

About:



Hello! My name is Aashi Jalota, and this mural is both my Girl Scout Gold Award project and Genius Project for Sage Creek High School.

I became a Girl Scout Daisy at four years old and have continued my journey in Girl Scouts through my senior year of high school. The Batiquitos Lagoon holds a very special place in my heart. It is where my troop learned wilderness skills, built lifelong friendships, and created memories that I will always cherish. I also spent summers there as a camp counselor and have enjoyed countless walks through the lagoon with my family.

Because the lagoon has had such a positive impact on my life, I wanted to give back by creating a mural that educates visitors about the importance of protecting its ecosystem. Many people know about life above water, but I wanted to showcase the unique marine life for visitors to learn more about these animals. I am incredibly grateful to share this artwork with the City of Carlsbad. My hope is that it inspires others to appreciate the lagoon's biodiversity and encourages them to help preserve it for future generations.

Outside of my passion for art, I plan to pursue a degree in neuroscience and continue into medical school. I have also been dancing for 13 years and am currently in my fourth year at the Sage Creek Dance Company, where I serve on the leadership team. In my free time, I enjoy going to the beach, paddleboarding/snorkeling, playing tennis, reading, and volunteering in my community.

If you would like to contact me, please feel free to reach out at aashi.jalota@gmail.com!

Acknowledgments:

Mom-- There were many times of doubt where I felt that my abilities were not sufficient to complete such an enormous task. Your support and encouraging words helped me get to this point, knowing you believed in my skills made me believe in myself. Seeing you wake up so early and go to bed late everyday for our family deeply inspired me to do something to make you proud. I would have never thought of something like this if it was not for you.

Dad-- Thank you for putting the time out of your extremely busy day to help me with this project. Although it seemed daunting at first, you held my hand through every small step of the way and everything came together in the end. Learning from your rigorous work ethic and extreme dedication to craft is the reason I woke up early every morning to paint and spent late nights researching. I could not have accomplished a single bit of this mural without your impact on my life.

Riana-- Your love and support means more than the world to me. Even though you had long days filled with tennis, you always came by to help. You truly have been through this journey every step of the way, from the meetings at the nature center and giving advice on my rough drafts to the finished version. I could not be more grateful for your help. Love you so much and keep being a rockstar!

Mrs. Lisa-- Where do I even begin. It started off as a phone call for a school assignment, but it grew into something so much more-all thanks to your help. You are truly the best project advisor that I could have ever asked for. There are no words to describe how grateful I am to have had your support, constant encouragement, problem solving, positivity, and so much more throughout this whole process. Every issue we faced, you always came up with a solution so quickly, it amazed me every time! I am eternally thankful for you, and I cannot wait to keep volunteering with the Cultural Arts Department.

Volunteer Team-- Thank you so much **Carly Glass, Cassie Monroe, and Chloe Wang** for showing up and getting this project done. I seriously would never have been able to get this project done without your help, and I hope you know how much I appreciate it! Shoutout to **Rose Maazi** for taking the brilliant photos featured all throughout this website. You are so talented and I truly respect your time!!

Mr. Synder- I am extremely grateful for your support and help throughout this project. Learning about the right type of paints, techniques, and how to conquer such a large task was essential to earning this award. Thank you so much!!

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