



Kayla Whitney

VALLEY PARK BRANCH
MURAL PROJECT





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I believe that libraries are an integral part of communities, being free and accessible makes them a special place where everyone is welcome and anything is possible. This has inspired me to create work that is representative of all voices, and best serves the community as a whole.

I have scanned hand drawn and painted elements and merged them with digital illustrations to create a multifaceted digital collage. My design is filled with foliage and florals that are rich in colour, vibrancy and symbolism with modern minimal lines and shapes to complement the architecture of the surrounding building. The focal point of the mural is a child whose ebullient presence welcomes you to the library as you enter.

I have researched plants and flowers that represent each of the communities that have called this area home through the generations, including edible plants and vegetables foraged by the Paleo Indians, crops, berries and flowers of the Indigenous peoples, fruit to represent the VanDuzen family of fruit growers

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who settled in the area in the 1800s, and many other familiar plants and wildflowers native to this area.

This abundant festoon of organic matter compliments the surrounding area, celebrates the bountiful natural resources of the Stoney Creek and Hamilton region, and represents the important commitment of HPL to the sustainability of our environment.

The child, who represent the future, is the most prominent symbol in this proposal. There are elements of our past, the relationships between those represented in this mural, that are dark and filled with tragedy. These are things we wish we could change, but unfortunately cannot. What we can change is our future and the way we treat one another moving forward. While honouring the past keepers of this land we can set our sights on a future that is equitable for all people.