



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured is the "My Best Life" mosaic in the lobby of the Liberty ARC Day Hab Building in Amsterdam.

Liberty ARC unveils mosaic

AMSTERDAM — Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is excited to announce the installation and unveiling of their collaborative mosaic titled, "My Best Life."

The 4' by 6' mosaic, created by local artist Linda Biggers and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive supports from Liberty ARC, is made out of tile and glass. The mosaic is on display in the lobby of Liberty ARC's Day Supports Center building.

"We are very excited to showcase, 'My Best Life,'" said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "It's absolutely beautiful, and our artists did a fantastic job with the project. I believe it is also very symbolic, because the mosaic is created using a lot of different pieces that come together to create a whole. That is a lot of what we do at Liberty ARC working together to create a best life for the people we support."

For the past several months, Biggers, 30 Liberty ARC artists, and Liberty ARC Assistant Hab Specialist Amy Devendorf, who runs the agency's art program, have worked on the mosaic. Pieces were created in smaller sections with different groups of artists and then all brought together to form the final piece. Through the process of creating the mosaic, the artists gained knowledge about the history and used new techniques to create the master piece.

"The past several months working with Amy and the Liberty ARC artists have been a wonderful experience," Biggers said. "Everyone was so excited to work on the project and in turn that excites me. Our artists were fantastic and so eager to learn something new. They are very talented. Thank you to Amy as well for your support during this project and working besides me."

"From the very beginning, I knew this project was going to be spectacular," Devendorf said. "The end results completely represents Liberty ARC."

The theme of "My Best Life" details what is important to Liberty ARC's artists in their own lives. The mosaic also represents how Liberty

ARC supports individuals with disabilities to live their best lives and reflects the agency's culture and values. Our culture centers on respect, empowerment, innovation, and collaboration. Our values are quality, teamwork, integrity, respect, resourcefulness, and person-centered.

"Liberty ARC is a melting pot with people from various backgrounds. Our goal is to ensure whatever interests the people we support at Liberty ARC have or a vision of what they would like their life to look like, the agency can make it come true. I think this mosaic is a great representation of the agency that visitors, staff, and individuals see as soon as they walk into the building. They immediately will have an understanding of Liberty ARC," said Liberty ARC Board of Directors President Brett Harris.

"I really liked working on the mosaic, and making the girl swinging, showing her freedom to live her best life," Liberty ARC Artist Maggie Rodriguez said. "And she is having fun, like I do, when I make art."

"I chose the word 'family' on the mosaic boarder because family is very important in my life," Liberty ARC Artist Michele Michaels. "I have a brother, two sisters, a lot of nieces and nephews, and cousins. They all mean the world to me."

Liberty ARC received supporting funds for the project through 2021 Arts Education grant through Saratoga Arts and the Amsterdam Walmart Community Grant Program.

The Walmart Community Grant Program is highly competitive, receiving more than 150,000 applications annually. These grants are awarded by local stores to various non-profits, based on community impact and need.

"We extend our sincerest gratitude to Saratoga Arts and Amsterdam Walmart for their financial support of this amazing project," Saunders said. "The funding has allowed for our students to further their artistic talents and gain the confidence to create using different art mediums."

To see the Mosaic Unveiling Event, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVk6ZyphdIU>



Above: Pictured is Liberty ARC Artists Ryan Decker, left, and Sherley Morales, right with local artist Linda Biggers, center, working on the creation of the "My Best Life" mosaic.

Below: Pictured is Liberty ARC Artist Bethany Cramer, in front, working on the creation of the "My Best Life" mosaic with a group of the agency's artists and staff.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

