

“Love Warriors”- The Mural

Our group – Jean McDonald, Jill Gerichter, Meredith Jarocki, and Aubrey Newton – has created a mural based around the theme of “love-warriors.” This overall mural image includes a symbolic representation of a female central figure, “Artemis the Hunter.” There are mountains in the background, evergreen trees, a silhouette of a bird, a waxing crescent moon on Artemis' forehead, a compass, and light emanating from Artemis' heart. We wanted to depict light coming from her heart to symbolize our central theme of “eye on the prize”, with regards to Artemis shooting an arrow towards the compass in the sky. Additionally, we wanted to signify that – moving forward as professional counselors and healers – we want to keep our sight in a healing, wholesome direction in front of us. Specifically, towards love and connection with, not only humanity, but all of life.

The process of developing our mural involved several steps. First, we were assigned smaller groups and shared art images based on a guided meditation that reflected our time at Southwestern College. From there, we talked about themes and symbols we would like to include in the mural, collectively deciding on significant symbols to incorporate. The second meeting included the discussion around the idea of “eye on the prize”, the new paradigm we are stepping into, realizing the key to our journey requires our open hearts, and honoring ourselves as love warriors, by honoring the path that has led us to where we are now, presently. We chose various elemental symbols to show our connection to humanity, Mother Nature and all life force. At our last zoom meeting, we finalized our mural image from a drawing that one of our members created from the shared original collective drawing completed in meeting two. The out of town member created a moon, bird and compass stencil used in the painting process of the mural. She also contributed a rose heart quartz and broken mirror pieces that were used as stars in the sky. Lastly, we painted and completed our mural in one day. While painting, the out of town member simultaneously created several art pieces, sharing them with the group throughout the day. Painters of the mural shared images of the various stages and completion of the mural.

We hope that our mural offers inspiration to Southwestern College community and all visitors regarding doing one's best for the betterment of all and for the highest good, while staying true to oneself, heart centered, and keeping our aims elevated, guiding our path forward.