



## Murals on the walls

Mayank Dhungana/Index

The Kirksville Arts Association building is the new home for 12 murals created by local high school and middle school students and dedicated to the Smithsonian exhibit.

### Kirksville Arts Association held a mural contest for area high schools students with winning work being displayed outside the Kirksville Arts Center

BY ANNE REBAR  
Staff Reporter

Downtown Kirksville has a fancy new addition, thanks to the creativity of local students.

The Kirksville Arts Center now displays 12 murals on the sides of the building.

"They wanted to do something special to go along with the Smithsonian exhibit," said junior Shannon Kelley, who works at the art center. "The new signs out front of the building and the murals were done with money donated by a generous benefactor."

Local high school and middle

school students created murals and entered them in a contest put on by the Kirksville Arts Association.

Judy Neuweg, director of the Kirksville Arts Association, said the schools had to submit their designs, and they were displayed in the gallery at the Kirksville Arts Center. Three judges selected 12 out of the 23 submissions for display on the side of the building. A private donor paid for the supplies for the murals as well as the cost of enlarging and hanging them.

"The benefactor came to us last fall wanting to fund some public art projects in Kirksville," Neuweg said. "We put together a public art committee, and the

mural competition was the first of these public art projects, and we are planning for more in the future."

The winners of the competition received more than just having their creations hung on the outside of the arts center. The five schools represented in the 12 winning murals received \$200 each, and three other schools received \$50 for honorable mentions.

"The 12 winning murals were photographed and enlarged by the Baker Sign Company and hung as an impermanent exhibition," Neuweg said. "They cover the windows of the

second and third floors of the building, which are boarded up because the floors have not been renovated yet. They will most likely remain there until the win-

dows are ready to be opened."

The five schools represented are Brashear High School, Kirksville High School, Knox County R-1 High School, La Plata High School and Mary Immaculate Middle School. Some of them were completed by a sin-

gle artist, and others were collaborative efforts, Neuweg said. Many are musically themed to go along with

the "New Harmonies" exhibit inside, although a music theme was not mandatory.

"Mary Immaculate was the only middle school that won," Neuweg said. "What they did was tour Kirksville and took pictures of things, then they combined all of the pictures into a big picture collage."

The eye-catching new pieces were a pleasant surprise for many Kirksville residents when they were put up in late March.

Senior Bri Challis said she hopes this won't be the last of the art projects in Kirksville.

"It really made my day when I drove past and saw the new murals," Challis said. "It distinguishes the art center as a place of creativity and really adds to the scenery downtown."

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Bri Challis  
Senior

### Around the Ville

Apr. 9

8 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.  
**French Troupe**

La Compagnie des Miserables puts on a play about doctors

SUB Activities Room  
Free



Apr. 10

10 p.m.  
**Concert**

Blue VooDoo celebrates American roots music with a mixture of electric blues

Il Spazio  
Free



Apr. 15

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Folklore**

"The Remediation of Storytelling" given by Richard Bauman

SUB  
Free

