

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Respect
2023 Art Project

“Co-Creating Together”



500-GU021 R. 6/7/2023



In the Summer of 2022, I partnered with the Department's Diversity Advisory Council members and the Assistant Secretaries to create an art project to display at Headquarters. I asked them to think about what their hopes and dreams for equity, diversity, inclusion, and respect are at the Department of Corrections.

- This resulted in six beautiful art pieces, that were co-created with staff and justice-involved people at the following divisions and administrations: Budget Strategy & Technology, Community Corrections, Employee & Business Support Services, Health Services, Men's Prisons, Reentry, and Women's Prisons.

Beyond beauty, art is a form of expression, placemaking, and a way to bring people together. Each piece of artwork tells a compelling story and represents what staff and justice-involved people strive to demonstrate throughout the Department. The location of the art, at Headquarters across from my office, is symbolic of the importance that the Department recognizes in practicing equity, diversity, inclusion, and respect in all that we do.

I invite you to dream along with me and take actions to fully realize the Department of Corrections that we would like to see.

Cheryl² Strange
Secretary



Reentry Division

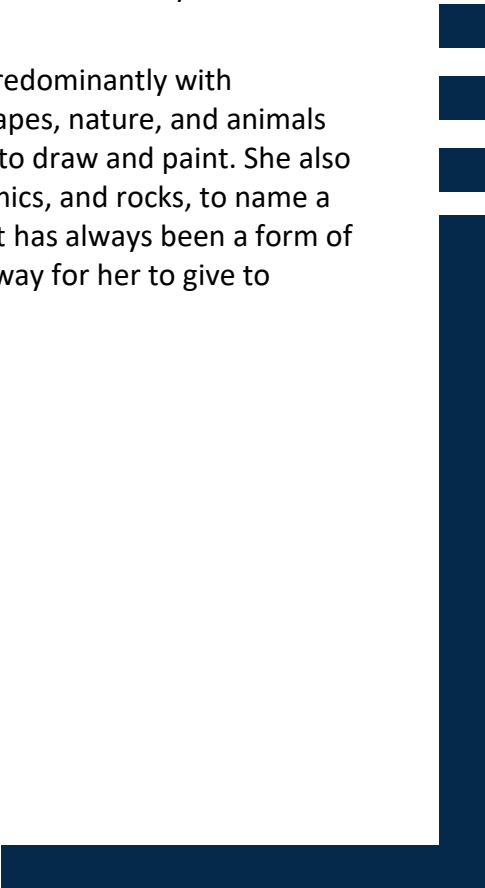
**“Making Good Neighbors”
by Correctional Industries
Specialist Kimberly Isham &
Incarcerated Individual Troy**

This design is meant to depict the Reentry Division’s journey to provide targeted opportunities and pathways supporting successful integration into our communities. All while building a workplace culture that values equity, diversity, inclusiveness, and respect.



About the Artists

Kimberly Isham is a graphic designer for Correctional Industries. During her 33-year tenure with the Department of Corrections, Kimberly worked at both the McNeil Island Corrections Center and the Washington Corrections Center for Women before joining the publications unit at Department of Corrections headquarters. In 2004, Kimberly joined Correctional Industries and has provided graphic design services to support Correctional Industries programs, products, services, and activities as well as the Reentry Division and the Department as a whole.

- As an artist, Kimberly works predominantly with watercolors. Buildings, landscapes, nature, and animals are subjects she is most likely to draw and paint. She also paints windows, murals, ceramics, and rocks, to name a few. Kimberly says creating art has always been a form of self-expression, therapy, and way for her to give to others.
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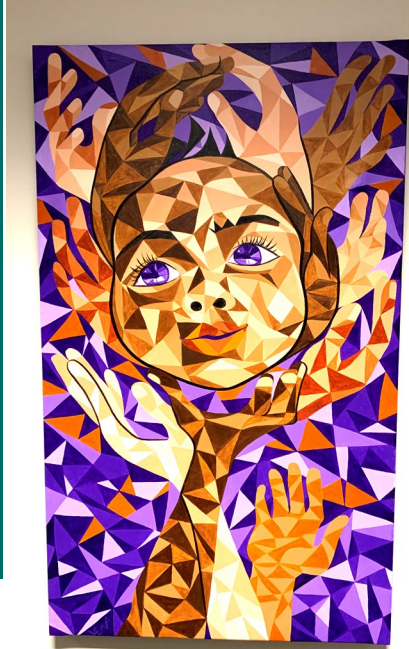
Troy found his passion for art and design while housed at the Washington State Penitentiary in 2000. There he joined the hobby craft program where he taught himself how to paint. He started with painting comic book characters, and he enjoyed painting the superheroes in dynamic scenes and likes to see just how realistic he can make an art project. Then a couple of years later he became skilled enough to do life portraits of people. Today he continues to paint and draw to include murals he has painted of different military themes found in the Veteran's unit at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. Troy is currently busy with teaching drafting and design other incarcerated individuals in Correctional Industries, he enjoys passing on things he has learned over the years.



