



"We Create Together": Uprise Gallery Opens its Doors to Celebrate South Whidbey's Youthful Artistic Spirit

(For Immediate Release) April 3, 2024, Langley, WA – Calling all art enthusiasts and supporters of youth creativity! The wait is over – Langley is thrilled to announce the grand opening of the Uprise Gallery, a brand-new space dedicated to nurturing the artistic talents of South Whidbey Island's youth on **Apr 20, 2024**.

This event highlights a year-plus journey of collaboration between Readiness To Learn, Langley Arts Fund, Langley Creates, Campus Stewards, and Woodhaven High School. Frank Rose, the visionary 94-year-old president of the Langley Arts Fund, and the partners recognized the need for more opportunities for youth in visual arts beyond school. Together, they've established the Uprise Gallery, a space dedicated to empowering and inspiring future artists.

The Uprise Gallery: Youth Art Education Space provides an extensive program covering drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic design, and photography. This initiative fosters artistic exploration and prepares students with the necessary knowledge and skills for the art world. Their creations will be featured in the Uprise Gallery in the South Whidbey Community Center's Grand Hall, offering a stage to highlight their talent and engage with the broader community.

"Research shows that kids who engage in art are happier, mentally healthier, more innovative, and stronger academically," says Gail LaVassar, Director of South Whidbey Community Center and Co-Executive Director of Readiness To Learn. "Uprise Gallery fosters a creative environment where young people can thrive and discover their artistic potential."

"We Create Together: Celebrating Youth + Art" features a unique collection of paintings created outdoors by local youth during the pandemic. Mentored by local artist Melissa Koch, these works and the artists' statements offer a powerful glimpse into the creative spirit that blossomed even during challenging times.

Mark your calendars for the grand opening of Uprise Gallery's inaugural exhibition, "We Create Together: Celebrating Youth + Art," on Saturday, April 20th, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at the South Whidbey Community Center. This inspiring exhibition will unveil the new gallery and introduce the community to the exceptional youth art program.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate the artistic spark in Langley's youth and be a part of this exciting new chapter in the community's cultural landscape! Visit ReadinesstToLearn.org to

learn about this and other art events happening at South Whidbey Community Center the weekend of April 20th

About Readiness To Learn

Readiness To Learn is a non-profit organization in Langley, Washington, that partners with schools, communities, and families. We aim to help students reach their potential and thrive, regardless of their circumstances. readinesstolearn.org

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