

DEAN DAVIS '96

Nominated by: Jeffrey Ziviski

I am nominating Dean Davis for the Clay High School Distinguished Hall of Fame. As an artist, after years of grinding, he was able to quit his railroad job and focus on his artistry. He has quickly become the best artist in NW Ohio, and easily best artist to come out of Clay High School. His more recent claim to fame was being the crew lead artist on the Glass City River wall (grain silos along the river), bring lots of positive publicity to the area and always spotlighting Clay High School as where he started his journey.

Though his company Art Farm LLC, he has become a staple of decorating and designing the landscape of Toledo by painting murals all over the city in parks, on overpasses, and all over them having a higher meaning of positivity as well as an educational component. His work has blossomed and taken him to other cities like New Washington, OH and Bloomville, OH where he has painted murals for veterans in those cities. Not only is Dean's work famous on Ohio, but he has recently been flown to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to do work for the city on a community art installment for veterans.

Since 2021, he has completed and sold over 650 painting for local and national interest and completed over 130 murals. He painted the "Helping Hands of Mercy" in the outside café area of Mercy St. Charles Hospital to provide them with a relaxing place to relax and unwind from the stressful work of being a healthcare worker. Dean is also working with Oregon Schools to repurpose covid barriers that were used in the school during covid and create artwork with the student's involvement thru the Oregon Schools foundation.

Dean continually gives back to his community by offering art classes to Oregon's "Paint Your Voice" charity program as well as being a volunteer art teacher for the juvenile court program in Toledo.

Dean is a mentor and role model for many, and Oregon City Schools and Clay High School should be honored to add Dean Davis to its Distinguished Hall of Fame as the most prolific and accomplished artist to graduate from Clay.

Below are articles or news highlights that not only helps tell the story of who Dean is but how he brought positive publicity to Oregon City schools. Additionally, I have attached is a detailed summary of some of his work.

<https://voyageohio.com/interview/rising-stars-meet-dean-davis-of-toledo-ohio/>

<https://nbc24.com/news/local/toledo-mural-artist-paints-wall-portrait-of-damia-ezell>

<https://www.bcanarts.com/abstract-with-allie-ray-dean-davis-feature/>

<https://www.glasscityriverwall.org/about-the-mural>

<https://www.wtol.com/article/news/local/toledo-artists-create-mural-to-honor-fallen-officer-anthony-dia/512-442fa7cb-616f-4e33-ab02-dc4373ac2b79>

<https://nbc24.com/news/local/glass-city-river-wall-mural-update>

DEAN DAVIS

Since 1996, Dean Davis has worked with a wide variety of mediums and has excelled in airbrushing, tattooing and graphic media. Dean has spent many long days in local shops, bars, restaurants, gyms, churches, schools, barns etc., applying beauty through the strokes of his paintbrush and the waves of his spray paints. For 16 years, he honed his gift during his very minimal free time from his railroad employment, and was recently able to retire from the railroad to work full-time as an artist due to his passion, tenacity and determination. Dean spends most of his time on projects in the communities around him, but he also works from his home studio, where he not only hand-stretches his own canvases for private custom painting orders, but also welcomes a plethora of various items from clients to customize for them, from hockey helmets to motorcycles to children's sneakers. Dean has, many times over, donated his studio time and talent at no cost when he learned that the recipient of the order was a child. His LLC, Art Farm, is a for-profit company; however, from the outside looking in, one could very easily assume it to be a non-profit company considering how many projects leave his hands empty, without any reimbursement other than the personal fulfillment Dean achieves through this professional altruism. The entirety of his career as an artist consistently manifests his passion for bettering his community through its children, or as he calls them, "the reason why."

The following is a list of projects to which Dean has donated his time and talents; a list which substantiates the above statements and exemplifies how productively Dean would use this grant if approved:

- -Camp Picasso; event by Tenacity Toledo; reference Kayla Kowalski, tenacitytoledo@gmail.com
- -McKinley STEMM Academy – Playground paintin; reference Christina Ramsey, cramsey@tps.org
- -Marshal Elementary – Artist volunteer
- -Week long workshop for local church 2002
- -Ironville Garden Park
- -Diana Mural Volunteer, to combat violence
- -Smilie Mural volunteer, to beautify intercity toledo
- -Education presentation for Maumee River Silo Project
- -Helmets for Baby Helmets Group
- -Free Airbrushing for amputees' prosthetics,

List of Projects

- -lead artist for the Glass city River wall
- -art director for the Vistuala district redesign (Ostrich Town)
- -volunteer art teacher for charity program in Oregon Ohio (Paint your Voice)
- -volunteer art teacher for juvenile court program in Toledo Ohio

- -teaming up with veteran organization in Fort Lauderdale Florida for a community art installment to allow the community help in all areas of public service
- -2021, over 300 painting for local and national interest
- -2022, over 150 painting for local and national interest
- -2023, over 200 painting for local and national interest
- -Murals for Veterans in New Washington Ohio
- -Murals for Veterans in Bloomville Ohio
- -Mural for the local Police athletic League to combat the violence in the Toledo Area
- -Private Painting for Karen Clark (gospel singer) for world's largest church gathering Woman in Power
- only artist in the United States to be willing to redo the West Minister Church Project, Toledo, Ohio
- mural Project in junction with the Junction Coalition to create awareness of water issues in Toledo, Ohio
- -2023, kids Project with LMHA and Gunkel Park to create a urban Gallery for intercity kids to express feels of their community

Volunteer

- -volunteer Project with Special Space, to donate murals for children with cancer
- -volunteer mural at Promedica Children Cancer unit to encourage positive art instalment while in treatment
- -2023, mural work at historic metro park overpass
- -2023, mural work at historic Stock Mills
- -Artist in residence Program at Toledo school for the Arts, December 2023, with over 30 pieces of artwork
- created by myself to show the side covid that the children experienced.
- -designed interior artwork for several local restaurants
- -2023,mural work for elementary school in Columbus Ohio
- -Total Murals for 2023, 78
- -Total murals for 2022, 42
- -Total murals for 2021, 15