

Celebrating 2022: Twelve Singing Tree™ Murals and More

Unity Through Creativity Foundation (UTC)'s goal is to foster connection, compassion, and creativity to overcome loneliness, division, and violence. We do this by creating the Beloved Community, facilitating art projects and teaching peace literacy.

Painting a mural is about more than making a work of art. Each mural envisions a positive future to community heartbreaks. The container of the mural helps us practice co-creating in the face of the unknown. No one knows what the painting will look like. We listen deeply to each other to build the trust needed to create an inclusive and original image. This common creative experience allows the community to then undertake more complex and riskier matters together. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the beauty and power of emergent intelligence!



Milestones in 2022

- 1401 people—youth, adults and elders—participated in creating 12 Singing Tree™ murals.
- 136 youth and 37 adults received intensive training in peace leadership, collaboration and creativity skills.
- 3 countries—England, Cyprus, and the U.S.—in California, Texas and Virginia—have new Singing Tree™ murals.
- 75 Art Teachers received professional development in Arts Integration in El Paso, Texas
- UTC co-sponsored the International Day of Peace Celebration with the participation of 27 organizations, attended by 150 people.
- Over 90% of participants reported significant increases in believing that people can create extraordinary results together, in seeing themselves as peace leaders, in acknowledging that they matter, in having confidence in their imagination, and in having a sense of belonging.



Nectarine Singing Tree of Peace

58 community members, nine to 73 years old, contributed to the mural painted on the wall of Keystone Heritage Park as part of the International Day of Peace Celebration. El Paso, Texas. Facilitated by Laurie Marshall. This is the second mural in El Paso.

"I heard from my artist father in Afghanistan that painting makes people happy, and I experienced joy when I was painting on the mural. I also experienced a moment of an ideal world." - Neema Soratgar, Afghan Guest Scholar, University of Texas at El Paso.



The Redwood Singing Tree of Holding Unity Through Community

22 ten year-olds from Oceanview Elementary School, Albany, CA
Facilitated by Sweta Chawla and Leslie Rein

"I think what's really important is how people can collaborate, share their ideas and work together." -Camille, 4th grader.

The Pacha Mama Singing Tree

55 Expectant and New Mothers from 8 states, Los Angeles, CA
Facilitated by Naomi Duben

"This was so much fun and such a unique thing to do together"
-Krystal McKnight, Los Angeles



The Hawthorne Singing Tree of 100 Joys

50 participants from Unity Festival and at the meetings with Furness Refugee Support group that are hosting and caring for Ukrainian refugees and Furness Multicultural Community Forum. Mural 3 in Cumbria, England. Facilitated by Gabi Lipska

"Each leaf stands for a simple joy that makes life brighter for us, following the idea of amplifying heart vibrations. In difficult times, what we can do is not give up the simple joys. They fill the universe and raise the vibrations for all. They are needed now more than ever." – Gabi Lipska

The Ukrainian Singing Tree of Strength and Freedom

131 University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) students, University of California in Berkeley students, TedX Berkeley and Ukrainians immigrants from Austin.

Mural 1, Year 1 of El Paso Singing Trees, Facilitated by Laurie Marshall

"It's cool to be part of a project that is meaningful to the people of Ukraine. Working with my classmates was fun, too. As a painting major, it was the first time I ever did a collaborative project with my fellow students." —Serena Ornelas, UTEP student



The Magical Window Singing Tree

41 youth and adults from 15 states at the Bioneers conference, San Francisco Palace Of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA. Facilitated by Laurie Marshall and Diana Sciarretta

"Making The Magical Window Singing Tree was my favorite part of the conference."

- Robinson, age 16, Louisiana



AZBIL Cherry Singing Tree of Expanded Openness and Learning

15 adults and 2 children from Japan, Germany, Sweden, Iran and the USA
Azbil Corporation, Santa Clara, CA
Facilitated by Wanda Whitaker and Laurie Marshall

"Thank you so much for the 3 day workshop! Everything was very precious and great for me! I was so happy when I found how much I love to create something and share many and various ideas with everyone. Also, I'm really interested in the philosophy of this workshop. For example, 'Life exists at the edge of order and chaos' is an important thought in complexity science too. I feel the strong connection between science and this activity." —Yuya Nakazawa, Engineer



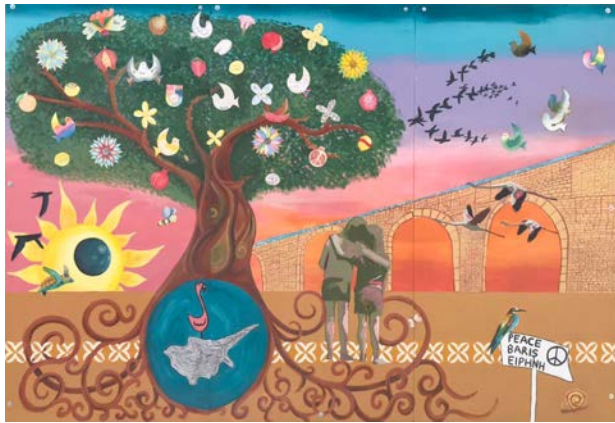
The EOBA Singing Tree of Strength and Happiness

18 3rd through 8th graders at the East Oakland Boxing Association co-designed and painted the mural with 60 community members adding their vision. Oakland, CA. Facilitated by Leslie Rein and Diane Sciarretta

"I didn't realize that kids could have this, all of THIS [the mural] in us."

— Fabian, age 10





The Cyprus Singing Tree of Peace

48 artists, youth and adults from both sides of Cyprus, installed at the UN Headquarters in the Buffer Zone. Year 1 of the Singing Tree in Cyprus. Facilitated by Alden Jacobs and Marina Neophytou of Visual Voices.

"What we at Visual Voices love about the Singing Tree Project is that they're works of art created by many people working together, paintings that express visions of success and healing community heartbreak and sparking innovative action." – Alden Jacobs

The Singing Ash Tree of Abundance and Protection

275 students and staff of the Ashfield Juniors Primary School, Workington, England. Facilitated by Gabi Lipska

"Together we designed a mural... with contributions from all members of the school community, including: pupils, teachers, wider staff and all... who support the running of the school. Inspired by our emotional landscape, individual and collective stories and local nature, our Singing Tree is a unique account of healing and generative conversations." – Sue Frost, Head Teacher



The Ka-Sky-Dascope Singing Tree of Strength and Happiness

370 Middle School students, staff and families, Albany, CA. Facilitated by Sweta Chawla

"When I joined mural club – I did it to be with friends and had no idea I would accomplish something so big."
"I learned that teamwork doesn't suck." – Albany students

The Shanel Valley Academy Singing Tree of Community and Culture

148 K-6th graders with staff, Pomo Elders, and other community members. Hopland, CA. Facilitated by Leslie Rein and Diana Sciarretta

"The greatest thing that went well with the project was the deep sense of community that developed as we went along. ... I saw kids working together who don't normally choose to be together. And I saw so much kindness."
 – Leslie Barkley, 5th and 6th grade teacher

