

MEMO

To: Welfare Staff

From: Dr. Tucker and Carlton Boyd 

Date: April 12, 1979

Re: Mural

As you know, we are interested in taking steps needed to protect and ensure optimal visibility for our mural. In the interest of caring for the mural, we hope that these suggestions will be followed:

Please see that the mural is kept free from objects placed in front of it, including filing cabinets, papers, chairs, partitions, and any other office furniture.

Please see that no one leans or rubs up against the painting. the mural is not protected with a varnish and it will be damaged by people leaning against it.

Please be alert to other parties who might damage the mural by nailing or screwing anything into it. Please call this to our attention.

The mural is an important art work and an important symbol for all of us, the artists who produced it, and, our clients who enjoy it. It is important that we protect and preserve it.

Metro

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Artists Win Battle To Protect Mural

By ANGELA D. CHATMAN
Staff Reporter

Two artists who earlier this year finished a mural for the walls of the Welfare Department's Bassett Street office have won their battle to protect that work of art from being damaged.

A lease agreement between artists Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick and the city now gives them control over activities which could affect the condition of

the painting which spans a wall connecting the agency's lobby and inner office.

"We got much greater protection for the mural. At this point, everything is settled," said Ms. Lennox, who outlined the main points of the four-page agreement reached in May.

The two began the mural in March 1978 while employed under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. In February of this year, the city unveiled the work which depicts office workers and the poor in warm, earth tones and bright greens and blues.

But, in March — just five weeks after its official unveiling — the mural was damaged when a lobby partition designed to separate department staffers from clients was built in front of the painting.

The partition stopped halfway up the mural and obstructed the public's view of it. In addition, part of the partition was anchored into the wall — into a part of the mural itself.

The artists protested the construction of the partition and entered into negotiations to protect their work. The top of the partition was removed and the artists then obtained the lease agreement.

Ms. Lennox said the welfare office management agreed not to extend the partition unless there was protest from the staff. "Most of the staff didn't want the partition," she said, noting that only two employees asked for it.

Stipulations of the lease agreement provide that:

- The mural cannot be obstructed in anyway, nothing may be attached to it and it cannot be cut.

- If there are damages that can be repaired by the artists, they have the right to make those repairs.

- The masonite mural panels, which are screwed into the wall, can be removed and placed in a safe storage place when no longer in the offices.

- Should the department move, the artists must be notified 60 days in advance so the mural may be moved.

- The artists retain the copyright for the painting.