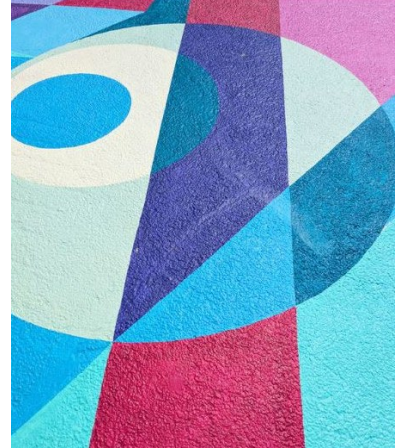


Artist Statement

DEVENS INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES

Public Art Mural by Shara Osgood

I love working within communities to create public art that engages and inspires residents and visitors. I have numerous connections with Devens. I have spent many summer days at Mirror Lake with family and friends, attended events at Dragonfly Wellness Center, and dined at Marty's Corner Cafe. I also have a great relationship with the Parker School, including bringing students to tour the Fitchburg murals last year to share some of the history and meaning of our public art. With this mural, I wanted to weave together elements that represent Devens, as I have observed and heard from community members, to create a dynamic and bright mural that everyone at Devens can be proud of!



Following community tours and interactions with Devens residents, I developed throughlines of topics and then generated symbols I associated with them. A love for the diverse community and a feeling of calm and safety were large themes for residents. The military history, connections with nature, and sustainable redevelopment were additional focuses.

My color palette reflects warm, loving hues of pinks and purples, as well as calm, cooling, shades of blues and greens representing nature. The blue and green woven through the design also evokes the nearby Nashua River. The hints of yellow and orange, represent the sun's warmth.

The circles represent bubbles, as in ideas bubbling up with new technological developments and joyful youth and recreation. The concentric circles invite us to home in on a target or goal. The elements on the outer edge which echo piano keys are symbolic of technology and development intersecting with nature, as well as music which is a component of the festivals held near the mural. There are additional Native American symbols, military insignias, and whimsical animals, that are symbolic of family, playfulness, beauty and transformation, to round out the design.

The overall design speaks to intersectionality, with many overlapping sections creating new sections. There are also many pathways that can be followed by the visitor. There are dynamic lines that create a lot of movement and motion in the design. Visitors will be invited to follow a path and consider the intersections they encounter.

Thank you to the Devens community for trusting me with this project. So many people I met have shared from their hearts to inform the mural, and I am grateful.

Shara Osgood, the artist selected by the volunteer Review Committee for the Devens Mural is from Fitchburg and has been creating murals in regional communities for four years. Her work is designed to uplift and reflect a community's best self, back to them, bring hope in dark times, and amplify the message & values of that community." Instagram: @sharaosgoodart

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