We. The Culture: Works by The Eighteen Art Collective, is a year-long exhibition featuring works by a group of 18 Indianapolis-based Black artists who were commissioned to paint the Black Lives Matter street mural on Indiana Avenue in August 2020. The exhibition showcases their works as individual artists and creative professionals.

Explore the Artwork
What do you first notice about the art in the exhibition? How are the works of art similar and different?
What themes do you recognize? Describe one that stands out to you and explain why.

Explore

See Collaboration
Watch the video about the Black Lives Matter street mural.
How do the artists work collaboratively and impact the community?
Why is public art important?

Meet the Artists
What do you like about artists? How do you relate to them?
Watch the videos of the artists. Choose one and find their artwork in the exhibition.
How do the artist’s words deepen your understanding of their art?

Make Connections
Do you see yourself as an artist? How are you creative?
Describe or draw colors, lines, patterns, symbols, images and ideas that represent you as an individual.

Find more resources connected to this exhibition at https://discovernewfields.org/wetheculture
Studio Art Making Activity

After visiting the *We. The Culture: Works by the Eighteen Art Collective* exhibition at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, you will have a new visual understanding of the 18 artists who are featured and the work they create as individuals. Use this as inspiration to create your own artwork.

Materials List

- 8”x 8” canvas
- Oil Pastels
- Pencil
- Ruler

Instructions

1. Draw a large, geometric block letter that stretches to each corner of your canvas. Use straight lines to make the letter a geometric shape. Use your own first initial, this artwork is about you as an individual artist. In Example 1, you will see an example with the letter K.

2. Use the oil pastels to create designs inside your letter. Use shapes and colors that YOU enjoy and speak to you as an artist.

3. Create a contrasting design in the negative space around the geometric letter.

4. When you are finished, display your letter with other students to create a unique collective artwork. The geometric lines and shapes help to create a unified piece, similar to a quilt design.

Social Emotional Learning Connection

By asking students to use their own initial, own designs, and own color selections, they can see themselves as the individual artist. Then, when their artworks are displayed together, all of them maintain their individuality while also becoming a creative artwork together. This project opens opportunities for students to work on self-awareness (using designs/colors/initials that resonate to them), as well as social awareness when a group of students’ artworks appear together.