

## STATEMENT OF THE ARTISTS

Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick,  
Community Muralists with CETA  
of New Haven,  
Designers and Painters of the  
6'X 70' Mural in the New Haven  
Welfare Department, 196 Bassett St.

"WE CAN DO IT ALL BETTER TOGETHER  
IN PEACE, IN JOY, IN LOVE"

"We are artists committed to the growth of public art, and within that, community murals. Murals that not only can be seen by many, but that also demonstrate their deep commitment and involvement with their community. We, as mural painters, have a responsibility to the people who will view and be inspired by our work; to involve them, find the ignored and undiscovered young and old artists, and build a truly community-based monumental public art movement in the United States."

Aim of the First Nat'l Mural Conference, N. Y. May 1, 1976

As muralists, we are committed to the growth of public art. We believe that art can be an integral and accessible part of the community and that its potential as a visible voice is powerful and boundless.

For over two and a half years we had both worked in various programs as coordinators of group murals in New Haven. As artists, our commitment to the community we live in has been strengthened through the process of painting murals. From the beginning of our work as mural directors we have been inspired by the vitality and heritage and humanity of this community. We have been inspired by children, teenagers, adults and senior citizens as we have worked with them to express their joys, angers, and hopes. We have been inspired by our team members who have grasped the confidence to effect positive change in their personal lives and in their community by being part of the visual dialogue a mural creates. And we have been inspired by the enthusiastic support of the community whose walls we paint. Now with this mural, we want to applaud the dignity, the vitality, and the identity of these people, of our community, New Haven.

This mural was made possible with "the support of the Conn.

Commission of the Arts through the Conn. Foundation on the Arts" and with the help and salaries from the City of New Haven Manpower Administration (CETA). Our experience in making it has been very rich. Not only have we learned a great deal as artists, but we have learned more clearly what it means to be artists within a community.

For us this mural is more than a painting. It is a representation of the combined efforts of many people as well as ourselves. It is the result of months of research and designing as well as months of painting. (If you look carefully, you will see that all the buildings and all of the people play a role in both the content and design of the mural.) This mural also represents the dialogue we as artists have had with our audience, the clients and the staff of the New Haven Department of Welfare and with others outside the department. And, it is the combined efforts of the City Administration, a crew of CETA carpenters, other artists, Welfare Department staff and clients and friends outside the office who posed for us and offered suggestions, local paint and hardware vendors, and of course, our families.

In the pages which follow we have outlined our intent in applying for the grant to do public art, the theme of the mural, and a schedule of the work as it progressed. Finally, we took the opportunity to thank all of those who have helped us in making this mural.

We hope that the reception of this mural will help achieve the intensification of art projects sponsored on behalf of the public. We thank you all for coming to the celebration today.

#### REASONS FOR GRANT APPLICATION

- To have the time and funding to develop the communicative power, the aesthetic and technical quality of our work as muralists. We applied for funds as a team of two because we had worked as directors of group murals for two and a half years. For us, directing murals entailed working primarily as coordinators and teachers with little opportunity to actually paint.
- To celebrate our audience of the last 2½ years, the economically disadvantaged but culturally, socially and politically rich neighborhoods of New Haven.
- To paint in public buildings which are visually depressing and which historically are the last to house art of any kind.
- To further awareness of art as a component of community planning, of beautification of the urban environment with art, and to further awareness of art as a mouthpiece of and portrait of a community.

LENNOX/RESNICK CITY WELFARE MURAL

FUNDING MATCHING GRANT

Granting Organization:

Connecticut Commission of the Arts through the Connecticut  
Foundation for the Arts  
340 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06115

Grant Amount: \$3,385.00

For supplies and materials for 3 murals in New Haven.

: Gayle Ritchie

Grantee:

City of New Haven Manpower Administration (CETA)  
Treasurer, City of New Haven  
City Hall  
Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

Matching Funds: \$13,875.00

For salary for artists Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick for 9  
months. (This figure has increased since the project has  
extended over one year.)

