

March To Equality

An Arts @ Large Exhibition

On display at
Gallery @ Large
from

April 20 to
July 19, 2012



Arts @ Large

- Arts @ Large is a non-profit organization that partners with artists and community organizations to provide innovative multidisciplinary arts experiences for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) K-12 students.
- In April, 2011, Arts @ Large opened a gallery in Walkers Point.



Arts @ Large received the
2012 Arts Education
Award from Americans for
the Arts.

On April 20, 2012,
on Milwaukee Gallery Night, Arts @ Large opened
the **MARCH TO EQUALITY** exhibition.



This student-created exhibition was the result of the research and design work of students from **Northwest**

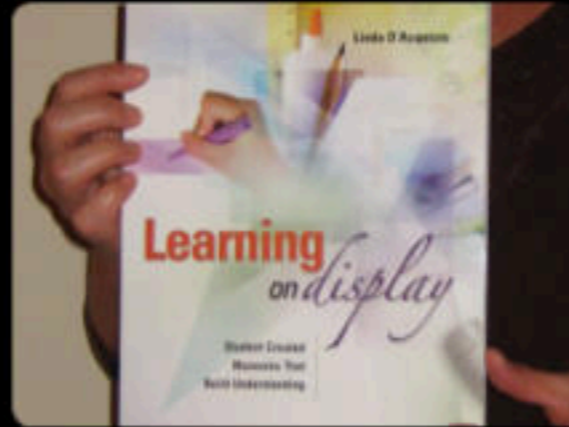
**Opportunities
Vocational
Academy (NOVA)
Middle and High
School** led by their
teacher, Kelly Di
Giacinto.

Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Students learned history content as researchers, designers, label copy writers, and docents,



utilizing the Kid Curator process outlined in

Learning on Display: Student Created Museums that Build Understanding by Linda D'Acquisto (ASCD, 2006).

See kidcurators.com for more information about the instructional process.



Thanks to students, teachers, and administrators from Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy (NOVA) for their work on this exhibition.

Teacher, Kelly Di Giacinto

Collaborators:

Dr. Jasmine Alinder, Professor of Public History at UW-Milwaukee

Jane Avner, Docent, Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Trevor Berman, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digitization Specialist

Dr. Shirley Butler-Derge, Community Activist

Dr. Michael Doylen, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Archives Department Head

Ellen Engseth, UW-Milwaukee Academic Archivist

Ellie Gettinger, Educator, Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Dr. Bob Kann, Author and Historian

Dr. Jay Larkey, Community Activist

Prentice McKinney, Community Activist

Sheri Williams Pannell, Artist Educator

Vel Phillips, Milwaukee Alderperson, Milwaukee County Judge, Wisconsin Secretary of State, Community Activist

Bonnie Pionke, Division of Technology, Milwaukee Public Schools

Jennifer Pelzek, Photographer

Margaret Rozga, Community Activist

Dr. Arijit Sen, Professor of Architecture at UW-Milwaukee

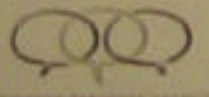
Steve Wirtz, Sculptor

Zach Zdun, UW-Milwaukee Intern, Architecture Department

Many community collaborators made this project possible.

Ryan Hurley, of Arts @ Large, organized this group of collaborators.

Students worked with professors from UW-Milwaukee, activists from the movement, and local artists.



Sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council



Dr. Gregory Thornton, Superintendent

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Libraries Archives Department

March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project, Digital Collection

Led by teacher, Kelly Di Giacinto, students began the process in the classroom, with research.

Dr. Bob Kann, historian and author, provided students with guidance on how to conduct research.



University of Wisconsin –
Milwaukee Libraries Archives
Department

Students studied primary source materials
from the digital collection,

March On Milwaukee

(<http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/digilib/march/>)

Students visited the UW-Milwaukee Library Archives, and studied professional museums.



Ellen Engseth, UW-Milwaukee Academic Archivist taught students how to use the digital collection, March On Milwaukee.

Jasmine Alinder, UW-Milwaukee Public History Professor (and on the project team of the March On Milwaukee website) examined Milwaukee Public Museum exhibits with students.



Students conducted interviews
with activists from the
Milwaukee Civil Rights
movement of the 1960s,

including...



Vel Phillips

The first woman and African-American to be elected to the Milwaukee Common Council. Vel Phillips introduced The Fair Housing Ordinance.





Jay Larkey

A physician who opened and operated a free clinic at St. Boniface Parish to treat the medical needs of the marchers and protestors.





Shirley Butler-Derge

Member of the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council from the age of 12; later to become one of the leaders.





Margaret Rozga

Member of the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and active in the fair housing protests. Margaret Rozga later married Father James Groppi.





Prentice McKinney

Member of the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and leader of the Commandos, the security division of the NAACP Youth Council.

Students constructed exhibits to communicate their new knowledge.



Students synthesized their research findings, brainstormed exhibit ideas, and developed an exhibition plan with Linda D'Acquisto, Kid Curators.

FATHER JAMES GROPPI

Father James Groppi is considered to be one of the most influential members of the Milwaukee Civil Rights Movement. Born and raised in Milwaukee he became a priest at St. Boniface Parish and soon after the advisor of the NAACP Youth Council. Under Father Groppi's leadership, the NAACP Youth Council and Commandos joined forces with Vel Phillips and put Milwaukee's fair housing struggle on the map. He would be a strong and charismatic voice of the movement throughout the marches and protests. Father Groppi's technique was to flush racial injustice out into the open and force white society to confront these demons.

Later in life, Father Groppi would resign from his position as advisor to allow the NAACP Youth Council the opportunity to govern itself. After being excommunicated from the Catholic church he married Margaret Rozga, had a family, and became a Milwaukee County bus driver. When asked about his career as a bus driver Father Groppi replied "This bus has become my parish, and the riders my brothers and sisters in Christ."

Students wrote labels for their exhibits. Public History Professor, Jasmine Alinder, reviewed student writing for historical accuracy.





Pat Bridges, NOVA co-director, led student protest and musical performances.



Sheri Williams Pannell, Artist Educator, led student drama performances.

Students created performance pieces for the Opening Event including a mock demonstration, musical performances of protest songs, Readers' Theatre readings and other dramatizations.



Students prepared to be docents by developing key points, stories, and “hooks” to engage visitors in a “training” led by Linda D’Acquisto. They practiced their docent skills with one another by pairing up to offer “tours” and answering peer and teacher questions.