

Shaping New Hampshire Together

A Mural by Jim Parker, 2024



About the Mural

As the artist and staff of the Endowment for Health came together to discuss the painting's design, engendering a sense of belonging in a vibrant New Hampshire quickly became a central theme. This "Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world" is the core condition within the Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being (1). Carrying this further the artist endeavored to represent each condition in this model.



Figures throughout the mural can be seen cutting out, unfolding and unfurling shapes in their own likeness. This symbolizes how Granite Staters enhance their communities through diversity and self-determination.



About the Artist

Jim is an innovative designer and skilled fabricator who attributes his mural skills to the tutelage of fellow muralists Eric Grohe and Mike Durkee and to his lifelong art teacher Joan Feierabend. Jim built upon his skill set as a creative project leader during his own incarceration in the New Hampshire State Prison, creating murals, theater productions, and music. Since then, Jim started In the Paint Projects and began collaborating with various local organizations throughout New Hampshire to bring art and creativity to communities of all kinds. He specializes in creating programs that serve under-served populations, bringing people of different backgrounds together to create something meaningful. To learn more and see more of his work visit www.inthepaintprojects.com.

We see young learners and community gatherings immersed in the thriving natural world of our state. The silhouetted mountain range in the background is inspired by views seen from the peaks of the White Mountains, or Woban-aden-ok, meaning “to the place of the high white or crystal/mica mountains” in the Algonquian language(2). The lake and hills radiating from the mural's center are based on Lake Ossipee and the Ossipee Mountains, named after the indigenous Ossipee who lived on its shores.



From the mill buildings of Manchester, converted to apartments, to the steeped silhouette of North Conway, to our rural communities, an array of housing is portrayed in the mural. Reliable transportation is portrayed with personal vehicles, bicycles, and public transportation. Simple silhouettes of buildings reflect the housing created from the conversion of the mill buildings prominent in the formation of our communities. In the center of the mural is a silhouette of the Harriet Wilson Statue located in Milford on the Black Heritage Trail NH. Wilson “...was the first known Black woman to publish a novel in North America.” (www.blackheritagetrailnh.org).



Whether it's in the images of a community barbecue, hikers on the White Mountains, people rallying at the statehouse, or neighbors coming together in vibrant communities, we hope this mural inspires you. Join us in our efforts to continue shaping welcoming and healthy communities in New Hampshire where each member feels a sense of belonging and the power to shape their world.

(1) <https://rippel.org/vital-conditions/>

(2) <https://indigenousoh.com/2018/12/06/the-wobanadenok/>