

New Mural in Grace Garden

Entitled *Sunrise Gratitude*, a new mural now adorns UMC's well-loved community garden. Inspiration for the mural came from the original peoples of this area and a teacher at Plainfield Elementary School in Esparto who worked under the guidance of UC Davis muralist, Prof. Jose Arenas. Marisela Featherstone, a graduate from the Native American Studies Dept. at UCD, helped work on the original mural and shared a photo of it with Ann Liu. This helped her 13 year old granddaughter, Lelia Braester, to design and paint a rising sunflower mural. Working with a window in the middle of the shed wall was the greatest challenge. "It was perfect to put it as part of the sun," she says. "I've never worked on anything so big. I'm so glad to have had a chance to do this before going home to Seattle." She and her 13 year old cousin, Soraya Rivera from Davis, worked in tandem on another mural and it is to be completed sometime this fall.

Adding art and music to the garden scene has been one of the goals set by the Grace Garden Transition Team. As the first year ends this month, we hope you take a walk through the community garden. From the driveway side, you can see a "stump wall" painted in earth tones to represent the soil strata from which much of life comes. The waves of color were inspired by Steven Charleston's book *Ladder to the Light*. Looking past the garden beds, you can see the *Sunrise Gratitude* mural which title is taken from the book of the same title by Emily Silva. Volunteers at the garden often begin the work day with a meditation reading from this book. Truly we are so grateful to be welcomed into this space to grow together in community.



Lelia Braester – Muralist, grade 8



Esparto Elementary School mural by Marisela Featherstone and Jose Arenas