



led by muralist Michael Cooper, six young people, ages twelve to eighteen, from the Coyce Family Resource Center and the Martha O'Bryan Center participated in this mural project. They studied the history and present life of their community, James A. Coyce Homes, a public housing neighborhood in East Nashville. Over the span of three weeks, these artists created this twenty-four-foot-long mural.

After studying perspective and other drawing and painting techniques, the participants visualized their mural with two major elements: things of the past, represented in black and white, and things of the present, painted in color. Trees and playgrounds, a spray pool, a basketball court, and a band shell are shown in varying hues of gray to represent things that no longer exist. The two neighborhood schools, the Martha O'Bryan Center, the Coyce Apartments, the CWA (Community Workers of

America) homes, and the people who live and work in the area are depicted in bright colors to represent the vibrant present and future of the neighborhood.

In researching, designing, and painting this mural, the young artists not only developed their own artistic skills, they also developed a better appreciation and understanding of their community and gained a sense of accomplishment in completing such a large undertaking.

Participants: Muna Eli, Aaron Gooch, Tasha Kirkpatrick, Chris Matthews, Aaron Struggs, and Carrie Todd

Many thanks to Michael Cooper, teaching artist; Becky Foy, CWA-Coyce Learning Center Director; Christine Jackson, Martha O'Bryan Center Chief Operating Officer; and Charlie Finchum, community resident who talked to the participants about living in the Coyce community in the 1940s

JULY 2003. ACRYLIC ON PANEL. 4' X 34 FEET



homes, and the people who work in the area are depicted in art to represent the vibrant and future of the neighborhood.

Working, designing, and painting it, the young artists not only used their own artistic skills, they also developed a better appreciation and understanding of their community and a sense of accomplishment from completing such a large undertaking.

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Cayce Family Resource Center is located in the Martha O'Bryan Center at 711 South Seventh Street. The Cayce FRE works with service providers to help neighborhood families access resources and information.