



*Weaving Hope*, facilitated by Vodafone Foundation and designed by Ruth Robertson-Taylor and Wellington's Muslim Community

## Teachers' Resource Card: *Mural Tour and Stenciling Workshop*

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**Foundation**

Te Ngākau Civic Square, 101 Wakefield Street  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
T: +64 4 913 9029  
E: [citygalleryeducation@experiencewellington.org.nz](mailto:citygalleryeducation@experiencewellington.org.nz)

[citygallery.org.nz](http://citygallery.org.nz)

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Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

## Teachers' Resource Card

# Mural Tour and Stenciling Workshop

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### About the programme

Take a closer look at murals around Te Ngākau Civic Square to think about why and how artists create art on walls and buildings. Students will learn how to use stencils and rollers to make paintings inspired by the mural *Weaving Hope*. A great way to begin an investigation into street art around Wellington.

### Work in focus: *Weaving Hope*, 2019

*Weaving Hope* is a public artwork installed in Te Ngākau Civic Square, on hoardings surrounding the Town Hall. The mural was created following the Christchurch mosque attacks in 2019, to represent and reflect the local Muslim community and the hope for a more inclusive and understanding future.

The work was developed by Ruth Robertson-Taylor in partnership with the Muslim community. The name *Weaving Hope* speaks to the vision of the artwork, and the wide range of artists and community members who helped weave together the final design.

There are a number of key elements in the design: arches are a nod to Islamic architecture, rainbows, and bridges. They are evocative of mosques, of bridging understanding, and of crossing boundaries. The flowers come from various countries around the world, a reminder that Islam is a diverse global faith. There is a quote on the artwork which reads: *"Be kind, for whenever kindness becomes part of something, it beautifies it."* Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

### Vocabulary

**Public art** artwork situated in a public space, often commissioned specifically for the site. Public art can be permanent or temporary and can take many forms such as monuments, memorials, murals, posters, performances.

**Mural** artwork painted or applied directly on a wall or other permanent surfaces.

**Street Art** artwork made in a public space, with or without permission. Common techniques include fly-posting (also known as wheat-pasting), stenciling, stickers, freehand drawing.

### Pre-visit Activities

**Discuss** examples of street art you have seen. Are there any in your local area? Why might people make art directly onto walls and buildings? What benefits and challenges can you think of?

**Watch** a video about *Weaving Hope*  
[foundation.vodafone.co.nz/behindthemural](http://foundation.vodafone.co.nz/behindthemural).

### Post-Visit Activities

**Look** around central Wellington to see other examples of murals and street art. Check out the Wellington City Council website [pakiTara-toi art on walls](http://pakiTara-toi.art.on.walls), to plan your route.

[wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/arts/outdoor-public-art/murals/central-city/te-aro](http://wellington.govt.nz/services/community-and-culture/arts/outdoor-public-art/murals/central-city/te-aro)

**Investigate** other work by Ruth Robertson-Taylor [www.gorsestreetart.com](http://www.gorsestreetart.com), Johnson Witehira [stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/capital-life/10224677/Mural-lifts-profile-of-Maori-art-on-street](http://stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/capital-life/10224677/Mural-lifts-profile-of-Maori-art-on-street), and other NZ street artists [askew1.com](http://askew1.com) [andrewjsteel.com](http://andrewjsteel.com).

**Compare and contrast** the varied styles of these international street artists

Blec le Rat—French graffiti artist who has been described as the father of stencil graffiti.

[blekleratoriginal.com/en/](http://blekleratoriginal.com/en/)

Blu—Italian street artist known for making animated mural paintings. [blublu.org](http://blublu.org).

Jr—French photographer and street artist who pastes large black-and-white photographic images in public locations. [jr-art.ne](http://jr-art.ne)

**Arrange and rearrange** the paintings made at the Gallery to form a whole-class composition. Evaluate whether the artworks are more effective together or by themselves. Think about ways to display your paintings e.g. create a frieze to stretch along a corridor or up a stairwell, or photocopy at different scales to paste up outdoors. Think of a title for the work and write a label explaining how it was made and what the motifs mean to you.

**Create** an artwork directly onto a wall using one of these techniques:

- **Stencil**  
Cut an image out of paper, card or thin plastic. Attach to a wall with tape then spray or roll paint over the stencil onto the surface below. Remove the stencil to reveal the image.  
Using a stencil will help you achieve crisp, precise lines. You will be able to repeat your design several times.
- **Tape**  
Draw a design directly onto a wall, ceiling or window using masking tape. Use coloured tape to leave as a temporary artwork, or paint over the wall then peel off the tape to create a permanent mural.  
Using tape will help you apply linear designs. You can quickly create long, straight lines that travel across walls and around corners.  
Visit [tapeart-nz.com](http://tapeart-nz.com) for inspiration.
- **Paste-up**  
Print, photocopy or draw with markers onto copy paper. Cut out the image then stick onto the wall with wheat paste glue.