

Bear Valley International School Wins Denver Mural Contest, Bringing Student's Art to Life

DENVER - Bear Valley International School has won a Denver Public Schools-wide mural competition sponsored by UnitedHealthcare, earning a professionally designed mural on its campus this spring. The mural contest was an extra incentive of Rise Above Colorado's *Fill Your World with Good* sticker design competition, which encouraged middle and high school students across the state to create original artwork promoting positive choices. Bear Valley International School won by submitting the highest number of entries, showcasing strong student engagement in the competition.

Nearly 750 students submitted entries statewide, with professional artists selecting the following winners in four categories:

- Middle School Traditional Art – Josie Rigridge (Denver) *Also People's Choice Award Winner
- Middle School Digital Art – Kaydence Seabert (Hayden)
- High School Traditional Art – Sophie Gremillion (Westminster)
- High School Digital Art – Kimora Wells (Denver)

Winners were honored at the #IRiseAbove Celebration at Redline Contemporary Art Center on Thursday, February 27. Rise Above Colorado is now working with students and staff to develop the mural's youth-driven design, which students will help paint in early May.

"Our recently commissioned Rise Above Colorado Youth Survey showed that only 59% of students are feeling connected to their school communities, a declining trend since the pandemic," said Rise Above Colorado executive director Kent MacLennan. "Feeling a sense of connection to others is a proven protective factor that reduces risky behavior among youth. Mural projects like this, where staff and students come together with common purpose, are great vehicles for reversing this trend."

"At UnitedHealthcare, we believe in fostering strong, healthy communities by supporting opportunities that inspire and empower young people," said Marc Neely, UnitedHealthcare of Colorado. "This mural project is more than just art—it's about giving students a creative outlet to express themselves, build connections, and promote positive choices. We're proud to partner with Rise Above Colorado to help bring this vision to life and support youth engagement across Denver Public Schools."

Rise Above Colorado, a nonprofit focused on youth substance use prevention, has helped create nearly 60 murals across the state to foster creativity and connection. To see past murals or get involved, visit riseaboveco.org.

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Photo captions:

1. **Group photo of contest winners:** *The winners of Rise Above Colorado's Fill Your World with Good sticker design contest celebrate their achievement at the #IRiseAbove Celebration at Redline Contemporary Art Center on February 27. (L-R) Josie Rigridge (Denver), Kaydence Seabert (Hayden), Sophie Gremillion (Westminster), and Kimora Wells (Denver) were recognized for their creative designs promoting positive choices.*



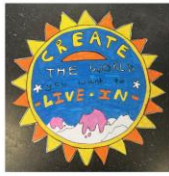
2.

3. **Photo of four winning stickers:** *The four winning sticker designs from Rise Above Colorado's Fill Your World with Good contest, created by (L-R) Josie Rigridge (Denver), Kaydence Seabert (Hayden), Sophie Gremillion (Westminster), and Kimora Wells (Denver). Nearly 750 students statewide submitted entries celebrating creativity and positive choices.*

FILL YOUR WORLD WITH GOOD
STICKER CONTEST WINNERS

Josephine

Middle School - Traditional Art



Kaydence

Middle School - Digital Art



Sophie

High School - Traditional Art



Kimora

High School - Digital Art



4.

5. **Photo of Rise Above's 50th mural:** *Rise Above Colorado celebrates its 50th mural, a vibrant outdoor artwork designed and painted in collaboration with local youth. This milestone project is part of the organization's ongoing effort to inspire connection, creativity, and positive choices among young people across Colorado.*



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