

La Casa awarded \$20K grant to fund new school mural

WAUKESHA — La Casa de Esperanza was recently awarded \$20,000 by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund for the construction of a mural on its new charter school building.

La Casa is among 20 visual arts and arts education programs in the community to be awarded a total of \$338,000 in funding from the fund. Established by late local artist Mary L. Nohl, the fund has made grants of more than \$7 million since 2001 in support of arts in the metropolitan area.

La Casa de Esperanza's funds will allow for the con-

struction of a 14-by-26-foot mosaic mural that will surround the façade of the entrance to a new building for La Casa Charter School.

Milwaukee-based mosaic artist Ann Wydeven will lead more than 50 youth and community members in discussions and workshops from the planning through installation phases.

The 20-month project will culminate with an unveiling ceremony in spring 2018.

La Casa is in the process of securing city approval for a three-story expansion at its current location as the first piece in a three-phase plan to grow its new

school over the next several years.

The school currently offers 4K and 5K, and plans to continue expanding its classes, with the ultimate goal of serving students up to eighth grade.

The addition — which would extend north along Caroline Street — would add 11,504 square feet to the existing building.

The plan is to build 12 additional classrooms during the multiphase expansion, with construction planned to begin this fall and be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year.

— Freeman Staff