

**FINAL COURSE PRODUCT**  
**PICTURING OUR HEARTS, DREAMS & OUR PLACES IN THE WORLD**  
AN TEN WEEK COMMUNITY BASED ART PROJECT

Children have important stories and points of view to add to crucial social, civic and political discussions that impact their lives on a daily basis. Children have opinions and concerns about the world, just like any adult, and we often overlook this. Our children need to be listened to and considered.

PSU students are paired with a student in Scott grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> partnering with the afterschool SUN program. The art buddies meet on site and work once a week for eight weeks on creating mental ART maps of their community. Students are asked to look inside their hearts and map all things that are important to them, the things that really matter: People, places, things you care about moments/memories, things you love to do, things that hurt you, things that make you sad, happy, laugh, cry. On paper they create identity symbols for their unique selves and write about what is special to them. Next they picture their places in the community: exploring their neighborhoods. Student illustrate their favorite neighborhood park, the seaside, the markets, their family, neighbors and friend's home and the colorful streets we walk down everyday. The art maps are a reflection of how we feel about our community and ourselves. These images of invented places, their future career goals and dreams of their places are all contained in their final mural panels, that will be exhibiting in the main school hall for six months, showcasing the students achievement.

Last students write about their dreams and their fears for their community and for themselves; their heroes and their visions for a better, more peaceful world. PSU mentors will record the words and stories and images of the adolescent students, which will address their own personal, socio-political, historical and geographical concerns within their community. The goal of the digital story is to add to the context of the Place map and spark community reflection on the stories that are embedded in the art. These oral stories/histories will provide the context for their shared art maps

This Final Product involves creative planning sessions and collaboration with other students as well as with community members. The digital stories will be viewed during the Afterschool Sun Showcase at Scott elementary, the last week of class. There will be art exhibit opening showcasing the visual art component in the front hall of the school and the works will be on display for six months.

Lastly the artwork and the digital stories will be uploaded to the Hear Me Project: An initiative of the CREATE Lab at Carnegie Mellon University, Hear Me is a collaborative network of community organizations, institutions, businesses and foundations working together to provide a better future for our kids. HEAR ME amplifies kids' voices using MEDIA and TECHNOLOGY to CREATE a world where they are heard, acknowledged and understood, giving them the power to INSPIRE social change. <http://www.hear-me.net/about>.