STREET ART UNIFIES TOWN
PROJECT ALLOWS FOR RIVAL SCHOOLS TO COLLABORATE

"ALL OF THE NORTHSIDE STUDENTS WERE REALLY NICE. WE ALL KIND OF JOKED ABOUT THE RIVALRY, BUT IT’S NICE TO BE ABLE TO PUT OUR SCHOOL, RIVALLY ASIDE AND DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS TOGETHER," SOPHOMORE BAILEY GAMBILL SAID.

UNEXPECTED LOCATIONS

- 200 BLOCK OF TOWSON AVE
- 914 GARRISON AVE BASTION GALLERY
- 421 TOWSON AVE
- 418 TOWSON AVE
- 10TH STREET - GRAND AVE
- N.C STREET TOWSON AVE
- 16 N 3RD STREET

PHOTO BY NATALIE HERNANDEZ

"Southside was approached four years ago during the first year of unexpected about doing a skateboard painting project. We were given skateboard decks from Boarder Town skate shop and we actually painted designs on the bottom of them," King said.

"We noticed that UAFS got to paint a mural wall for the first year and so we asked if we could have a wall for the next year. So the next year we did the color wheel mural and after that one, we earned our right to be there," King said.

"We also painted banners for the Marshall’s Museum and they will be hanging as you walk into the museum," art teacher David King said.

"All of the Northside students were really nice. We all kind of joked about the rivalry, but it’s nice to be able to put our school, rivalry aside and do something like this together," Sophomore Bailey Gambill said.

Originated and curated by global creative house Justkids in 2015, the Unexpected project first came to Fort Smith in an attempt to revitalize the town with art.

"We are very excited that the Unexpected project allows us to participate considering that it is a festival involving international artist and we are just a high school art department. We have been involved every year and I hope that they keep inviting us back to participate," Art teacher David King said.

"I thought that working on the project was the coolest thing ever. It’s not everyday that you get to paint on a wall for the public to see and not get in trouble for it," Gammill said.

"It makes me feel really good that my students have artwork displayed around town, I think it is a really good experience for the students to get to see how artists lay out their murals and we have learned just as much as the students from this process," King said.

"The art painted by the students depicts insects with vibrant shades of yellow, green, orange, and blue on Designer Again consignment store.

"It is not everyday that you get to paint on a wall for the public to see and not get in trouble for it," Gammill said.

"During the summer, students painted a mural on the outside eating space at Joe’s Grill and Cantina and also helping in the Drains to the River sewer project.

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This year’s unexpected project marks the fourth art piece that students helped to create in the last three year, including the recently covered color wheel mural project.

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