1. I’m **Ida Barnette**, a visual artist, facilitator, writer, and advocate for many who are finding their voices. *Through Art We Breathe, Live and Love* is the title of my mural. This mural project means a lot to me as a way of bringing community together. I had help with my mural from Marleigh who is 5.

2. We are the artists of **Barbara’s Little House**, a family childcare center in Dover. At Barbara’s Little House, we heavily rely on things like art and crafts to help shape the children here. We believe it helps to teach them creativity and individuality so they continue to grow and learn. Our artists are,

   Eric Anthony Mack, age 1
   Alaya Jackson, age 2
   Yalaya Ramos, age 3
   Jeremiah Lawson, age 5
   Qu’ Ran Stanford, age 9
   Brookeline Alicea, age 2
   Barbara Bell, age 50

   Yaizah Peterson, age 1
   Micah Price, age 3
   Melaina Mendoza, age 4
   Yazmeen Ramos, age 6
   Jer’ Mez Fortt, age 10
   Deavion Green, age 19

3. I am **Tamara Rodriguez**. My daughter **Aixa Rodriguez** drew this mural. She is a student at Del Tech majoring in human services. She also enjoys painting. In her words, “Thank you for the opportunity to display my work. Before doing the painting, I was feeling so overwhelmed just thinking on what to draw, but my mother motivated me all the way, saying come on Aixa, you can do it. Just try. So I did. It was a little frustrating and challenging for me, but I finished the mural and without doubt I enjoyed every minute of it.”

4. My name is **Sarah Sellers** and I am a 28 year old graphic designer/artist. With its slogan of, “Grow with what you go through,” my mural is a representation of how I am trying to live my life and the message I want to send to others. I want to grow through whatever struggles I come across in life and bloom into the best version of myself. I wanted to be a part of this project to give to the community a piece of art to inspire someone or to brighten someone’s day. Maybe even change someone’s perspective on whatever they are going through. It was also an opportunity for me to put work out there to be seen; a lot of things like this I tend to keep to myself. I am always creating whether it is for my job as a graphic designer, for gifts, or just for enjoyment.

5. I’m **Kathy Doyle**, a Dover resident and community garden volunteer. I am excited to add more color and whimsy to the community garden. I had many, many ideas related to the watershed, pollinators, and native plants and couldn’t decide among them, so I included all of them in my mural design.
6. I am Stephanie Stotts, Environmental Science professor at Wesley College. My co-artists are my sons Coben Turner (age 7) and Thane Turner (age 4). We choose to paint a tree with handprint leaves for several reasons. First, trees are awesome! They provide shade and habitat and are great for the environment. They can also live very long lives, adding a ring that is reflective of the growing conditions. While this year has been odd, and in some cases tough, it is important to remember that this is only one or two rings in our life. What are we doing to grow and thrive during this time? The handprint leaves capture this “ring” in Thane and Coben’s life.

7. I am Charon Dagley, 7th/8th grade visual arts teacher at Central Middle School. The title of my mural is, “Back in the Day.” My inspiration came from a time in my life when I felt a part of my neighborhood. It started all from a simple, kind gesture from three little girls that came to my backyard and said, “Hello, do you want to come out and play?” From them I learned a sense of community. This experience, not only gave me opportunities to learn double-Dutch and other traditional outdoor activities but also allowed me to build a bond and lasting friendships that I cherish to this day. During a time when you had to be in the house by the time the streetlights came on, it seemed like a time where our community was one. Also, leaving neighbors feeling safe and loved. Being able to reminisce and share this memory with my children and students is a joy and the reason why I wanted to join this project. I would love to see our community get back to a time where our kids feel safe and can enjoy outdoor activities as we once did.

8. My name is Akua Whitted. I started painting in late 2003 when I was forced to take off from work due to an injury. I wasn’t that great at it, but I kept working at building my skills. I taught myself how to make different shapes create scenery, draw faces etc. 2017-2018 were great years with my art. I really came out of my shell and started doing art shows and hosting paint nights. I really enjoyed showing others that you don’t have to be a master artist to create a beautiful piece. Fast forward to 2019. I took most of the year off due to unhappy family circumstances, which is why this year and the years to come are very important to me. I get to reclaim my true identity through my art and hopefully inspire others with similar experiences to push forward. Despite my experience and gained skill, I will forever be a student. I look forward to learning all that I can – and then some more!

9. I am Savannah Love, a student at Wesley College. The mural depicts a bee made of flowers. My husband Austin Lundstrom and I created the piece. I wanted to show the importance of bees and some of the flowers that attract them. I wanted to join this project because I love art and murals.

10. This mural is a collaborative effort. Teddy (age 7) designed this mural, and Audrey (age 7) helped him paint it. Parental supervision was provided by Laura Parks (age 35), and Jayce Lesniewski (age 36). The artists focused on simple, easily recognizable features and relied on negative space to focus the attention of the viewer. Their use of multiple brush techniques showcases the interconnectedness between the natural world and the Dover community. “I hope our mural inspires people to lower their expectations,” said Laura, “and get involved on any level.”

11. My name is Alexis Reid and I am a Sophomore at Wesley College. I have painted my mural to represent how climate change has affected our planet. On the left, there are colorful bugs and flowers to symbolize a healthy world, and on the right, there are burning orange flames and a pile of ashes to symbolize the slow end of our world. At the bottom I have written a quote from a song called The Seed by Aurora. It is her shortened version of a Cree Indian Proverb saying, "Only When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money." I’ve also painted the mural to be incomplete in the sense of coloring to represent that there is still time to save our earth.
12. I am Maya Constantine and I am a public school Visual Arts Teacher. I have grown up in Delaware and love my tiny state. The second artist who worked on this mural is my daughter, Lela Park. She is 2 years old and loves to eat vegetables straight out of the garden. This mural represents my vision of Peace. So much is happening between the global pandemic and racial reckoning that we will read about in textbooks. My classroom is now the dining room table and I have the opportunity, for now, to teach virtually with Lela running around my feet. Currently, my home and my family are my Peace. I feel safe being home, but I understand that not all of our students have the same experience. We must acknowledge their lives before growth can happen. We started a garden during the early part of Covid-19 quarantine. Most of my spare time is spent there – weeding, watering, and watching the plants grow. We have carefully chosen heirloom seeds with rich history so that I can continue the legacy that my ancestors brought with them from Africa. The rich, warm colors of the flowers contrast the cool colored daytime Moon. The flowers represent communal growth that we as an anti-racist society cannot ignore. The Moon represents our strength and desire for inner Peace. There will be change and we must continue because it will not be easy.

13. We artists are Jada Leggett, age 5, Caelynn Johnson, age 7, Camlynn Johnson, age 8, and Or’Chaud Short, age 17 (with a little help from Chanda Jackson-Short, aunt and mother). This project was a family affair. We girls love butterflies and flowers, and because we outnumbered Or’Chaud (the only male), these objects took center stage. Each of us had a role in painting the mural, and we worked very well together. We were excited about the results and the opportunity to participate in this project.