Matching Funds, In-kind Services:

-Legal assistance supplied by the Corporation Council of the  
City of New Haven. Attorney Susan Johnson.

-Donated labor and equipment from other CETA and City agen-  
cies. (These include: City Planning-drafting, architecture,  
legal consultation; Zoning Dept.; Building Dept.; Dept. of  
Public Works; Board of Education; Fire Dept.; and CETA  
Carpenters.)

Project Director: Thomas S. Corso, Manpower Administrator

Project Supervisor: Ellen Payne, Arts Development Worker  
Employment and Training Administration  
270 Orange Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

THEME

Our theme is one of outrage and of joy. We want to communicate the injustice we feel is taking place against people on welfare, not only in terms of their suffering, but because society tends to blame exactly these people for their suffering. William Ryan calls it 'Blaming the Victim' in his book of the same title. We hope that our mural helps shift the blame to where it really belongs - not on the sufferers, not on the 'victims', but on the institutions and society which don't assure the basic necessities of life to all the individuals within that society. When a society is made so that these basic necessities of food, shelter, clothing, educational opportunities, jobs, and justice are not assured to everyone in that society, then the whole society suffers, not just those who feel the immediate and specific deprivations. When people must devote their lives to survival, and have no energy or time or opportunity to live out their potential, then their society suffers the loss of the richness they could have offered to it. Our outrage is against this unnecessary suffering and against this injustice. Our intention in making this mural is to speak out against this injustice and to speak for the potential fulfillment of individuals which is lost as a result.

We have learned from our experiences working in the community as mural directors, and we are learning now from our research and discussions not only about these injustices, but also about the strengths people have as they meet their problems. This grant is giving us the time and opportunity to develop our vocabulary as muralists so that our visual work will speak loudly.

We hope that by speaking in picture form of the strength of people working together that our mural will raise the intensity of this dialogue going on in our community on behalf of human dignity and justice.

Theme      Panel by Panel

Lobby Panel

- To celebrate the efforts of New Haveners who are working together to improve their neighborhoods and their working lives,
- To convey the great joy one feels in a personal achievement or revelation,
- To celebrate those who work together for civil and human rights, for peace, justice and human dignity,
- To celebrate local cultural heritage and arts,

- To celebrate love, unity and caring between individuals, in families, and among the members of a society.

Center Panel

- To say 'no' to the myth that a majority of people on welfare do not want to work.
- To stop "blaming the victims" of poverty for the fact that adequate jobs, housing and education are less accessible to them.
- To look instead at the priorities of our society - are they profits before people and their needs?
- To look instead at institutions which perpetuate injustices and inequities because we see that shifting the blame to them as the first step toward forming a truly effective program of positive change.
- To communicate the hopelessness in the face of endless poverty.
- To acknowledge the justification of anger against an endless cycle of poverty and discrimination.
- To look at the pride, incentive, inventiveness, and strength of people helping each other in difficult times.

Theme            Staff Office Panel

- To visualize a society in which: people of different races and heritages are joyful in knowing the uniqueness and universality in everyone; human needs and solidarity are the energizing forces; people are guaranteed the basic human rights of justice, a voice in the government, jobs, housing, education, and health and social care; people can live out their potentials instead of having to spend their lives struggling to survive.
- To celebrate those who fight for and work together for this vision to make it a reality.

