

Creativity in Communities



Heather Gallagher

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Creative Communities

How do you feel when you create? Art is a great way of showing how you feel. You can use art to say you are happy. You can use art to say you are sad. You can use art to connect with other people. And you can even use art to spark awareness and change in your community!

These artists draw with chalk on the street.

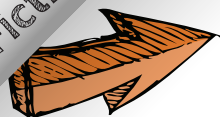




This artist paints in her workshop.

All over the nation, people are coming together to make art. They make art in schools, in town halls, and on streets. At the same time, they make friends. They improve their communities too. Many of these projects do not require special talent. They are fun activities that anyone can do. You can do them too!

Jump into Fiction



Flat Alex on an Adventure

Hi, I'm Alex. I've just gotten back from a trip with my aunt. Aunt Martha is an artist. We took a trip to see the projects she's working on. It was a success! Well...mostly a success. Wait, I'm getting ahead of myself.

My story begins when I first got to Aunt Martha's house. I thought I would draw a Flat Alex. Do you know the book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown? It's about a kid who gets flattened by a noticeboard. Even though Flat Stanley is, well, flat, he has all sorts of adventures. I wanted Flat Alex to have adventures too! And, wow, we sure did! We went to beaches and mountains. We saw cities and farms. There was so much to see and do. Then, Aunt Martha added a fun, new twist!







One day, Aunt Martha said she had a surprise. It was an art project called “Letters to Me.” For the project, we would write letters to our future selves. We would also draw pictures on the letters of things we saw and did. Then, we would ask someone to mail us our letters in about six months. It was such a cool idea!

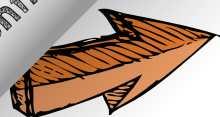
I spent a lot of time thinking about what I wanted to write and draw. I wanted to remember how special the trip had been. For example, I wrote about how Flat Alex and I helped paint a GIANT mural. And I wrote about the big sand castle we made after seeing a fancy sand castle contest. Then, I sealed the envelope and handed it in.

When we went to leave, I realized my mistake. I had put Flat Alex in the envelope! Sorry, Flat Alex...I guess I'll see you in six months!





★★★
Back to
Nonfiction



Creativity in Communities

All around the country, people are working to make their communities better. They are gardening, painting, writing, and more. And they are doing it all together! Learn more about how people find ways to be creative in their communities.

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