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Greenfield Recreation Director Christy Moore with the “paint by numbers” version adapted from the children’s mural art next to it that children will paint on Saturday.

Students create mural for downtown Greenfield

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GREENFIELD — Downtown Greenfield will soon get a new streetscape mural, created by 40 students who participated in a weeklong program put on by the town’s Recreation Department.

Under the direction of Shelburne Falls-based artist David Serotkin, the students created a paper collage utilizing positive and negative space, which will be transferred onto a mural board and then hand-painted by the students. The finished piece will then be installed on the Davis Street side of the Greenfield Community College Foundation downtown building on Main Street.

“It’s just really cool to involve local artists and have youth to expand our cultural landscape,” Recreation Director Christy Moore said. “We have some crosswalks and some other murals downtown, but it’s just really cool to have the kids involved in beautify-

ing the downtown.”

The students began working on the project over February vacation and will finish the painting this month, with a spring installation date that has yet to be determined. The artwork is being done through the Recreation Department’s Community Kids Bringing Art to the Heart of Greenfield Mural Project, part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Adams Grant Program.

Moore said, “We took all those collages and blended them together to make what looks like a streetscape of things that were important to the kids,” she said, adding the finished 3-by-16-foot piece includes cars, buses, trees and snowmen, as well as geographic shapes in the sky.

The kids will return this month to finish painting the mural, which will be done by a paint-by-number system.

Serotkin was selected, Moore said, because of his extensive work with murals, including working with students in Philadelphia through its

recreation program.

“That was a pretty amazing find,” she said.

She added once the piece is installed, a frame will be placed around it so it matches the building.

“I had never seen an artist turn something that a kid makes in a collage format into a mural, so that was really exciting to see that process,” she said.

New project starting over April vacation

The Recreation Department will also hold another community art project over April vacation for students to paint parking meters, which will be installed downtown. Moore said there are still spaces available for students to sign up.

For more information, visit greenfieldrecreation.com.

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