

# OHS gallery a work of art from the heart

Local companies  
step up to make  
art gallery a reality

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## Oconomowoc Area Schools

- The idea that art is a shared experience is alive and thriving at Oconomowoc High School.

Thanks to the generosity of community members who have donated their expertise to the creation of an art gallery, that space is springing to life with area talents.

Oliver Construction and Oakbrook Esser Studios have joined forces to bring about a showcase for the school.

Carving out room for the gallery was made possible by

OHS parent Keith Farley, through the work of his firm, Oliver Construction, which donated its services for the project.

According to OHS art teacher Jill LaGrange, an estimate from another firm to remove the wall to make the space came in at \$16,000 - a virtual fortune in cash-strapped times.

The idea of the gallery might have died then if not for community support.

"Such generous donations, it really humbles you," LaGrange said.

The entry to the gallery will feature two display cases that flank a 60-inch-square stained-glass window that will be created by students under the guidance of another OHS parent, Paul Phelps of Oakbrook Esser Studios. A renowned artist, Phelps

generously stepped forward to offer his services for the gallery.

"Paul Phelps is one of the only artists in the nation authorized to restore Frank Lloyd Wright windows and had one of his pieces at the Milwaukee Art Museum in the Arts and Crafts Show," explained LaGrange.

She said his contribution to the project is immeasurable, as Phelps will be an artist-in-residence for the duration of the project.

"It will be nice to have a defined gallery - it's really positive for everyone involved," Phelps said. "It's great exposure experience and will inspire other collaborations," he added.

"It's our pleasure (to be involved with the project). The community supports the school

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BEN FULLERTON

**STUDENT GALLERY** - Community partnerships and student involvement have created a new art gallery at Oconomowoc High School. Keith Farley of Oliver Construction and Paul Phelps of Oakbrook Esser Studios donated their time and talents to the project.