

# Community Art

## at Joyce Ellington Branch Library

The mosaic tile mural is based on a school photo of Joyce Ellington, age 9, as a Grant School student, circa 1939. The mural was commissioned for less than \$3,000, plus installation costs, by residents on the Northside Home Tour Committee\* using proceeds from the 2007 Northside Home Tour. Manufactured by Hakatai, of Oregon, the mosaic tile mural is intended to honor the late Joyce Ellington who envisioned a public library in the neighborhood where she lived her entire life. Ellington was a founding member of the neighborhood association and past chair of the San José Library Commission. It is also intended to inspire future generations of nearby Grant School students by illustrating that this amazing woman was once herself a Grant School student.



The painting of old Grant School located above the fireplace was painted by local artist Anthony Quartuccio and donated to the library in memory of one of Joyce Ellington's children who died in a car accident. The painting hung over the checkout desk at the old Empire / Ellington Library. The current library sits on the former site of the old Grant School. Quartuccio, the author of "Santa Clara Valley, An Artist's View Today and Yesterday" (1986), also painted the mural that hangs over the altar at Holy Cross Church a few blocks away in the Northside neighborhood.

The shark in the children's area was commissioned by the Downtown Neighborhood Leadership Forum (DNLf), a coalition of downtown area neighborhood leaders, as part of the citywide SharkByte Art project in 2001, which featured 100 whimsical artworks all starting with the same fiberglass shark base. The DNLf shark—"School of Neighbors"—features a colorful medley of faces specifically intended to evoke the diversity and vibrancy of neighborhoods surrounding downtown San Jose. Designed and painted by Paul Hance, a Naglee Park artist, the shark was displayed along Paseo de San Antonio in downtown San Jose. It was later purchased at auction in 2002 for \$2,500 by Northside Neighborhood Association president Don Gagliardi, who donated it to the local library. A permanent home for its display was designed into the children's area of the new library. The shark has become the emblem of the Friends of Joyce Ellington Library and is featured on their t-shirts.

*\*A subgroup of the 13th St. NAC  
(part of San Jose's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative)*