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Pictured is Secretary Strange with incarcerated individual Troy.



Women's Prison Division

“Future in Our Hands” by Correctional Officer Olena Conover

This painting reflects a vision of diversity, equality, inclusion, humanity. One day, I see our world peaceful and harmonious, with undeniable values of fairness, equality, inclusion, and respect

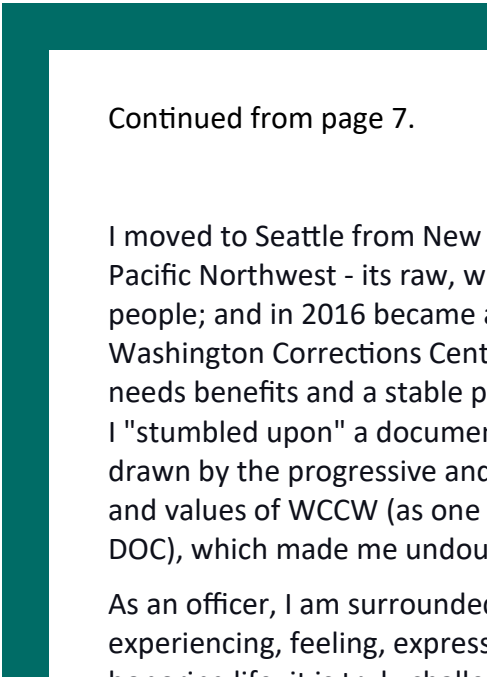
for everyone, to not to be celebrated, but to not even question ... Just the way it is supposed to be. NORMAL. I see our children grow without fear, regret, or doubt. In the world, when everything is possible and everyone is heard, seen, and valued. It's not a dream anymore, it is the reality we all are working on today. It is the Future we all are wanting for our kids. I painted a Face of our Future, wrapped with protective, caring hands of ourselves today. Thank You, for your support.

About the Artist

Born in 1970, I grew up in Ukraine, on the rim of the collapsed socialist system and the birth of freedom. I was surrounded by love, knowledge, authenticity, and passion. I am grateful for endless support and deep connection with my loved ones. I received a master's degree in journalism, Language, and Literature from the National University of Ukraine in 1994 and relocated to the USA in 1996. A new country, language, home, marriage, and baby – a whole new world, new life - sparked my creativity. One day it just exploded into the canvas as a wonderful outlet, another way to tell my stories.

In 2004 I was selected for the Emerging Ukrainian Artist solo exhibition at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York. In New York in 2004, I became a member of the Artist Right Society, submerged into the enigma of automatism, which brought recognition from iconic art critic sister Wendy Beckett. She wrote – "A fine piece of work, poetic and true. Klee would be pleased to call you daughter...."



Since mid-2010, my art has been shown and celebrated internationally; it comprises such permanent collections as the MoRA, the Museum of Russian Art, the Corporate Collection of Swedish Polyclinic Seattle, HUD Washington DC, private collections of Sir David Christner of Cambridge, Paul S. Marsh, many others.



Continued from page 7.

I moved to Seattle from New York in 2014, inspired by the Pacific Northwest - its raw, wild but gentle nature and people; and in 2016 became a correctional officer at the Washington Corrections Center for Women; an artist also needs benefits and a stable paycheck! On a serious note – I "stumbled upon" a documentary called "Purdy ." I was drawn by the progressive and even revolutionary visions and values of WCCW (as one of the main branches of DOC), which made me undoubtedly take my new path.

As an officer, I am surrounded by human energy... experiencing, feeling, expressing, celebrating, and honoring life; it is truly challenging and rewarding. It made me very happy to create artwork for the DOC Diversity Wall, called "FUTURE IN OUR HANDS" – the painting reflects the vision of diversity, equality, inclusion, and humanity. One day, I see our world peaceful and harmonious, with undeniable values of fairness, equality, inclusion, and respect for everyone, not to be celebrated but not even questioned ... Just the way it should be; NORMAL.



Continued from page 8.

I see our children grow without fear, regret, or doubt. Everyone is heard, seen, and valued in a world where everything is possible. It's not a Dream anymore; it is the Reality we all are working on Today. It is the Future we all want for our kids. I painted Face of our Future, wrapped with protective, caring hands of ourselves Today.

My greatest wish and advice to myself and anyone who cares about it is –It is to stay true to yourself and master your skills. To be able to give back as much as received.

Olena Conover, Correctional Officer at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, Ukrainian-American, Mother, Artist.