THE ACTUAL PROCESS

- March, '1977 Submission of Non-Matching Assistance A. Individual Artists Grant Application by Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick, for \$2,500.00.  
subsequent withdrawal in favor of the
- June, '1977 Submission of Matching Grant Application by the City of New Haven Manpower Administration, for \$4,510.38.
- July, '1977 Grant approval
- Oct. '77-Feb. '78 Research for murals, including readings and interviews on poverty and welfare, dealing with the legal issues of fire regulations, ownership of public art, leases, the securing of copyright, and trying to ensure the life of the mural, gathering painting equipment and researching how to make the mural portable, pastel studies, taking photos, collecting newspaper and magazine photos and clippings, outlining of theme on justice and dignity, scale drawing to depict this. . .
- Feb. '78-April '78 "A Mural In Process" public exhibition of pastel studies and scale drawings for the New Haven City Welfare Dept. Mural at the One Forty Eight Gallery in New Haven, March 5 - 24, 1978, installation of masonite panels on wall (making the mural portable), discussions with welfare department workers, subsequent changes made as the result of these discussions, including the redoing of most of the figures in the panel in workers' office with a good number of workers having posed for them.
- April-June, '78 Priming of masonite, transfer of revised scale drawing onto primed and gridded wall.
- June, '78-Jan. '79 Actual painting of the mural, including experimenting on the wall with different painting techniques, somewhat altering the structure as we went along because of our decisions on its design and communicative power, being open to suggestions from clients, workers and visitors in the department, and acting on them.
- January, '79 Completion of the mural.

THANK-YOUs

"We Can Do It All Better Together, In Peace, In Joy, In Love" is dedicated to the People of the City of New Haven, especially to the Clients and Staff of the New Haven Department of Welfare.

We would like to express our special thanks to the staff members of the Welfare Department for their time, their energy, their insights and their participation in this mural. We also thank the staff for their generous donations to our dedication ceremony's refreshments.

Beatrice Adams, John Black, Roberta Boucher, Carlton Boyd, Alphonse Brazzell, Mary Bunting, Eleanor Carbone, Joanne Cathey, Regina Cavallaro, Mary Cummings, William Dean, Jacqueline Dimwoodie, Patricia Donnelly, Kathryn Drury, Mary Ellen Durso, Elizabeth Ferriter, Goldie Fisher, Dolores Foster, Sollee Friedler, John Griffin, Everlena Handy, Keith Harper, Sequella Hollis, Janet Logiocco, Mary Ellen Lorenz, Benita Mellow, Linda Michel, Jean Nelson, Ronald Papale, George Pertesis, Vincent Kiernan, John Popolizio, Linda Randi, Judy Rosenkrantz, Lauren Rostowsky, Frances Skelly, Frank Sposa, Elsie Sreerenik, Bernard Stewart, Vera Tiernan, Leota Tucker, Julio Vidro, Patricia White, Veronica Wright, Frederick Wright, Gerald Martens, Felicita Acuna, Nancy Consiglio, Camilla Crowell, John DeFrancesco, Nongnat Hymowitz, Roland Jones, Richard Mahoney, Anne Moody, Karen Perkins, Diane Pollard, Jacqueline Trader, Denise Whitmire, Dora Hale, Mary Sherlock, Ron Gattison, Jean Walker, John Clark.

We give our lasting and warmest thanks to the following people for their assistance in the making of this mural:

For help in attaining the grant for our project:

Gayle Ritchie, Program Associate, CT Commission on the Arts  
Joanne Delponte, Administrative Assistant, CT Comm. on the Arts  
Mayor Frank Logue  
Tom Corso, Manpower Administrator  
Carol Barden, Executive Assistant, Manpower Administration  
Daniel Dunn, Director, New Haven Department of Welfare  
E. Patrick Flynn, building owner

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Charles Brewer, Architect  
Mary Boyle, Director, Artists in the Schools

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Human Resources Administration  
Edward Grant, Chairman, Freddy Fixer Parade  
Steve Signore, Principal, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School  
Jean Cahoon, Director, Off-Campus Learning Project, Yale U.  
Nick Pastore, Inspector - New Haven Detectives

For their assistance and support of the mural in process:

