

#### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

##### Equity Spotlight Podcast Series

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

### TRANSCRIPTION

**Hunter:** Hello. My name is Hunter, and this is *A Virtual Little Library for Staying Connected*, created by Dr. Taucia González and myself. Our library is a collection of picture books read aloud by community members that we would like to share with you. These read-alouds are a way for us all to stay connected while also supporting our children while they are unable to attend school. The books and community members we've chosen show the diversity of our schools and communities. We would like to thank our readers and their guests for participating, as well as the Midwest & Plains Equity Center for supporting the project. We hope you enjoy.

**Mila:** Hi, my name is Mila Gonzalez and I'm a senior at Mountain View High School. And here reading the book with me today is Ms. Schroeder and Lisette and her daughter, Leila.

**Danielle:** Hello, I'm Danielle Schroeder. And I'm a teacher at Mountain View.

**Lisette:** I'm Lisette Escalante and I'm an elementary school librarian.

**Leila:** I'm Leila Escalante and I'm a third grader.

**Mila:** Today we will be reading, *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*, by Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López.

In the heart of the gray city, there lived a girl who loved to doodle, draw, color and paint. Every time she saw a blank piece of paper, Mira thought to herself, "hmm maybe." And because of this, her room was filled with color and her heart was filled with joy.

#### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

##### *Equity Spotlight Podcast Series*

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

On her way to school one day, Mira gave a round apple to Mr. Henry, the owner of the shop down the street. She gave a flower to Ms. López, the lady with the sparkling eyes.

**Mila:** She gave a songbird to Mr. Sax, and a red heart to the policeman who walked up and down the streets. On her way home, Mira taped a glowing sun onto the wall, hiding in the shadows. Her city was less gray, but not much.

The next day Mira saw a man with a pocket full of paint brushes. He gazed at the wall. He looked up at her sun. He held up his fingers in a square and peered through them. “Hmm,” she said, thoughtfully, “what do you see?” Mira asked. “Maybe something beautiful,” the man replied.

Then just like that, he dipped the brush in the paint. Bam, pow, the shadow scurried away. Sky blue cut through the gloom. The man's laughter was like a rainbow spreading across the sky.

“Who are you?” Mira asks. “I’m an artist,” he said. “A muralist. I paint on walls.”

“I’m an artist too,” she told him. He handed Mira a brush.

“Then come on!”

**Mila:** Mira dipped in the loudest color she saw. Yow-wee! The wall lit up like sunshine. As the man drew pictures on the bricks, Mira added color, punch, and pizzazz. Soon, Mr. Sax joined in. Then came others. Everyone painted to the rhythm salsa, merengue, beebop.

**Mila:** Even Mira's mama painted and danced the cha-cha-cha. The whole neighborhood became a giant block party until--

Copyright © 2021 by Great Lakes Equity Center

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Grant S004D110021). However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and endorsement by the Federal Government should not be assumed.

#### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

##### *Equity Spotlight Podcast Series*

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

**Mila:** The policeman walked up. “Excuse me,” he said. The music stopped. Mira put her brush down. They were surely in trouble. The officer cleared his throat, then paused. “May I paint with you?” he asked. So Mira handed him a paintbrush, and then music started again.

**Mila:** Teachers and papás jumped in. Babies, too. Mira and the man handed out brush after brush. Color spread throughout the streets. So did joy.

**Mila:** Wherever Mira and the man went, art followed, like the string of a kite. After they colored the walls, they painted utility boxes and benches. They decorated sidewalks with poetry and shine. And everyone danced. Together, they created something more beautiful than they had ever imagined.

**Mila:** When their clothes were splattered with millions of colors, everybody sat down to rest, except the muralist. His eyes sparkled. “You, my friends are all artists,” he told them. “The world is your canvas.” He smiled wide and pulled everything together in big sweeping motion. His paint brush was like a magic wand.

**Mila:** When he was finished, Mira added one more bird way up in the sky. “Maybe,” she thought “just maybe.”

And that's the end of the story. Now my question is to everybody. What does art mean to you? And for me, art is a way to express myself, and it can also tell a story. I remember growing up in Phoenix I walked down the street...and I had to move to Wisconsin. And it was a pretty gray state.

