

Art honors MLK - Students' mural shows King's principles

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Pomona High School sophomores Nicole Rivera (left), 15, and Catalina Lopez, 15, trace the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. onto a board that will become part of a mural reflecting concepts discussed by Rev. King Jr. on Tuesday, January 17, 2008 in Pomona. (Therese Tran/Staff Photographer)

POMONA - They started out as large, white wooden panels and quickly became the pieces of a mural representing the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr.

Students at Pomona High School spent part of Tuesday working on the mural that will be presented to the student body today during an assembly honoring King.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday.

The project is a collaborative effort by the school, the Pomona Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission and Hands On Inland Empire, a program of the Inland Empire United Way.

Each of the five approximately 4-foot-by-7-foot panels has silhouettes of students engaged in different activities such as studying, playing sports and spending time together. Each panel also contains an inspirational King quote.

Sophomore Lori Phambui, who worked on the mural and is shown as one of the silhouettes, said the final product "promotes what he was all about, that everyone is equal."

The mural is red and white - the school's colors - with lettering and the silhouettes in black, and junior Raychel Cotton says it will be visually impressive.

But it will be special for other reasons as well.

"I think that it helps students value other people and different races," Raychel said.

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