



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Young Artists Transform Trash into Art

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) teamed up with the Hill Country Arts Foundation (HCAF) and Riverside Nature Center to highlight the prevalence of trash in our waterways and give litter a new life through art. This year, UGRA's 18th Annual River Clean Up is being held as an on your own event during July – October. Volunteers who conducted cleanups in July were asked to set aside interesting trash items so they could be used during two art workshops. Other unique found items were also amassed to add to the materials available.

During the week of July 26th, instructor and artist, Phyllis Garey, led young artists through a weeklong assemblage workshop at HCAF. Eleven students ranging in age from 9-15 worked diligently during the week to create both collaborative and individual pieces. Garey encouraged the students to evaluate the items for their shape, texture, color, and size and guided the artists through a variety of age-appropriate techniques to create mobiles, sculptures, paintings, and tribal designs. Garey also discussed stewardship of the Guadalupe River and the organisms that rely on a healthy river with the students. A reception to view the final pieces of art was held at the HCAF at the conclusion of the workshop. Several of the pieces were then moved to the UGRA lobby and will be on display until the end of September. Please stop by the UGRA building at 125 Lehmann Drive anytime Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to view the artwork.



Assemblage workshop reception held on July 30, 2021. Workshop participants display a warped board that was painted to show the diversity of organisms that live in and around the Guadalupe River. Front row pictured left to right: Novalee Deaton, Isabella Escalera, Cheyanne Johnson, Charley Moorman, Gavin Wienke, and instructor's aide Patty Crockett. Back row pictured left to right: Workshop instructor Phyllis Garey, Catherine Ragsdale, Joshua Davis, Jackson Timmons, Mauricio Mejia, Victoria Santoya, and Ella Davis.

An additional follow-up workshop was held on Tuesday, August 3rd at Riverside Nature Center as part of their weekly summer Nature Night series. Children, parents, and grandparents worked together to use items collected during the River Clean Up to create mobiles in just one hour.



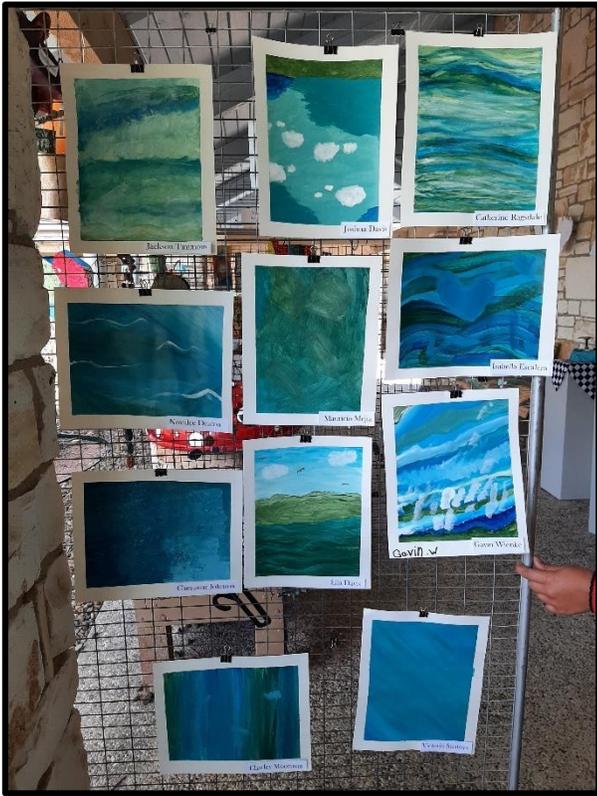
Numerous families worked with items found during the UGRA Annual River Clean Up and other repurposed materials to create mobiles at the Riverside Nature Center Nature Night on August 3rd.

It is not too late to participate in the Annual River Clean Up! This on your own event can be conducted in small groups, at your own pace, and when you have time between now the end of October. UGRA will support your cleanup by providing supplies and coordinating trash drop off areas. Volunteers will also receive an Annual River Clean Up t-shirt, other freebies provided by our community partners, and be eligible for the prize drawing to be held in November. Visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up for complete details and to sign up today!

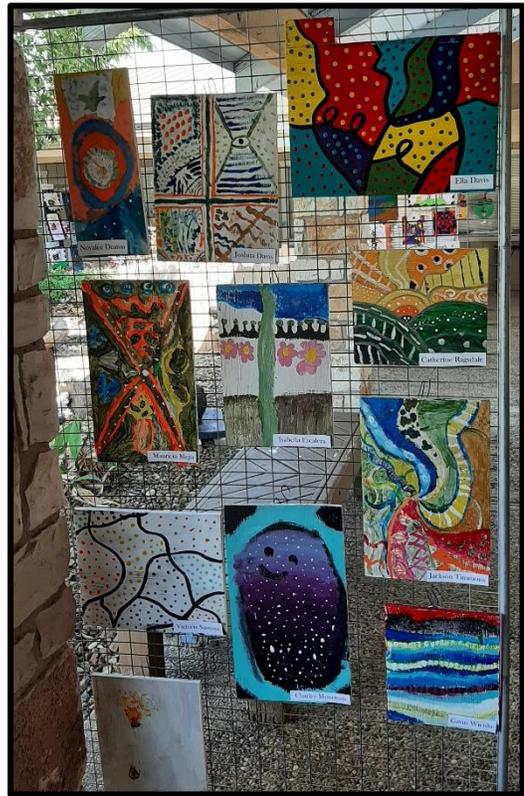
Let's Keep Our River Clean



Artwork created during the Assemblage Workshop is currently on display in the UGRA lobby.



Taking inspiration from mood music and using a controlled palette, the students painted their “River Dreams.”



The students used acrylic paint on repurposed boards to create tribal designs.



These sculptures were created using items collected by UGRA River Clean Up volunteers.