



# Looking At The ISSUES Stark Education Partnership

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*The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.*

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Student Art Pop-Up Reflects Beyond Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*I felt that it was really important to participate, to just have people see what we created. Viewing artwork can really get people thinking about some of the current things relevant in our society. - Amirah Mitchell, WHS Student*

When Americorps Ohio College Guide, Dakota Johnson, planned her third community service activity for students at Washington High School, she addressed multiple goals: honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King; supporting student communication skills; encouraging creativity; and involving community members. She offered students the opportunity to express themselves in a valuable way - beyond words.

*"Strong communities are created through the long-term sustainable changes we make for our youth. MLK Day was around the corner and I wanted to start a conversation in a safe and creative way - what better way than art?"* Dakota explained. *"Pop-up exhibitions are not just ways for people to show their creative work but can also be used as a tool to open up conversation and discussion about relevant social issues. This exhibit also allowed local youth to express themselves creatively which is a step towards developing productive adults who know how to express themselves adequately."*



Tremont Caf  hosted the exhibit, allowing the art from multiple students to be sold without collecting any commission. *"There have been many great comments about the display; people have really enjoyed seeing it."* Mark Kemp, Owner, said.

*"After setting up I ordered a latte, sat down, and quietly watched as people approached the pop-up and admired it,"* Dakota shared. *"Quietly whispering to one another while tilting their heads gently from side to side, maybe to explore a new perspective, which is what I think MLK Day is really about."*



The Stark Education Partnership - a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Stark County, Ohio - is a catalyst, engaging and collaborating with education, business, civic and community stakeholders to drive sustainable improvement and innovation to provide all students with education and career success.

Questions or comments? Email [septpurses@gmail.com](mailto:septpurses@gmail.com) or call 330-452-0829. Visit our website at <http://www.edpartner.org>