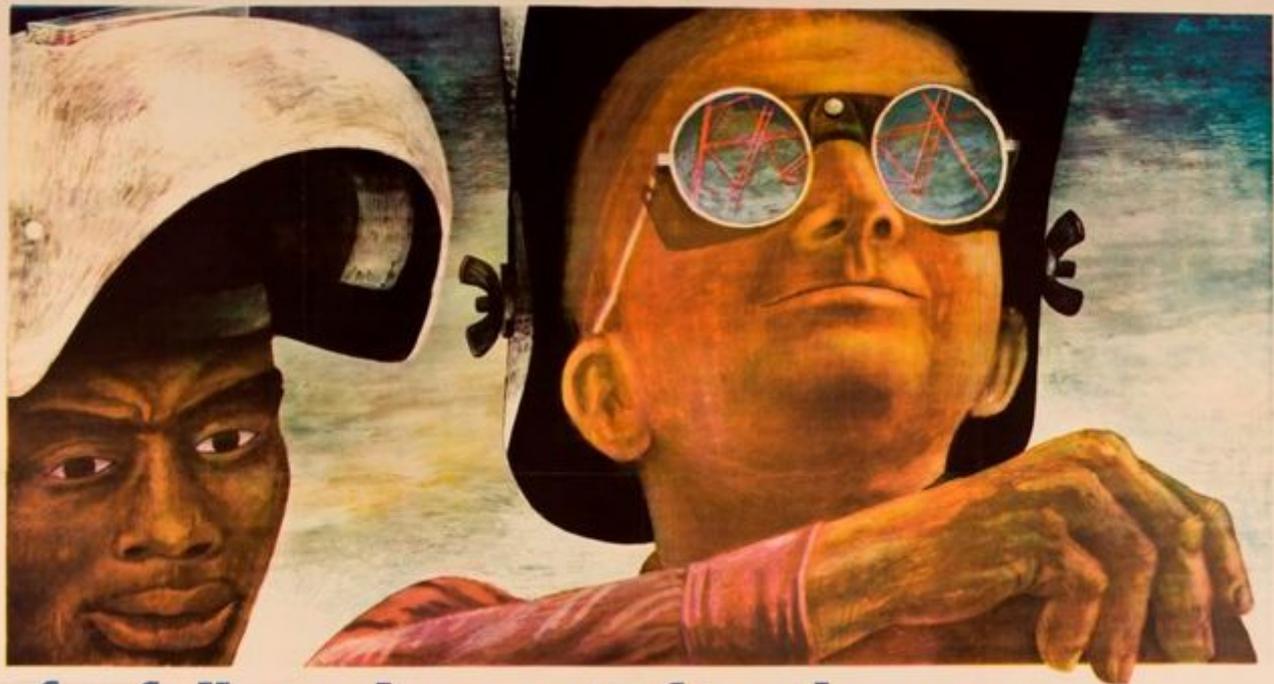


ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD



**Fritz Scholder** (Luiseno, 1937-2005) was a painter, printmaker and educator. His work challenged stereotypical representations of Native Americans and he was extremely influential in shaping a more contemporary approach to capturing Native American experience. He raised critical questions about cultural identity and representation.

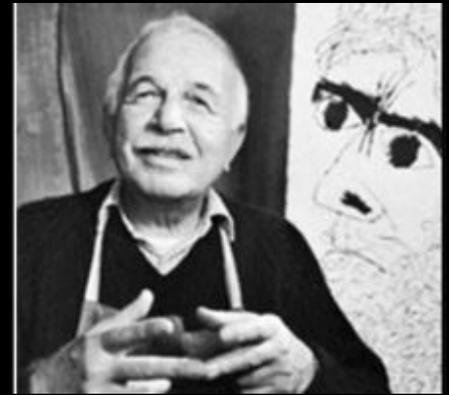




for full employment after the war

**REGISTER CIO VOTE**

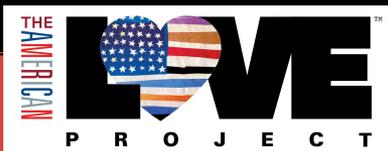
C I O POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



## **BEN SHAHN**

1898-1969, "Welders,  
For Full Employment  
After the War," 1944

Shahn was an artist and Harvard Art Professor who explored, with empathy and compassion, modern urban life, immigration and injustice.



