

Art Students Show their Creativity With Mural for the Chrysler House

A group of students from the Fraser-based Arts Academy in the Woods high school recently completed a mural that covers the walls of the breezeway that connects a parking garage with the Rock Ventures-owned Chrysler House in Griswold in downtown Detroit.

Kayla Friess, outreach, recruitment and admissions officer at the school, said that several students placed their proposals for the mural before building officials from Rock Ventures last September.

Their proposals were successful and they began painting the murals on their weekends. The project took some time to complete and they finally finished up the project in February.

“The students’ proposal was full-color, full detail,” Friess said. “They were led by one of our alumni, Anthony Chirco, who graduated from the school last spring. He now attends Macomb

Community College.”

Arts Academy in the Woods opened its door in August of 2001, and is a free public high school chartered by the Macomb Intermediate School District.⁹

It offers students specialized coursework in the fine and performing arts along with teaching students lessons designed for the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Painting murals on walls is nothing new to Academy students.

Friess said that many seniors, as part of their senior projects would paint murals on the walls of the school.

“Right now we still have plenty of wall space that has yet to be covered, so students aren’t in danger of running out of mural space at the school anytime soon,” Friess said. “But it’s been a while since students painted a mural away from the school, so this project was very exciting for us to be a part of.”



Arts Academy in the Woods students Haylie Mousseau, Rachel MacLean, Anthony Chirco and Shelby Klobucar pose in front the mural they painted outside the Chrysler House in downtown Detroit.



A new Cadillac XTS plant in Shanghai is set to boost the brand in China.

Shanghai Assembly of Cadillac XTS To Improve Sales Position in China

Cadillac has begun production of the new XTS luxury sedan in China, the latest and most important milestone in the brand’s growth in the world’s largest auto market, GM officials said.

Shanghai joins Oshawa, Ontario, as an assembly location for the XTS, marking the brand’s biggest step in its expansion since arriving in China in 2006.

“We are reaching the next level of Cadillac growth in China,” said Bob Ferguson, vice president, Global Cadillac. “This expansion in localized assembly for our brand in China coincides with the strong momentum of our new product portfolio and significant growth in the dealer network.”

Cadillac China’s dealer network has grown to more than 150 locations, roughly doubling in the past year. It is planned to reach 250 outlets in the next two years.

The brand sold 30,000 vehicles

in China in 2012 with a goal of topping 100,000 annually by the year 2015.

The Cadillac XTS marks an important addition to China, redefining the large luxury sedan via advanced technology such as standard Magnetic Ride Control, the breakthrough CUE system for connectivity and control and advanced safety systems.

The elegant and spacious interior of the XTS is a good fit in China, where luxurious space is highly valued, Ferguson said.

Local assembly and a smaller displacement 2.0L Turbo powertrain in the XTS help the car reach a more compelling market position in China, he added.

“We’re poised to move to the next level,” Ferguson said. “Growth in the Chinese market is essential to any top-level luxury auto brand, and it boosts our brand and our business everywhere, including in the U.S.”

GM Improves on Calling Center Concept

In another effort to provide the best customer experience in the industry, General Motors is changing the way its customer call centers operate.

GM will now be staffing Customer Engagement Centers with expert advisors who can reach out to new owners to answer questions and are empowered to help customers resolve most issues on the spot.

“We’re not waiting for customers to come to us,” said Alicia Boler-Davis, vice president of Global Quality and U.S. Customer Experience.

“We proactively reach out to offer support and open a dialogue with our Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac customers.

This includes our social media team interacting on Facebook, Twitter and popular vehicle forums to offer assistance.”

At the same time, GM is implementing processes and tools to enable the channeling of data from the centers to its designers and engineers to capture the voice of the customer for further improvements in vehicle programs.

The transformation from Call to Customer Engagement Centers includes bringing advisors closer to the people at General Motors who can support quick decisions that GM’s customers might wish to make.


Approximately 300 advisor positions will be located at the GM

Technical Center in Warren, from the consolidation of other business operations.

The moves will also include having a subset of social media advisors that will be located on the same floor as Boler-Davis in GM’s Global Headquarters in Detroit.

“At GM, we value the relationships we have with our customers and we want to exceed their expectations at every touch point,” said Jim Moloney, general director of Customer & Relationship Services.

“This is another example of the companywide changes that are taking place at GM to get everything right for the customer.”






Heating for the Homeless

DID YOU KNOW?

- This intense winter weather is having a devastating effect on the homeless. Grace Centers of Hope beds are AT CAPACITY with 200 men, women, and children seeking warm, safe shelter.
- Grace Centers of Hope has been giving hope to the helpless since 1942, and is one of Southeast Michigan’s oldest and largest homeless shelters.
- Their annual “Heating for the Homeless” campaign is an effort to raise \$80,000 to shelter men, women and children from these bitter cold months.
- With the temperatures at their coldest, will you consider donating \$80 for Heating the Homeless? Your donation will help provide warm, safe shelter during these winter months.

Donate: <http://www.gracecentersofhope.org/Donate.aspx>
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Tech News

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‘Minute Scam’ Aimed at Businesses

UHY LLP Certified Public Accountants, a tax and business consulting firm based with offices in Farmington Hills, is warning that there is a new scam being perpetrated against Michigan businesses.

The scam works as follows – corporations and limited liability companies across Michigan are receiving what appears at first glance to be an official form titled “2013 – Annual Minutes Form” from an entity calling itself the “Corporate Records Service.” The form advises the business to submit the Annual Minutes Form along with a \$125 payment to a Lansing address.

⁹This is not an official State of Michigan document and no payments or forms should be mailed in response.

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has verified that the “Corporate

Records Service” is a non-governmental entity attempting to create confusion among Michigan businesses to lure them into the purchase of a service that is not required by law to be filed with the Department.

The State of Michigan does legally require corporations to file annual reports or annual statements, however there is no such requirement for annual minutes.

These letters are designed to look authentic. UHY Advisers stated, “If you are ever unsure about a notice received in the mail be sure to reach out to your tax professional or government agency for further information.”

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