

The Mural Speaks

The ORSMP Steering Committee

The Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project (ORSMP) is a project of The Rachel Corrie Foundation and Break the Silence Mural Project. The mural tells a tale of two cities linked through tragedy – Olympia, WA and Rafah, Palestine and is expected to be the largest public art project highlighting the experiences of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The ultimate goal of the ORSMP is to use art, culture and technology in innovative ways to increase the strength and visibility of the movement for social justice not only in Palestine and Israel, but also in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Located on the north side of the Labor Temple building, on State and Capitol in downtown Olympia, WA, this 4,000 square foot interactive mural project is the collective effort of Olympia locals, as well as over 150 artists, activists and social justice organizations from Olympia to the Bay Area, across the USA to the West Bank and Gaza in Palestine.

The Olympia-Rafah project has successfully articulated the importance of creating cross-movement partnerships and highlighted the impact of transgressing boundaries. The project continues, and with each completed phase, more fully illuminates and strengthens a shared quest for justice and equality across continents, cultures and causes.

Viewers can use a cell phone to call and hear a specific leaf's creators introduce themselves and talk about the meaning of that leaf's theme. Some artists have included poetry and/or music to add cultural **flavor** to the image and the audio soundscape. Conceived in 2008 by Susan Greene in collaboration with San Francisco's Freedom Archives, and created by program designer Sam Stoller, this audio/visual computer technology is also available on the mural's web site (<http://olympiarafahmural.org/>). It adds a powerful and dynamic dimension to the project, utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to communicate the message of each leaf, as well as the history, mission, and goals of each participating artist or organization.

On May 8, 2010 at 6pm, The Mural Speaks event will unveil the mural's audio components. This event is free of charge and open to the public. It will take place at the Mural Site on the corner of State and Capitol. The Mural Speaks event will feature live performances from representatives of project participants; Books to Prisoners, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB), Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine (San Francisco), Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies), Inmigrantes Unidos, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Azatlan (MEChA), Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace (OMJP), Parents Organizing for Welfare & Economic Rights (POWER), SafePlace, Stonewall Youth, The Rachel Corrie Foundation, The Olympia Rafah Sister City Project and more. Recorded audio of national and international participants will be featured as well.

The Mural Speaks event will be the finale to The People's Assembly: Collaboration, Networking and Solidarity, a gathering of Olympia's grassroots organizers to discuss the US Social Forum and other strategies moving forward in the struggle for social justice, for more information, visit <http://omjp.net>.

The Mural Speaks event will begin at 6pm with DJ Turtledove. Grupo Quetzalcoatl de Olympia, a vibrant local Danza Azteca group will perform. Live music from local band Southern Skies and members of the Bay Area group AudioPharmacy.

To volunteer with the Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project or for more information about The Mural Speaks event please email hilhack4paz@gmail.com.