



MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Contact: Kate Washburn
Wondergem Consulting, Inc.
Office (616) 235-7467 / Mobile (616) 308-4047
kate@wondergem.com

COMMUNITY INVITED TO HELP COMPLETE TWO-STORY “METAPHOREST” MURAL AT WMCAT

WHAT: Tracy Van Duinen’s 2011 ArtPrize project, a 2,400-square-foot mosaic mural, is taking shape. Van Duinen and student apprentices from West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology have worked throughout the summer to create the multimedia, two-story piece, “MetaPhorest.” This week, the public is invited to help the team complete the project. Work includes applying various materials to the mural and light painting.

WHEN: The public may participate during any of the following times:
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 12 FROM 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

WHERE: WMCAT
98 E. Fulton, Ste. 202
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

PROJECT FACTS: “MetaPhorest” occupies the entire east wall of the WMCAT building, 98 E. Fulton. It is nearly five times larger than “Imagine That,” Van Duinen’s winning mural at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum.

WMCAT required interested students to apply and interview for the opportunity to be an apprentice with Van Duinen’s team. The apprenticeship provides each student with a \$350 stipend and real-world experience with a professional artist.

WMCAT created a campaign on [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com), the world’s largest online funding platform for creative projects, to help fund the project’s apprentice stipends, mural materials and equipment rental.

Additional information regarding the “MetaPhorest” project is available on the ArtPrize website at <http://artprize.org/artists/public-profile/1290>.

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WMCAT is a non-profit organization that provides meaningful opportunities for at-risk teenagers and under-employed adults to engage with the arts and technology at no cost to them. Through its after-school and summer arts programs, WMCAT offers hands-on art classes with a strong technology component to high school students. WMCAT also offers healthcare education and employment training to under- and unemployed community members.