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

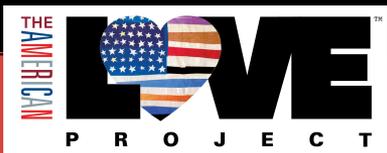
# Crip Camp: The Documentary We Need Right Now



The new documentary **“CRIP CAMP: A DISABILITY REVOLUTION,”** by **Nicole Newman and James LeBrecht** traces the beginnings of the Disability Rights Movement and the activists who fought for equal access and equal rights in jobs, education, transportation, and housing.



**MAYA LIN, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1981–82. Washington, D.C.**  
The memorial created a new art form for shared memory, grief and reconciliation.



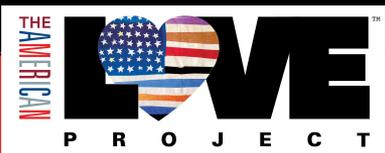
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**TYREE GUYTON**, Detroit, Michigan, established **The Heidelberg Project**, to transform neighborhoods with public art and community gatherings and to create a living indoor/outdoor art museum.



**THE HEIDELBERG PROJECT**

WHO WE ARE WH



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

## 4. Grand Prairie LOVE Project Samples and Installations



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In 2018, GPISD Fine Arts was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Teaching Tolerance/Southern Poverty Law Center. GPISD art teachers launched the **Grand Prairie LOVE Project** with **29 Pieces** Executive Artistic Director and Founder Karen Blessen. Art students and teachers made over 3000 LOVE paintings, drawings and collages that were displayed in Grand Prairie, TX in 2019.



[@grandprairieloveproject](https://www.instagram.com/grandprairieloveproject)



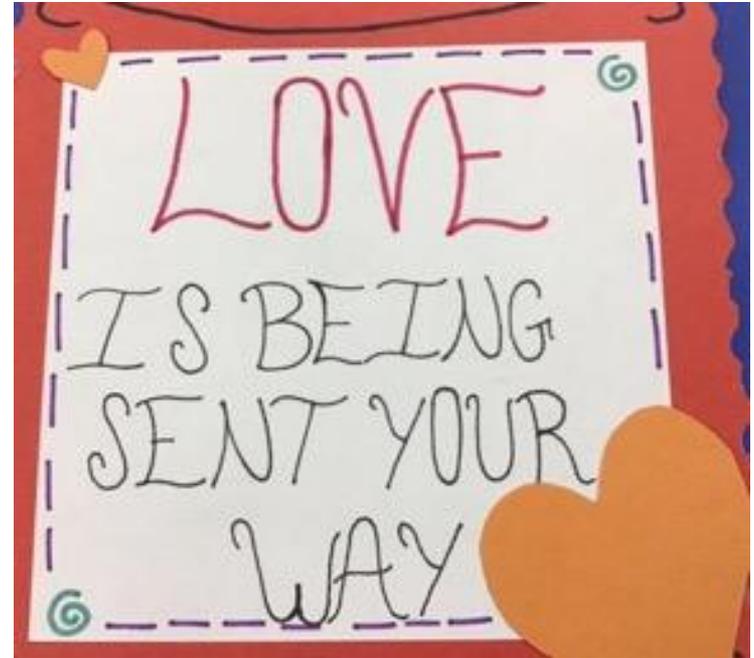
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Grand Prairie LOVE Project Opening Reception



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The New York Times



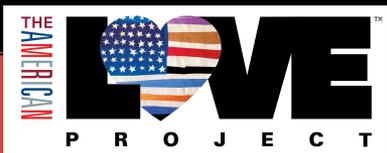
*Massacre at a Crowded Walmart in Texas Leaves 20 Dead*

Grand Prairie ISD art students created messages of love and support for the students and teachers in El Paso, TX after the shootings in August, 2019.



**ARTISTS MAKING A KINDER WORLD**

More LOVE in the new year: calendars, stickers and postcards for 2021.



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