



edmonds
ARTS COMMISSION

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“Rise Above” Rises On The Fence

Color and form emerged in the sunshine as Dustin Whaley, 17, of Marysville created the second On The Fence temporary public art installation sponsored by the Edmonds Arts Commission on Thursday July 5. Working for five hours on site at the city owned fence outside ArtWorks at 2nd & Dayton, Whaley used spray paint to create a 4’ x 20’ artwork called “Rise Above.” Although an experienced graffiti artist, Whaley was challenged to translate his art which is generally done on a more porous wood or concrete surface to create a temporary installation using spray paint on the slick surface of sign vinyl. Whaley has studied with artists Mary Peterson and Henri Wilson in the Reclaiming Futures PAIR Art Program. Along with mentor Margaret Howard, they assisted with his application for the temporary art project.

The artist states that the theme of his artwork is “Rise Above”. “I hope to give the message to people that you can rise above your past. I want to give hope to other people, especially kids. The balloons in my artwork are rising up from the dark to the light. Balloons represent happiness, childhood memories, and innocence. Balloons rise, and so can we! This idea originated from my experiences as an artist from being criminalized for my art to learning how to use my art to give back to the community and others.” When he was five years old, Dustin was seriously injured in a car accident. After several years in a wheelchair, he was eventually able to walk, then finally able to run and even skateboard. The red balloons symbolize difficult parts of life, such as his car accident. The yellow balloons symbolize the good parts of life, which Dustin sees happening more and more as he emerges from his past.

The City of Edmonds Arts Commission offers an ongoing opportunity for regional artists to create temporary outdoor art installations on the City owned fence at 201 2nd Ave S. Interested artists should review the guidelines at www.edmondsartscommission.org under Public Art or call 425-771-0228.