The murals that are part of Voices on View share ideas about America today and ask important questions about what is happening in our communities.

Because they are on display in public, murals are often used to inspire or call the viewers to action.

Use the chalk in your kit to share your ideas around Wade Oval: how are the ideas expressed in the murals important? What ideas do they inspire in you?

1. What do you see?

There's an "art" to seeing art - the murals are nice to look at, but what is the mural trying to communicate? Use the steps below to dig deeper into what the artists are attempting to say. Then on the next page, translate what you see into chalk art around Wade Oval!

- LOOK - take the time to slow down and look carefully. What's the first thing you notice? Is it the image dominated by shapes? Colors? Lines? Take a step closer or farther away - what changes when you do?
- OBSERVE - build up a mental catalog of the image's visual elements. Is it colorful? Crowded? Complex? Simple?
- SEE - recognize or connect the information the eyes take in with your previous knowledge and experiences in order to create meaning. Does the image remind you of anything you've seen before?
- DESCRIBE - what figures, objects, and settings do you recognize? What do you know about these things? What colors are used? What materials? How are the elements arranged?
- ANALYZE - consider how the figures, objects and settings you identified in your description fit together to tell a story.
- INTERPRET - draw conclusions about the image. What is the mural trying to tell you? What does it inspire you to think about? To feel?

Adapted from The Art of Seeing Art™ by the Toledo Museum of Art

For grown-ups:

Analysis and interpretation may be hard for younger children and the messages of the murals can be complex. Talk them through the steps to help them make connections to what they already know, or compare what they're seeing to other familiar images.
Like all kinds of art, murals - large works of art that incorporate the architectural details around them - are often used to portray ideas or emotions.

The murals that are part of Voices on View share ideas about America today and ask important questions about what is happening in our communities, and what we need to make our communities thrive.

Use the chalk in your kit to share your ideas around the oval: What is a community? What does a community need to thrive?

2. Choose Your Words

Murals often have a call to action -- some kind of message. What do the murals make you think or feel? What do they inspire you to do?

Can you capture it in a word or phrase?

Is there another message you’d like to give to the community?

Turn that phrase into a work of chalk art!

3. The shape of a Community: More than just an oval!

What are the shapes that you see around Wade Oval? Can you use shapes to describe what your community needs? Here are some suggestions:

Draw the buildings and objects you using see around you using just basic shapes, like triangles, squares, and circles.

Use lines and shapes to create a map. What shapes do you see in the buildings around you that you could use to create the buildings on your map? Label your buildings, or ask a grown up to help you.

How else could you capture your community with basic shapes?

Want to learn more about the design elements you see in murals? Scan this code or go to https://tinyurl.com/muraldesign