



## Heroes Elevate Empathy



## A Global Collaboration for Young People



## **Heroes Elevate Empathy - 'Going Local'**

The **Heroes Elevate Empathy Project** is an art project and scholarship fund powered by young people and supported by an international community of schools, social organizations and corporate partners who believe in the power of empathy improve our world. Together we facilitate a vital, creative conversation that elevates, inspires, and connects young people across geographic, economic, and cultural distances.

We believe that all of us, no matter circumstances, have something to give, and that heroic figures, be they mythic or historical, everyday people or famous figures, all challenge us to give more to our communities. Childhood heroes reflect a deep rooted desire in young people to change and improve their world.

All around us, in both developing and industrialized communities, young people are hungry for such inspiration, and deserve to linger on the questions: "Who are my heroes? What qualities do they have that I admire? Why are these qualities important to me?"

This year marks the launch of our second international art campaign with partnering public, private and homeschooled children. The theme for this new collaboration is designed to explore the theme of 'Local Heroes'. Young people are encouraged to consider the unsung heroes of their communities, be they historical figures or contemporary individuals. The goal in this project is to facilitate a cross cultural conversation between young people in different areas of the world about who is making or has made a positive impact on their daily lives. Young people are encouraged to explore, through interviews with family and community members, community history and popular stories of the people who make their lives better.

For the **Heroes Elevate Empathy: 'Going Local'** project, young people ages 10-18 are creating portraits of their heroes and composing short essays to accompany their selection. All art from the collection will be published in a deck of children's trading cards and a hardcover book to promote the project.

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### Project Guidelines

Any public, private or homeschool community is welcome to participate in the **Heroes Elevate Empathy: 'Going Local' Exhibition**. The beauty of this opportunity is that the project is scalable to your school's curriculum requirements and calendar.

For example, one school is arranging to take on the topic of heroes as a 'theme-ester,' so they can approach the question 'Who are our heroes?' across disciplines and core subject areas. By building time in to their social studies, history, science, and language arts classes students can explore they choose will to portray in the Heroes Elevate Empathy Exhibition.

We recognize that other schools may have less flexibility. They can choose to work in a more concentrated way. For instance, a school could choose to take a week, after exams for example, to focus on the question in an after school club or free period. That's completely okay. The details are yours to design in a manner that makes sense for your school.

We will not be providing curriculum stipulations or classroom exercises. We believe in you and your team to use the topic and time spent on art creation in a way that will be meaningful to the children you serve. We will provide you with a partner school in another area of the world that will match your student population's age range, compliment your proposed time frame, and share ideas with—teacher to teacher and student to student.

We encourage students to do a number of sketches and iterations of their heroes before they do their final portraits. Those iterations can be in any medium and any size desired. They will not be collected for display, but can be vital to the discovery process. While the way you approach the project is up to you, we do have detailed specifications to be followed for final artwork and accompanying biographical essays. All art materials specified for final portrait creation can be provided, free of cost to schools that request it.

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### **Portrait Specifications:**

Final Portrait Dimensions: 11"X17"

Technical Requirements: Paper: smooth Bristol paper. Gouache Colors : Primary Yellow, DeepYellow, Spectrum Red, Primary Red, Ultramarine, Primary Blue, Forest Green, Yellow Ochre, Ivory Black and Zinc White.

Note: Markers to ink illustrations are okay, but no pencil or crayon coloring can be accepted

Accompanying essay should be kept a maximum of 200 words.

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First, we want to be sure that all communities, regardless of their social, cultural, or economic situation get the same opportunity to create art from fine materials in the same medium of expression. The second reason is really technical. By having all finished art come in to us at the same size and painted with the brand and color of paint, our framing and technical reproduction process is streamlined. All art materials specified for final portrait creation can be provided, free of cost to schools that request it.

*A selection of submissions from participating will be exhibited in New York City to provide an engaging forum for further discussion of what it means to be heroic. This is our second international show, and we'd love for your children to be a part of it.*

There will be no cost incurred by the school for the **Heroes Elevate Empathy Exhibition** itself. The primary goal is to spread inspiration among young people, peer to peer, through the creative process, and showcase their work in a traveling, **Heroes Elevate Empathy Exhibition**. Our secondary goal is to showcase our young artists' work online, so more people may appreciate it.

Finally, we are actively seeking venues for an online auction of original art (all proceeds to benefit participating schools) and a printer to produce high quality trading cards (think baseball card size) for distribution to each school. Our goal is for each participant will get a deck of their own as a keepsake for participating in the project. The

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accompanying biography of each hero portrait will be featured on the back of each card. By keeping a unified color palette of super saturated water based gauche colors, we are confident that within the diversity of styles there will be a strong harmony by color, size and theme. If you'd like to learn more about these goals and how you may help us achieve them, please contact Laura Kozaitis ([laura.kozaitis@ourssp.org](mailto:laura.kozaitis@ourssp.org)).

Thank you!