

# Keller Regional Park Mural

## Artist's Statement

"Aleya Berry & Layla Nerayo use their art as a way to give voice to communities that are silenced. As Black Women experiencing the disparities our communities go through, we see how time and time again we fight, yet we are silenced. Our art is a way of activism, and making space for our community and other communities we are not a part of.

We find that hearing people's stories and experiences are important. So we put their stories in our works. To create welcoming spaces for these communities, a voice for these communities and start the uncomfortable conversations that need to be had for us to progress as a society.

The piece we are currently prepping for tackles the relationship between nature and creativity along with black representation. The main message of the piece is to free yourself through creation. As mother nature freed her soul by creating us, our ancestors freed themselves and soon excelled. So many times, we get stuck because of discrimination and unfair generational traumas passed down to us. But through this we can tap into our creativity to free ourselves from the struggles dealt with daily; internally and externally from society. From this we can find the idea of getting lost with nature and reconnecting with our soul. The colorful people in the beginning represent the path we must follow to find the spark inside of us. The brown wiggles and straight lines represent curly hair and the history of relaxers; representing the black hair movement and confidence within our afros. The red colors represent redlining and the vines taking over representing our nonstop growth and rebellion against the systems put in place to bring us down. The woman at the bottom connects to the statement, "black hair grows towards the sun." It also represents the need for community and how one free mind can free the rest ("the rest" being that of the garden beneath the girl.)

We want to invite the community to help us paint this mural. The main message of the mural is freedom through creating. We want others to create with us to then go out into the community and continue creating for themselves and others."

# Concept Design





# Artist Examples of Work





"Know from whence you came  
If you know whence you came  
there are absolutely no  
limitations to where you can  
go."  
-James Baldwin

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