



The Edgehill Mural Reveal

By Betty White

Service-Learning Practitioner

Fifth graders at University School of Nashville exhibited their knowledge and learning to their parents, friends, and Edgehill residents on May 19 when they presented their Edgehill mural at the corner of Edgehill Avenue and 21st.

Fashioned after a monopoly board, the mural, designed by the students under the tutelage of doughjoe, a local muralist of *Norf Art Collective* follows the history of the Edgehill community. Their USN social studies teacher, Connie Fink, created this year-long unit so that students could all be personally involved in the process of studying their community. They took walking tours of the Jefferson Street and Edgehill communities, and interviewed residents while studying the rich history through personal interactions, ultimately understand more fully how communities work.

“Students became aware of how change that comes along with the rapid growth of a city can benefit and negatively affect certain sectors of its population,” commented Fink. Through this experience, students identified how the removal of people can, over time, impact the historical identity of a community. Students realized how Rev. Bill Barnes, the founder of the first all-inclusive church in Nashville, believed we should all be okay living next to people that don't look like us and learned about his push. The students wanted Rev. Barnes to be part of the "A Nashville for All" mural story. He and Cassandra Teague-Walker, the first African-American to attend Peabody Demonstration School, the predecessor of USN, are on the last panel of the mural representing the future they want for Nashville. Mrs. Teague-Walker commented, “In the 51 years since I attended Peabody Demonstration School, no one has asked me such questions as these children.”



Service-learning practitioners and teachers who are interested in learning more about this service-learning unit may view Connie Fink's website: www.usn.org/4all. Interested parties may view the mural in the underground parking garage at the corner of 21st and Edgehill Avenue.

[Volunteer Tennessee](http://www.volunteertennessee.net) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/volunteertennessee), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/volunteertennessee), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/volunteertennessee).