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Students' art goes public

Everett's Garfield Park will get face-lift thanks to grant

By Krista J. Kapralos / Herald Writer

EVERETT - A group of students at North Middle School gathered around artist Dan Cautrell last week as he demonstrated how to cover a tile with black oil paint.

"It's a lot like tar," he said, dipping a brush into the liquid.

It also looked a bit like the thick espresso one might find at a nearby Starbucks.

It was a subtle reminder that the art project was made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the coffee company to revitalize nearby Garfield Park.

The Riverside Neighborhood Association won the grant and hired Cautrell to design gateways for the park, with the help of neighborhood schools.



Michael O'Leary / The Herald Artist Dan Cautrell has been working with more than 20 students from North Middle school in Everett, including sixth-grader Erica Israel (behind Cautrell) to create designs that will be transferred onto tiles.

Cautrell concocted a way for students at Garfield Elementary and North Middle schools to create wood and paper tiles that will be fashioned into metal by students at Sno-Isle Technical Center.

In November, the metal pieces will be installed in the park, alongside original art by Cautrell.

"I tell the students that they're part of something really big, but they won't get it until they see their designs in the park," Cautrell said.

Starbucks began its parks grant program in 2000, when it offered 10 grants of \$10,000 each to help breathe life into parks in King County, Starbucks spokeswoman Lois Maag said. Last year, the company expanded its program to offer 30 grants of \$15,000 each in Pierce, King and Snohomish counties.

The Riverside Neighborhood Association was one of three groups in Everett to receive grants last year.

The Port Gardner Neighborhood Association received a grant to clean up Forgotten Creek, and Whittier Elementary School was awarded funds to renovate its playground.

This year, seven Snohomish County groups, two of which are in Everett, applied for

parks grants by the deadline in April, Maag said.

Friends of Everett's arboretum in Legion Memorial Park applied, and the Port Gardner Neighborhood Association applied for a second consecutive grant for Forgotten Creek.

The Port Gardner project won't be eligible to receive another grant until next year, Maag said.

The grants will be awarded in June.

The company looks for ideas that make a significant, positive change for the community, Maag said.

In the case of the Riverside group's project, the grant made possible an after-school program taught by a local artist in two schools, a design project for local metalworking students and a new look for a neighborhood park.

The Riverside group worked on its grant application for months, association member Katrina Lindahl said.

Now, dozens of students among three schools are preparing to see their work installed in public at Garfield Park. But to some students, that's beside the point.

"I've worked on this for months," said Joe Krassin, a lanky eighth-grader at North Middle School.

He created a design of an old-style firetruck from a photograph he found in a history textbook.

"I heard something about Starbucks being involved with this project, but I just like doing the project," he said.

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