![Larimer Arts Association logo]

COWPARADE GRAZING GUIDE

Larimer Arts Association for
the *Cows in Schools* program

Larimer Arts Association (LAA) was selected to conduct this year's "Cows in Schools" program as part of its fourth installation of the internationally award-winning Project LEAD (LARIMER presents EMERGING ARTISTS of DENVER). More than 400 middle school students in Denver Public Schools (DPS) collaborated on the creation cows to be showcased in an unprecedented way – suspended from the wire system over Larimer Square. This is the first "flying cow" display ever undertaken in the history of CowParade.

What is Project LEAD?

Project LEAD gives young artists the experience of showing their art in downtown public venues and to be recognized for their emerging talents. The Larimer Arts Association, in conjunction with Denver Public Schools, annually commissions art projects for public display, and provides arts programs with art supplies and expertise for curricula to augment funding shortfalls and provide direction in new mediums.

Participation

Fifteen art classes from 12 Denver Public Schools and one DPS "superintendent team" headed by Michael Bennett transformed the cows, known as "mini-moos" – as each one is one-third the size of the cows in CowParade, weighing in at 30 pounds and measuring four feet long by three feet high – into incredible works of art. Work on the mini-moo collection began in February with students from across all quadrants of the DPS district:

- Lake Middle School
- Skinner Middle School
- Centennial K-8
- Greenlee K-8
- Kaiser K-6
- Denver School
  of the Arts (3 cows)
- Bruce Randolph Middle
  School
- Kunsmiller Middle School
- Kepner Middle School
- Place Middle School
- Slavens K-8
- Grant Middle School
- Superintendent team headed
  by Michael Bennett

Educational Outcomes

Under the guidance of Michael Rieger, art director for LAA, owner of Lapis Gallery and recipient of numerous awards for arts education, each participating team carefully created each mini-moo's identity – giving each a name, identity and personal story. Each class was required to articulate its theme and provide written accounts of why they selected it, what they learned from the project, and other accounts to enhance the educational landscape of the program.

Issue and Community Impact

Many middle and high schools' arts programs and materials have been drastically reduced to address DPS budget shortfalls. Through other programming such as Project LEAD, LAA is poised to offer arts options to those schools that lack such resources.

It is the core belief of LAA that exposure to the arts aids in many other areas of education and a child's growth. Its initiatives were developed with the knowledge that a well-rounded education is the cornerstone for success and will improve the quality of life for those in the community.

Project LEAD is produced by the Larimer Arts Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to arts education and awareness in downtown Denver. Its mission is to promote, stimulate and encourage the cultural welfare of Denver through interactive cultural events and cooperative arts programming for emerging artists. Other programming includes the award-winning La Piazza dell'Arte. LAA is a Denver SCFD Tier III organization.

Get Involved!

As an artist, educator, student, volunteer, sponsor or donor of Project LEAD, visit www.larimerarts.org.

Cows call it a herd. We call it Com-mooo-nity.

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