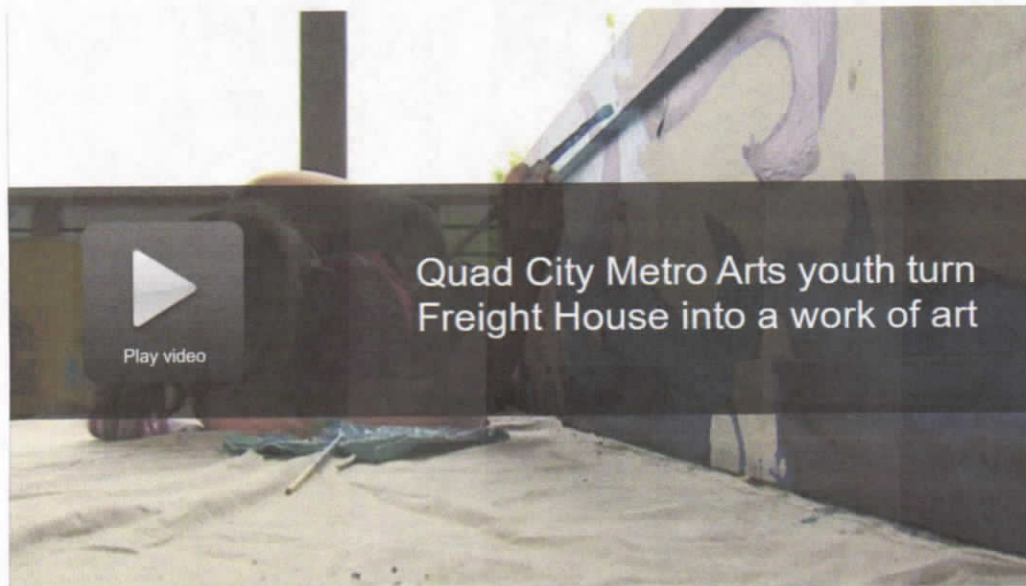


Freight House Farmers' Market building receives artistic touch

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The next time you drive pass the Freight House Farmers' Market in downtown Davenport, you'll notice a colorful addition.

When driving eastbound on West River Drive, a colorful mural brightens the bleak brick building. Each door on the building's exterior has a theme based on color.

"We were inspired a lot by the fact that it is a farmer's market and they wanted to keep with that theme," said Keosha Westphal, a summer apprentice for Quad City Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program and Junior at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

The Quad City Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program begins June 15 and lasts through July 17. The five-week program is open to any student age 15-21 residing in the Quad City area.

Covered in paint from head to toe, Westphal dabs blue paint on her task, a giant fish along the building's door. As she adds another stroke of paint to her project, she chuckles, adding the design will "definitely add some character" to the building.

Just a few doors down from Westphal is recent Bettendorf graduate Parker Hill. Hill, who began taking art classes a year ago, uses charcoal to sketch the design that will be painted on the building's doors.

All sketches were approved by the city.

Hill acknowledged it's a lot of work, but the payoff is worth the time.

Before the project started,, students drew concepts of the murals. Once a concept was completed, the city had to review and approve the work. Once approved, students added a coat of primer to all the areas that would be painted.


As recent Davenport Central graduate Chloe Thompson stands atop a letter and paints the sun on the building's stage, she reflects on the opportunity of using her artistic ability.

"It's really a proud feeling to be able to use my artistic skills to help improve our downtown," Thompson said.

The building is expected to be finished by July 15, 2015.

PHOTO GALLERY



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