

Since 1989, CITYarts engages youth with professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities.

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CITYarts Expands 50 States of Peace Initiative and

Announces Plans to Create Historic National Peace Wall in Washington, D.C.

--NATIONWIDE YOUTH-INSPIRED ARTS PROJECTS THAT BUILD COMMUNITY--

NEW YORK, August 19, 2025 — In honor of America's upcoming **250th anniversary**, CITYarts will expand its pioneering contemporary public mural program to all 50 states, culminating in a national Peace Wall in Washington, D.C. in 2026.

Through the *50 States of Peace Initiative*, CITYarts engage students from each state and D.C. in developing public art projects, collaborating with local artists to create murals where they can visualize concepts of community building and peace. CITYarts has held organized workshops in 26 states so far, and through them has created over 3,000 Pieces for Peace artworks, as well as completed 6 Peace Wall murals across the country.

The **National Peace Wall** in D.C. will be a permanent mosaic that reflects voices and visions of a UNITED NATION. Showcasing 500 powerful messages of unity, the mosaic will consist of **250 youth-created Images for Peace** (five from each state) and 250 quotes of past influential figures - thus combining the previous and future generation of leaders. Once completed, it will be approximately 10 feet tall by 80 feet wide.

“At a time when our nation faces great challenges both at home and abroad, CITYarts invites the youth of America to reimagine their communities as places of peace and connection,” said **Tsipi Ben-Haim** - Founder, Executive and Creative Director of CITYarts. “Through this initiative, their creativity becomes a national symbol of active hope.”

This bold initiative will build on the success of the globally recognized CITYarts *Pieces for Peace* project, which emerged after 9/11 and has empowered youth to create over 12,000 pieces of art in **126 countries**, inspiring 7 international Peace Walls to date.

Founded by Tsipi Ben-Haim 36 years ago, CITYarts (www.cityarts.org) has been credited as a pioneering force in the contemporary mural movement. Its goal is to transform young people and urban communities through the universal language of art into actively involved individuals.

CITYarts, through the efforts of its Board of Directors, staff, and network of supporters, has created over 380 public projects locally and globally, positively impacting more than 100,000 students and 200,000 volunteers. More than 600 contributing artists have lent their time and energy to help participating young people transform their communities for the better.

CITYarts programs are structured to activate the imaginations of youth, providing them with creative platforms to develop greater personal empowerment and real-world connections, gain life skills, amplify their voices, and stimulate their curiosity and creativity.



ABOUT CITYarts

Founded in New York City 36 years ago by Tsipi Ben-Haim, CITYarts has been a pioneering force in the global youth mural movement. Its mission is to **empower youth through the arts to transform communities and build a better world**. With over **380 public projects**, **600+ collaborating artists**, and the participation of more than **100,000 students** and **200,000 volunteers worldwide**, CITYarts fosters creativity, leadership, and community engagement through hands-on public art.

CITYarts' five signature programs include:

- ***Community Identity*** – Designing murals that reflect the cultural diversity of the neighborhoods.
- ***Global HeART Warming*** – Youth explore ideas on how to stop the speed of climate change through art.
- ***Young Minds Build Bridges*** – Fostering intercultural understanding through peace-based art.
- ***Kids for Justice*** – Exploring equity and justice through creativity.
- ***Windows of Opportunity*** – Education connecting youth with professional pathways in art.

The organization has been recognized by NYC leadership and international institutions alike. **William Bratton**, former NYPD Commissioner, honored CITYarts for “making New York City safer for kids through the power of art.”

ABOUT TSIPI BEN-HAIM

Ben-Haim has been hailed for her leadership in public art and as an effective “Ambassador of Peace” by leaders of the United Nations and heads of countries where CITYarts has developed initiatives. Founder and Chairman of the UN Global Partnerships Forum and former Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, Amir Dossal, called Ben-Haim a “truly global citizen and a model international diplomat...We must engage our youth in positive projects, so they’ll be actively involved in impacting their future for the better. Her belief has become a reality with CITYarts as the catalyst.”

For more information, to get involved, or to support the **National Peace Wall in Washington, DC**, please visit www.cityarts.org or contact us at info@cityarts.org.