Pictured is Correctional Officer Olena Conover.



Health Services Division

“Caring for Life” by Incarcerated Individual Spencer

The painting shows the teamwork between not only staff but including our patients in bettering health care access and compassion. Florence Nightingale was included as a representation for the work of Health Services to complete an organizational shift towards a patient centered medical home. Our

- commitment focuses on effective stewardship, efficiency building, listening to patients’ individual health needs and
- exploring care options, as well as collaboration between disciplines that leads to enhancing care to our facilities
- populations.




About the Artist

Spencer started drawing in grade school, switched over to painting in 2013, and never looked back. He loves to paint and has a love for the outdoors, nature, and wildlife.

Combining those two things together just made sense for him. Spencer paints what he sees in nature, and what is represented in his mind. His favorite artist is Thomas Kinkade, and he reflects a lot of those same principles in his own work. In 2013 Spencer joined the painting program at Monroe Correctional Complex Twin Rivers Unit (MCC/TRU).

His natural talent was soon obvious. He has contributed to a variety of MCC/TRU's artwork that is still being displayed and enjoyed in the visiting room today. Spencer is honored to have painted for Department of Corrections' Health Services and is thankful for being given such a wonderful opportunity.





**Budget Strategy &
Technology
Administration |
Employee & Business
Support Services
Administration**

**“Spectrum” by
Communications Consultant
Nicole Bernstein**

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- A band of colors, as seen in a rainbow, produced by separation of the components of light. In many cultures, a rainbow has been a symbol of pride, peace, love, hope, social change, and promise. The Department of Corrections has created a mission, a vision, and a commitment; and I believe that a rainbow is a wonderful way of explaining what this means. Each unique individual is a drop of water, and a rainbow can only form when the sun shines onto the water droplets, shattering its white light into an array of brilliant colors. The process is not simple, and a rainbow will not form every time it rains; but once the water and sun cooperate together, a spectrum of beautiful colors is created.

About the Artist

Nicole Bernstein

Public Records Unit Employee

Southern California

“Always love doodling on paper, but once I started working with an iPad, I was able to take my doodles to a whole new level!”



Pictured is a self-portrait of Nicole Bernstein.



Men's Prisons Division

“Tipping the Scales” by Incarcerated Individuals Marvin & Derrick

This image was created to capture the positive principals that are conducive to a healthy society and contrast these values with their corrosive opposites.

The fundamental theme in this painting depicts a weighted scale spanning the globe effecting all of humanity. Embracing the concept of harmony and progress when the balance is tipped in favor of virtues such as equity, respect, inclusion and diversity. The hand functions as the base of this scale representing our human influence, interests, and duty. A strong root system is necessary for supporting a nutrient alliance between Earth and all ethnical connections. Our significance is characterized by weights tipping the symmetry of the scales in favor of positivity over negativity. The silhouettes are exclusive so that race is not identifiable and inconsequential as we all are essential to achieve a proper balance!

About the Artists

My name is Marvin, and this is my short bio. I have enjoyed my opportunity to participate in creating a piece of art that will bring awareness to the diversity of life. We all enrich one another with our differences as much as the things we have in common. See the beauty in all of Life! Thank you!

My name is Derrick, and this is my short bio. I first began my art interest in 2005 as a hustle but also to occupy my time productively. Working hard, practicing diverse methods and using various mediums I eventually was able to earn the Facility Mural Artist position at CBCC as part of the Beautification project. This opportunity eventually led to a great deal of charity and donation work that helped generate resources for underprivileged children. I soon developed a focus on ways to give back to the community and now 18 years later I find myself deeply involved with contribution prospects. This diversity assignment has once again guided me towards another great cause, tending my energy positively towards a rewarding foundation. Thank you!



Pictured are incarcerated individuals Marvin and Derrick.



**Community
Corrections Division
“Working Together for
Safer Communities” by
Community
Correctional Officer
Kelsie Gadd**

We wanted to capture the diversity of our state and the people we work with. In the background is Mt. Rainer, both to represent

the West side of the state and the new Community Corrections Division (CCD) patch. We included the Spokane skyline to represent the East side of the state as well as the many urban areas CCD serves. In the foreground we show the diversity of the people we serve and the everyday life of our Community Correctional Officers (CCOs). In the center we included two CCOs conducting a field contact with an unhoused couple, as many supervised individuals struggle to find and keep housing. To the right is a CCO making contact with an individual at his worksite in a peach orchard, representing the many individuals on our caseloads who work in the agricultural sector. To the left we show a CCO talking with a mother and child in her home. We have titled it, “Working Together for Safer Communities”.

About the Artist

Kelsie Gadd

Community Correctional Officer

Okanogan, WA

Studied art at Central Washington
University



Pictured is Community
Correctional Officer Kelsie Gadd.

