

JOAN SHALLECK 813-642-0647	2013 Inverness Greens Drive	Sun City Center FL 33573 shalleckj@aol.com
-------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

2/3/09

For Immediate Release

DEDICATION TO HONOR THE NEW RUSKIN COMMUNITY MURAL

Super colossal! Awesome! Brilliant!

These are appropriate words to describe the Ruskin Community Mural gracing the wall of the old Clark's Furniture building in downtown Ruskin.

Measuring 100 feet long by 18 feet tall, the mammoth painting, whose title is "Head, Heart and Hands," was conceived by young artists under the direction of noted painter Michael Parker.

Early last fall, Parker gathered a team of enthusiastic painters from the area, many of them teenagers, who spent hours photographing present-day sites in and about Ruskin. They then designed the mural to express important figures from the community's past with a look to its present and future.

The work was commissioned by the SouthShore Arts Council to commemorate a month-long series of art events called THE BIG DRAW. Numerous drawing and craft experiences were enjoyed by hundreds, who participated in the classes and workshops free of charge. Instructors came to offer their expertise from many places, including the Ringling School of Art, the University of South Florida's Art Department in St. Petersburg and the Tampa Museum of Fine Art. The events coincided with the celebration of Ruskin's Centennial Anniversary in September 2008.

Contributions to the creation of this permanent artwork came from the John Crawford Fund of the Community Foundation of Sun City Center, among others.

The public is invited to attend the Dedication Ceremonies on Saturday, February 21 at 3:30 PM.

The Wall is located at 629 1st Street NE, off Rte 41 North behind the Ruskin Post Office.

More about this event at www.southshoreartscouncil.org

Y'all come!