

MURAL STATEMENT

We began work on the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) mural in 1990. After lengthy conversations and photo sessions with MAP staff, clients and community members, we designed a mural that reflected both the myriad of services provided by MAP and the "Love is for Everyone" spirit of the organization.

The most intriguing design challenge was the series of barred windows that ran through the middle of the wall. Only one window actually provided light or air to the building and, after much discussion about security, we received permission to remove the bars and insert plywood panels. The figures in the mural, including those seen in silhouette, were drawn from black and white photos we made on site. The colorful background is inspired by "Afro-traditional" quilts rooted in a distinct African American aesthetic of improvisation. Simple black line drawings within the white squares of the quilt represent MAP services: food, clothing, housing, education, counseling. Each of the quilt shapes bears the name, written in silver, of a community member who has died of AIDS. We wrote the text at the bottom of the mural to bring home the issue of AIDS on a personal level.

At the time we were painting the mural MAP shared the same building with the Unity Fellowship Church. Sundays were among our favorite days to paint because of the incredible gospel music and words of encouragement that would pour forth from the congregation. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with MAP, the church, and the community to design and paint this mural.

Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Zachary

260 Words

Date: Wed, 22 Jan 1997 20:56:04 +0000
From: Mary-Linn Hughes <pat_ml@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: pat_ml@earthlink.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.0 (Macintosh; U; PPC)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: "Robin J. Dunitz" <robind@earthlink.net>
Subject: Re: mural book
X-UIDL: 90a7cfa263a452ef5031bc4fd0b1b9c9

Dear Robin,

Thanks for your reminder! Reggie and I wrote a draft a few weeks ago and I just haven't had a chance to send it off to you. Here is the text that I will pop in the mail to you tomorrow with some slides. It is 257 words and I know you said probably not more than 150 so feel free to edit. Could I please have approval over the final copy?

Cheers,

Mary-Linn

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