

You Are What You Drink!

Whitman MS Students Get a Taste of Healthy Street Art

On Wednesday, April 23, 17 students from Fairfax County's Walt Whitman Middle School in Alexandria (Cluster 4) participated in "Taking Back the Streets," a live street art event at the Longview Gallery in Washington D.C. The event was hosted by the [WAT-AAH Foundation](#), the philanthropic arm of [WAT-AAH](#), the first functional water for kids and teens.



Whitman students and staff at Longview Gallery in D.C.

The foundation works with and through organizations dedicated to keeping kids healthy, creative and active. Fairfax County's parent advocacy group, [Real Food For Kids](#) and [Fit Kids](#) partnered with the foundation to bring Whitman students to the gallery to learn from and work with street artist Tony Concep who discussed how his pieces for WAT-AAH are designed to influence healthy habits. The students were able to then observe Concep as he completed a large canvas that will be presented to First Lady Michelle Obama. The WAT-AAH Foundation is a partner with the First Lady's Let's Move initiative.

The event was the second for the foundation. The first in New York featured 14 street artists. Concep was one of 10 that participated in D.C. The mission of the initiative is to make water cool to kids and teens and support the [Partnership for a Healthier America's](#) (PHA) Drink Up initiative, which encourages everyone to drink more water more often.

Whitman students were joined by their Principal Jean Bell, After School Coordinator Sandra Perry, Art Instructor Ellen Rosenthal and IB Coordinator Ibe Crawley. As the event wound up, the students were asking what they could do moving forward and were invited by WAT-AAH founder Rose Cameron to design one of the unique water bottle labels that were part of the gallery's show - most of which had been created by street artists. The students were brainstorming ideas as they departed.



One of the "Drink Up" street art canvases created for WAH-TAA



RFFK's JoAnne Hammermaster with street artist Tony Concep