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Michael Pepper, Photographer, CETA  
Susan Coffee-Frost, Graphics, CETA  
\* Louise Calio, Poet, Director City Spirit, Author of Mural Title  
Maria Valentin, Counselor, CETA  
Pauline Tavares, Counselor, CETA  
Tom & Ron of Standard Paint  
Iamele Family of Frank's Paint and Wallpaper  
Kayes Art Shop  
Fair Haven Camera  
Davenport Camera  
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Martha Brown, Fiscal Unit, CETA  
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Entire Staff of CETA Planning Unit  
Virginia Blaisdell, Photographer, New Haven Advocate  
Ellen Lesser, Author New Haven Advocate article  
Joe Taylor, Photographer, free-lance

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Gail Lee  
John Belle  
Kenny Belle  
Julia Ildefonso  
José Roderiguez  
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Byron Magafas  
Dan Daddona, Ventures' painting crew Director  
Joseph Cifferelli, Painter, Human Resource Administration  
Tom Picton, Public Information, CETA  
Anna Jaffee, Public Information, Mayor's Office  
Mark Shannon, Public Information, Mayor's Office  
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Tenny Rioux  
Zelda Pickett  
Brenda Faye Counsel  
Rose McCloud  
Deborah Dimbo  
Mike Mansfield  
TYCO  
Goodcopy  
Century Reproductions  
Orange Market

In painting the final design of the mural we used the photographs of and our own drawings of famous people and friends including clients and staff to help us portray expressions and specific gestures. We would like to thank all of those who posed for us.

From right to left in the mural, the figures are:

Despairing mother holding her hungry child  
Handcuffed youth  
Woman seizing lightning bolt- symbol of change (face-Al Green)  
Youth saying no to a life of injustice (face and body-Byron Magafas, hat-John Belle)  
Laughing woman-Garment Worker  
Coretta Scott King, human rights advocate  
Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., human rights advocate  
Man playing trumpet (Leo Smith, creative musician, New Haven)  
Woman clapping (Louise Calio)

LENNOX/RESNICK

Muhammad Ali, three time World Heavyweight Boxing Champion,  
with three fingers raised triumphantly (arm and shoulder-  
Melvin Boykin)  
Mary Bethume, Educator activist, founder of the Bethume-  
Cookman College, Datona, Florida  
Eleanor Roosevelt, human rights activist, former first lady.  
Woman playing a shaker  
A family of three  
David Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican muralist, our mentor  
Man reaching in unity, (Louis Soroniatis)  
Embracing couple, (Terry Lennox, Byron Magafas)  
Woman with outstretched arms, symbolizing the joy of achievement  
in one's personal and/or political life, (Gail Lee)  
Defiant young girl  
Despairing father, robbed of dignity (David Wiles)  
Despairing mother, worried over hungry child (hair-Zelda Pickett,  
hands-Tenny Rious)  
Hungry child (Sylinda Pickett)  
Mother sheltering child from cold (coat and hands-Ruth Resnick)  
Shivering child  
Father and child out in the street, homeless  
Angry workers locked out of their jobs (Jacqueline Trader, Dora  
Hale, Judy Rosenkrantz, John DeFrancesco, Ronnie Wright,  
Camilla Crowell)  
Man with outstretched arms throwing off institutions accused of  
unjust practices (Habtezion Medhanie)  
Woman with raised fist (Esther Simon)  
Angry man pushing back same institutions (Rudy Byrd)  
Woman with child  
Woman lifting off same institutions (Judy Rosenkrantz)  
People moving into the focus of a better society  
Young children, laughing  
Woman smiling (Dr. Leota Tucker)  
Laughing mother with child  
Joyous couple (Diane Pollard, Ron Gattison)  
Client, with help of social worker, meeting prospective employer  
(Frances Skelly, Jacqueline Trader, John DeFrancesco)  
Three people symbolizing the unity of women and men of all races,  
the energy and inspiration of the new society (Julio Vidro,  
John Popolizio, Ronnie Wright)  
Children playing, spiraling in and out, symbols of the future.