**Grantee Name:**
Elizabeth “Betsy” Logan

**Title of Project:**
Reading + Writing + Art = Recycling
“A public installation project for Auburn Junior High”

**City, State:**
Auburn, Alabama

**Grant Period**
January 2010-April 2011

**NAEF Grant Amount:**
$2500.00 (Teacher Incentive)

**Project Contact:**
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**Related Webpage:**
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**Panel Three of the Five Panel installation**

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**Project Description:**
Students rarely get the opportunity to create art as a part of a public installation. In order to give the students in my school the chance to create art for a public installation I worked with all 8th grade teachers to incorporate an art project into the curriculum that resulted in a traveling public installation exhibition. This project taught art as an ongoing bridge to visual education beyond the typical framed art work of a student show. The population that was served by this project was the 545 eighth grade students at Auburn Junior High School. This included but was not limited to gifted, special needs, English Language Learners, minority, and at-risk students. At the time of this project only 85 students in the eighth grade were enrolled in a visual arts class. The 420 who were missing an important part of their education by not being involved in the visual arts took part in this creative art process. The population also included educators, community members, the local art museum and arts center.

**Project Goals and Objectives:**
Working with the academic teachers, lessons were developed to: help students write about ways to share their concerns about the environment and recycling through personal stories, identify the pressing environmental concerns in our state, and learn about painting and public exhibits as they have evolved throughout history and experiment with a new form of expression, painting on blue jeans. Students investigated ways that art influences the fashions they wear and how art can be used to make social statements. Students learned how to develop and establish a public installation of the painted blue jeans. Teachers and students worked with public officials to locate venues in which to display their completed art work. Local nature agencies were invited to come and speak to the students about the environment. Local artists worked with the students in manipulating the artists materials used to complete the project.

**Description of Activities Supported by this Grant.**

*Working with academic teachers* – Teachers tied their lessons into the environmental awareness theme of this project. English teachers helped the students write stories about their concerns for the environment, recycling and personal stories. Social Studies teachers worked with students on the history of the environment and incorporated what they learned into their social studies class. Science teachers worked with the students on scientific evidence of identifying local environmental threats, endangered species and local flora and fauna. *Students investigated ways that art influences their lives and worked with local artists* – The artist in residence shared stories with them about installation projects, fashion consciousness, environmental art and ways that these have affected the students and people she has worked with. Visiting artists came to classes a few months preceding this activity to discuss how art influenced their lives and careers. *Students reflected about the environment and expressed their ideas* The students wrote stories in their English class telling their grandchildren what the environment was like when they were in junior high school and how it compares to the environment in the future. The students took used blue jeans, used recycled materials whenever possible and painted them with a theme towards environmental awareness. Local Artists, Environmentalists, Teachers, the Superintendent and the Principal helped select the work included in the traveling exhibition. A secondary exhibition was held locally with the remaining blue jeans. The first exhibition was at the annual Auburn City Fest. Over 10,000 people visited this venue.
Results: Lessons Learned or Findings of Research
How do we measure the success of a project of this scope? We will let it travel and watch the impact. Right now, all the students are very proud to point out their pieces in the installation, and the beaming faces as they stopped in during the last two days to see it getting pulled together is something we will never forget. When the panels were displayed at Auburn City Fest, many students brought their parents and had their pictures made in front of their work. Several parents commented that they never knew their child liked art and this opened their eyes to the world around them. They commented that their student said that participating in the artist in residence project was the best two days of their school year. This installation was shown at the 2011 Alabama Art Education Association Convention and many teachers expressed interest in doing a project similar to this. Thanks go to Auburn Junior High school and all the volunteers who so kindly donated their time and facilities to this project and a final thanks to the National Art Education Foundation for believing in me and granting me the money to do this.

Impact of Receiving this Grant:
The impact of receiving this grant was enormous. Without the grant, this project would not have been completed. The effect it had on the students at Auburn Junior High School and our community was enormous. The installation is currently on exhibit in our hallway and students are excited to show others the work that they did last year. It has helped me to get other art teachers and members of NAEA interested in applying for National Art Education Foundation grants as well. Being able to use the money to share my love of art with students had a great impact on my art program. Many students are wondering what we are going to be doing next. There have been several requests for our installation to be displayed at local museums around the state and I am currently in discussions to make this possible.

Grantee Biography:
Elizabeth “Betsy” Logan is an art teacher at Auburn Junior High School in Auburn Alabama. She has been teaching art for 32 years, 8 years in Victoria Texas, 4 years in Opelika, Alabama and 20 years at Auburn Junior High School. She received her BS in Art Education from Auburn University, M.ED from the University of Houston-Victoria and she is a National Board Certified Art Teacher. She has received numerous awards among them; 1996 NAEA National Middle Level Art Educator of the Year and the 2011 NAEA Marion Quinn Dix Leadership Award. She has served on the board of the National Art Education Association and currently serves on the board of the Alabama Art Education Association.

About the National Art Education Foundation
NAEF supports visual art educators and promotes the teaching of art through professional development, research, and program sponsorship. As an independent, philanthropic organization, NAEF assists with efforts to represent the teachers of art in America, improve the conditions of teaching art; promote the teaching of art; encourage research and experimentation in art education; sponsor institutes, conferences, and programs on art education; and to publish articles, reports, and surveys about art. The Foundation has supported 246 projects since its inception in 1985. NAEF funding supports a wide variety of professional activities, including research in art education, scholarships for professional development, promotion of art education as an integral part of the curriculum; establishment and/or improvement of art instruction in public and private K-16 schools; promotion of the teaching of art through activities related to the instructional process, curriculum, student learning, student assessment, classroom behavior, management, or discipline; purchase of art equipment and/or instructional resources. Donations in support of NAEF, a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization, are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

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