And the city I lived in was pretty gray. It's not, it was nothing like what it was in Phoenix, or you didn't just see murals as you walked down the street. And finally, when I came back to Arizona, I was able to take my senior photos in front of a

#### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

##### *Equity Spotlight Podcast Series*

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

mural. And it just brought me back to where I was. So yeah. So now you guys can answer.

**Danielle:** For me, public art displays the culture of the different communities. And being from New York in one neighborhood, you'd have art that displayed the culture of the people there. And it might have certain colors that evoke people's homeland and how they feel about food and music and things. But then if you go to a different neighborhood, you'd see like different kinds of public art. And moving to Tucson, like right now in the last 20 years, there's been a big movement for public art and murals here. And it's been wonderful to see how the art both reflects the culture of the community, but also like helps us all to feel more pride.

**Lisette:** I really enjoyed this story. Just like the main character Mira, my daughter Leila loves to doodle, paint, color and draw. Art inspires her because even when she makes a mistake, she can turn it into something beautiful. And for me, I've always had an appreciation for art. I love all the colors and all the different interpretations. I enjoy seeing how a blank piece of paper can be turned into something spectacular. I love how art brings people together, brings. And even when given the same project, at the end, our final pieces have their own special touches.

**Mila:** All right, now we're going to start with a little art lesson. So if you're at home grab a piece of paper and pencil. We'll be drawing stuff from the cover of the book, first we'll start with the flower.

**Mila:** So if you guys are ready, pencils. And we're going to start off by drawing a circle. Just draw a quarter-sized circle. I have my big piece of paper. And now we're going to draw, like a sun you're going to draw the lines like a sun, not too big, just to make it stand out. And then now we're just going to connect each line with a

#### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

##### *Equity Spotlight Podcast Series*

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

little loop, like that. And just continue on. If you want you can add more lines into it, to make more petals, if you want.

And once you're done and you have the center, we're going to add just a stem. So just draw a line down, and if you want to make it bigger you can add another line with it. And then we're going to add the leaves. You can just continue with a half circle with the leaves. Like that. Or if you want you can make it a little fancier with a little point at the end, and then once you're done you can show it if you want. If you're comfortable.

**Mila:** Very nice. And if you want you can go in with color. It's up to you guys. Did you finish your flower Lisette? Yeah. Very nice. It's very cute. And now we're going to start with the sun. We're going to start with a bigger circle, nice round circle, like this. We're going to start on the outside with the spikes, so just draw triangles along the outside of the circle, like this, until you get all the way around.

**Mila:** And then, so once you get all the way around, we're going to start the face, and we're going to start with the eyes, so just draw two circles where you think the eyes should be. Just like this. And then, for the nose, we have an upside-down triangle. And then, we're going to have the smile. You can make it as big as you want, and just connect it with another line, like this.

And then the little cheeks are narrow circles at the end. And then, if you want, you can add the eyebrows. Which are just little eyebrows. I am going in with yellows and oranges. And then whenever you're ready, you can show what you have.

And if you are watching this video I encourage you to draw these pictures and fill them with color, and if you want you can just post them up around your neighborhood, to spread some joy.

Copyright © 2021 by Great Lakes Equity Center

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Grant S004D110021). However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and endorsement by the Federal Government should not be assumed.



## A Virtual Little Library for Staying Connected



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
IUPUI

### IV. Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood

#### *Equity Spotlight Podcast Series*

Taucia González, MAP Center Equity Fellow – Wisconsin  
Hunter Brown, Amphitheater Public Schools – Arizona

**Mila:** Oh if you're watching I hope you enjoyed the little lesson. And thank you to Ms. Schroeder, and Lisette and Leila for joining the call.

[End of Audio]

Copyright © 2021 by Great Lakes Equity Center

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Grant S004D110021). However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and endorsement by the Federal Government should not be assumed.

A PROJECT OF 