

City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/29/23

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

FROM: Megan Berner, Arts & Culture Manager

SUBJECT: Barbara Bennett Park - Community Mural

The basketball court at Barbara Bennett Park, located in downtown Reno along the river, was home to a mural created in partnership with the Youth Artworks program for 23 years. The mural was irreparably damaged by tagging on top of the wear from weather and time over the years and was painted over at the end of 2022.

The plan was to replace the mural in a new budget cycle and the opportunity is here to do just that. In July, the director of the Lilley Museum on the UNR campus reached out to Arts and Culture staff regarding an artist visiting from Spain. The artist, Leire Urbeltz, is Basque and is working under a grant from the Contemporary Arts Center in Huarte, Spain. She is traveling with anthropologists and as part of their research are interested in connecting with the Basque American community here in Reno. Leire is a muralist and has done extensive work in collaboration with communities to create murals.

Staff connected with the Center for Basque Studies at UNR as well and they were interested in collaborating on the mural process. Staff presented the opportunity to work with the artist and collaborate with the Lilley Museum and the Center for Basque Studies to the Public Art Committee and the Reno Arts and Culture Commission at their September meetings. Both bodies unanimously supported working with Leire and placing a mural on the wall in Barbara Bennett Park.

The Center for Basque Studies will be hosting a workshop with the community on Monday, October 2nd at the Rotunda in the Knowledge Center on the UNR campus. The City will host another workshop in the park on Thursday, October 5th at 4:00 pm. The workshops will consist of community participation in the creation of the mural design. The mural design will be approved by the Public Art Committee in October before starting to paint the mural. The mural is scheduled to be painted between October 10 and October 23 with a community painting day

TBD. Attached are examples of Leire's previous work and a flier for the upcoming community engagement session.

3 PROYECTOS PARTICIPATIVOS / PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS

BÚNKER DE AFECTOS

Bera de Bidasoa

Búnker de Afectos, se realizó en Bera de Bidasoa. Participaron estudiantes de los cuatro centros educativos de la localidad.

A partir del mecanismo de la re-apropiación de la injuria que plantean las teorías queer y anti-racistas, creamos una serie de binomios fantásticos inspirados en Gianni Rodari.

Por un lado, utilizamos el patrimonio de los numerosos búnkeres de guerra construidos tras la guerra civil y por el otro planteamos desmantelar los conflictos que hoy en día surgen en las aulas motivados por las diferencias de razas y orientaciones de género. De este modo se crearon ideas como el búnker de la igualdad, el barracón de la familia, el tanque para el amor, los besos contra el miedo, la escopeta que lanza casas para refugiados, el casco para el entendimiento o el franco-tirador de jazz. 2023

Bunker de afectos, was held in Bera de Bidasoa. Students from the four schools in the town participated.

From the mechanism of the re-appropriation of insult posed by queer and anti-racist theories, we created a series of fantastic pairings inspired by Gianni Rodari.

On the one hand, we use the heritage of the numerous war bunkers built after the civil war and on the other we propose to dismantle the conflicts that arise today in the classrooms motivated by differences in race and gender orientations. In this way, ideas such as the bunker of equality, the family barracks, the tank for love, kisses against fear, the shotgun that throws houses for refugees, the helmet for understanding or the jazz sniper were created. 2023



3 PROYECTOS PARTICIPATIVOS / PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS

12 PARA 1

IES Berriozar

12 para 1 es un mural comunitario realizado con el alumnado de Educación Plástica de 4º de ESO del IES Berriozar.

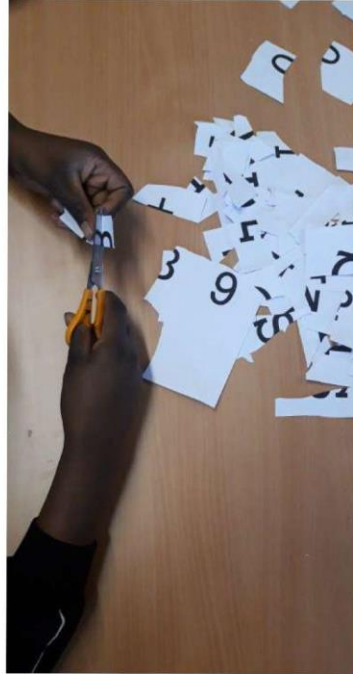
Como este centro acoge 12 lenguas maternas en sus aulas, la propuesta de taller fue realizar un alfabeto plástico formado a partir de la deconstrucción del alfabeto latino dominante.

Así creamos una serie de símbolos, que inspirados en Victor Vasarely, se aproximan a la idea de abstracción geométrica. Esta abstracción no obstante, contiene un alfabeto oculto que sólo las personas participantes conocen y con la que decidieron escribir: Bienvenidos. 2022

12 para 1 is a community mural made with the students of Art Education of 4th of ESO of the IES Berriozar.

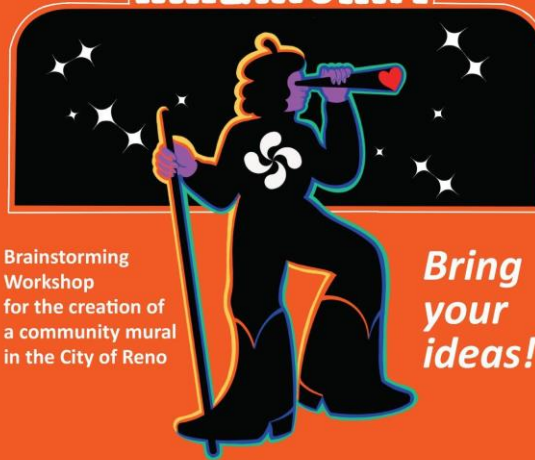
As this center hosts 12 mother tongues in its classrooms, the workshop proposal was to make a plastic alphabet formed from the deconstruction of the dominant Latin alphabet.

This is how we created a series of symbols, which inspired by Victor Vasarely, approach the idea of geometric abstraction. This abstraction, however, contains a hidden alphabet that only the participants know and that says: welcome. 2022



2023 RENO Community Basque Mural in the Barbara Bennet Park

WHAT'S IT TO BE BASQUE AMERICAN?



Brainstorming
Workshop
for the creation of
a community mural
in the City of Reno

**Bring
your
ideas!**

October 2nd, 3:00 PM
Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center
Frank & Joan Randall Rotunda
UNR

