

# Comparing Cultures through Recycled Art Grant Report

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On October 29th, third grade students at Ashford School in Ashford, CT collaborated with Faustin Adeniran, a Nigerian artist who uses recycled materials to reflect the cultures and values of the different countries he visits. Faustin started by introducing students to his recycled art from Nigeria, Europe, and the United States. This helped the students connect what we are learning in Science (specifically United Nations Sustainable Development Goal: Responsible Production and Consumption) to art.

Faustin Adeniran worked with both of our third grade classes for two hours of workshops. The students were challenged to work together to create a collaborative art piece using recycled materials. They do not often have the opportunity to work creatively in groups. I was amazed at how the students were able to combine their ideas and respect each other while working on a challenging project. I think that our focus on respecting other cultures has also translated into the students showing each other more respect. At the conclusion of the workshop, we had several pieces of art that represented our culture to share with the community. We also have plans to share our experience with our partner class in Nigeria (through an online platform called Empatico).

Without a Global Diversity Grant from the We All Poster program none of this would have been possible. The Global Diversity Grant provided the funds we need to pay for workshop with Arts for Learning Connecticut. Arts for Learning Connecticut is a nonprofit that connects schools to artist. That is how we were able to have Faustin Adeniran run workshops in our school. Without the funding from this grant, we would not have been able to afford the opportunity. Thank you so much!

Carly Imhoff  
Ashford School, Ashford, CT