

H-F Arts Center decorated with graphic murals

BY MARILYN THOMAS
mthomas@hfchronicle.com

Homewood-Flossmoor High School alumnus Erik Lundquist brought his talents back to his alma mater to dress up a very bland hallway with exciting murals depicting the arts.

The seven panels on half-walls in the new Performing Arts Center were envisioned as a gallery by teacher Greg Petecki who called on his former student for ideas.

"His work is very graphic, very designer-oriented. I thought it would be fun and a perfect mix. I wanted to do a mural, but I was cautious because they become dated really quickly," Petecki said. The murals are done in black and white making quite a contrast to the neutral tones of the stone and brick walls and off-white floors in the space.

Lundquist spent a week in early April at H-F as an artist-in-residence working on the project with advanced placement art students and offering insights into how he has worked in the arts since he graduated from H-F in 2008. Today he is a full-time freelance artist in Chicago.

Lundquist first met with Petecki at H-F to scope out the space and worked with the teacher on some concepts. When he started his weeklong visit at H-F, he used a pro-



Erik Lundquist designed this mural with paint supplies to represent the fine arts.



The visual arts programs at H-F High are represented with a camera, a film reel and the Viking TV's "on air" sign.

jector to flash his digital designs onto the space and trace the outlines. Then he and the students painted the walls with images representing the arts at H-F: a saxophone, a film reel, an ink bottle, paints and brushes, a book and pen. He bookended the wall with the Viking warrior logo at the start and "Dedicated to Excellence" at the end.

"We got students who were interested, and I'd do a demo of how I hold a brush and how I attack painting," Lundquist said. "The wall is kind of course so that kind of



Provided photos

Erik Lundquist uses a projected image to trace the lines of a graphic onto a bare wall at H-F High. He follows the lines as he paints the design.

brings some problems. It's not like painting on a canvas or a piece of paper; you need a little more control of the brush than you do working flat...It was nice to see everyone get involved and contribute something that's going to live at the school."

Petecki said he included time in the week for Lundquist to do a version of a TED Talk so students could hear from a working artist. The teacher said too often students hear "starving artist" stories about how difficult it is to break into the arts.

Lundquist received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Columbia College-Chicago and worked in the arts supply industry while doing freelance work. Eventually, he had

enough freelance projects that he was able to earn a living as an artist. Among his clients is Vans shoe company. He's done graphic posters and Vans hired him to paint a California skate park with graphic designs.

Lundquist grew up near the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District's skate park on Harwood Avenue, and has been into skateboarding for about 20 years.

"All that has had a good influence on my work. The graphics in that industry definitely got me into art at an early age, definitely art on the bottom of skateboards and the more graphic side of it, rather than a fine arts direction. That's been a big push and now I work in that industry," he said.

He admits breaking into the business of making art takes time and perseverance. He credits his parents, Ron and Diane Lundquist of Homewood, who "taught me good morals and from a young age and just a work ethic in general. But you can't just sit around and wait for it to happen. You have to go out there and make it happen for yourself.

"There's a lot of trial and error and ups and downs and just like anything else. You really gotta work for it, a little good luck and meeting people along the way help go a long way in the arts industry," Lundquist said.

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