



Our Community Mural India 2014 Field School

Sri Ram Ashram Family,
Melanie Angulo & Janay Foulkes



The MURALATORS!

The Mural Starting Point (2012) . . .



Photo by: Will Hernandez

“What is home?”

“The mural affirms we are never alone; we have brothers and sisters around the world who love us.”



Photo by: Will Hernandez

“Who are you?” 2014. . .

Beginning of 2014 Mural at the Sri Ram Ashram

Our Initial Idea: “Who are you?” We wanted the children to explore their identity and self express this through free flow art.

Our goal was to have fun and interact with the children, leaving them with a touch of MRU’s spirit



We wanted to represent our historical Canadian culture in India! Thank you Dion Simon

Little did we know . . .

Some Changes to the Plan...

Talking with Rashmi, the director of the Sri Ram Ashram...

- Rashmi helped us to understand that the kids may need more direction
- The education system in India does not teach free flow artistic creativity
- Luckily, Yasmin's animal cards came to the rescue

We still knew one thing: we wanted to be able to have fun and engage with the kids

Our project unfolded. . .



Photo by: Donna Smith

PLANNING

The 2014 India Field School Mural magically unfolded throughout the week...

- Rashmi and the maintenance team prepped and primed the wall so it was ready to go
- Buying paint in Haridwar
- Getting sick - the kids were eager to help and get Janay feeling better



Getting paint on the wall...

SPLAT!



With input from the kids we were able to finally start painting the daunting white wall...

The kids discovered hidden talents.



5 am wake up! First day of painting was great in between the activities.

How it began...



India is really hot... but when it rains, it pours. The rain brought all of the kids together to help finish the painting before the drawings were washed away. It was amazing to see them all working together.



Water from swimming pool gave us the opportunity to have more conversations with the kids.

Symbolism on the Mural...

We chose the banyan tree to represent the Ashram family. The banyan tree, being India's national tree, signifies strength, growth, survival, and longevity.



Children at the Ashram choosing an animal to represent themselves.

A blurred image of the Indian national flag, showing the saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes and the Ashoka Chakra in the center, positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

The Hindi song is about love in the family and that we are together for the rest of our life.

VIDEO

Although there are personal quotes attached to pictures, they may not be correlated with the individual in the picture.

The finished product...

The kids took leadership roles to finish the project after we were gone, and with the help of group D the mural was completed.



It wasn't about completing a school project, but about the lifelong bonds we formed with the children.



In the end the idea we went in with is what we came out with, just in a different way than we had originally planned.

With a little bit of guidance and structure, the children were still able to explore their identity and express themselves through creative art.

What self expression means to us, is different than what it means to them.

In the end we gained so much more than we gave. We left them with a painting, but we all gained a family.