

Community Vision II Mural by Hugo Zamorano

The artist's vision draws upon a diverse array of sourced imagery—including screenshots from the WhyArts website, the artist's own photographs, and various online archives—to explore the lifelong journey of growth, community, and creative exchange. A warm sunrise palette establishes the promise of a new beginning, evoking the moment when a child first enters the world beneath the protective boughs of the Bugambilia Tree Mother. Subsequent vignettes trace developmental milestones: a bespectacled child with a hearing aid discovering balance by stacking blocks, and a toddler curiously examining the mechanics of a grandmother's electric wheelchair.

As the narrative unfolds, students embody movement and connection through dance, while an accessible bridge—complete with bus, and Heartland Bike Share transit—symbolizes the infrastructures that carry us from childhood lessons into adult practices. On one side of this bridge, a college student sits in contemplative stillness, practicing yoga as an exercise in focus and intention; on the other, a communal gathering from "Stories of O" (presented by Great Plains Theatre Commons) brings together puppets, Kids On The Block and neighbors to share sustenance for both body and soul, framed by two orchids—one a bee orchid—symbolizing pollination, interdependence, and the beauty of collective stories. Pictured is Carolyn Owen Anderson, who served as WhyArts' executive director for decades and was a respected community leader.

The collage then honors the artist's mortgage specialist whose global travels for softball segue into a swing that propels a ball into Benson's BFF artist market, where drummers and local vocalist Tammy Ra enliven the public square. In the background of the mural, Iggy Sumnik is depicted. He was a beloved WhyArts teaching artist who embodied the organization's mission and whose legacy continues to inspire. Finally, nurturing hands—adult and child together—raise a sculpted-figure planter from which a river of honey nut squash pours forth, recalling both a personal dessert of squash, pecans, honey, and coconut yogurt and the sweet abundance that emerges when communities cultivate creativity, care, and shared celebration.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Office of Engagement and WhyArts unveiled Community Visions II, the second phase of a collaborative mural at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on Friday, July 25, 2025. Led by UNO alumnus and teaching artist Hugo Zamorano, the mural builds upon the legacy of the original 2014 Community Visions mural. With two new pieces spanning 75 feet, Community Visions II was created through a service learning partnership with UNO art students from Jody Boyer's ART 4020 class, and shaped by community input, including individuals with disabilities. The project was made possible by support from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Nebraska Arts Council.