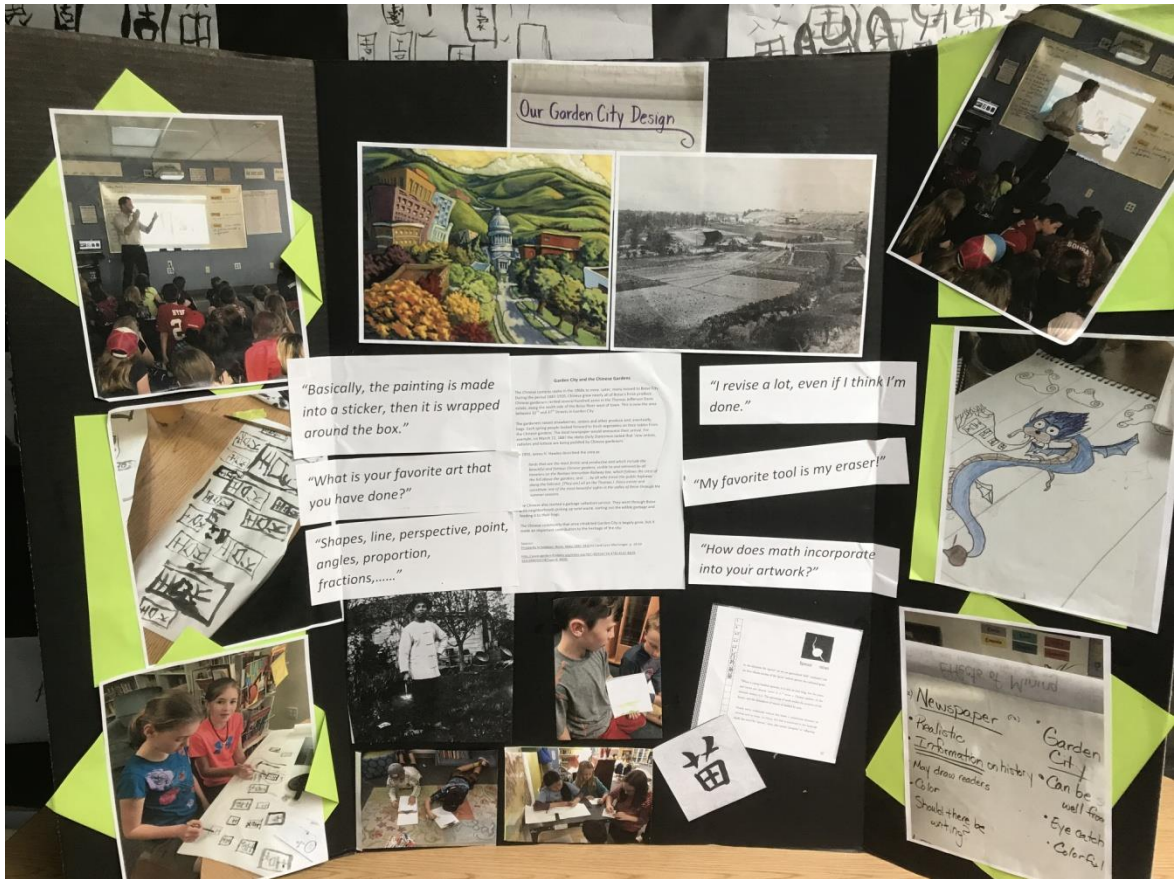


Anser Charter School

4th-5th Grade Service Learning with Public Art

How can history and art come together to beautify and educate a community?



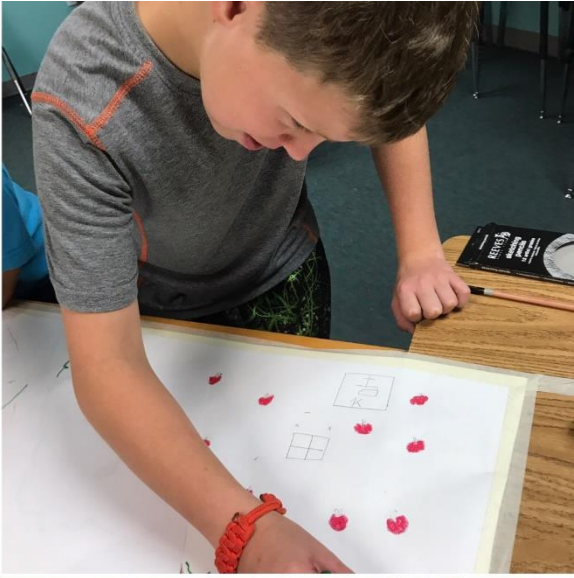
Using Garden City's traffic boxes as our canvases, we paired research about local history with art to beautify neighborhoods and educate citizens. Under the professional guidance of Colin Schmidt (the public works director) and Patrick Kilby (local, experienced traffic box artist) we are putting our knowledge and collaboration skills into action. The result will benefit the Garden City community for years to come.

Project Outline:

Traffic Box art has proven to be a successful public art project in the City of Boise and other communities in Idaho. When Garden City officials invited us to be a part of their effort, we quickly and eagerly accepted! Not only will inspired images transform ordinary utility boxes into beautiful works of art, they have the potential to educate passers by and others about the history of a place by incorporating historical themes and images.

We began by reading articles and studying photographs of historic Garden City. We learned that the urban area, surrounded by Boise City on all sides, was once known for its beautiful gardens, cultivated by Chinese emigrants. After acquiring some background knowledge about the area, we welcomed artist Patrick Kilby, who related his experience as a designer of traffic box art in the cities of Ketchum and Boise. He answered our questions about design, inspiration, skills, and technical issues, such as "How does the art get from our heads, to paper, and finally to a traffic box?"

After Pat Kilby's kickstart, we went to work, brainstorming ideas and presenting them to one another, within our three distinct classrooms. As we sketched and shared, revised, and thought up new ideas, themes emerged. Past, present, and future landscapes emerged; Chinese symbols and characters were mindfully crafted; a bird's eye view of gardeners leaning over their crops, and a dragon wound its way around one design.



Each crew drafted multiple designs and held peer critiques that led to decisions. Final designs were submitted to the Garden City Council for consideration. All three designs were approved, and were produced according to traffic box specifications provided by ArtSigns. Installation was complete in the summer of 2017.

Sharing our work: We got to share our process and final work at the Night of Inquiry, sponsored by the Boise State Writing Project in April 2017 at the Discovery Center. This authentic audience with members of the public gave us an opportunity to share our learning with the broader community. Our work is on display at three locations on Chinden Blvd at Orchard and Chinden, Curtis and Chinden and at Kent and Chinden.

Grateful: We thank Boise State University and the Boise State Writing Project for recognizing the value of our service learning project. Through our learning, we are serving our present community, those who came before, and those who will come after us.

One crew's design of the 'garden' city.



Anser wishes to recognize our dedicated Crew Leaders Dolly Higgins, Nicole Pape and Nancy Tacke for their vision and leadership in making this authentic, engaging and meaningful learning opportunity available to our students.



