

living **datebook**

• visual arts

TREE OF LIFE

ART 180's mural project
"grows" in Manchester

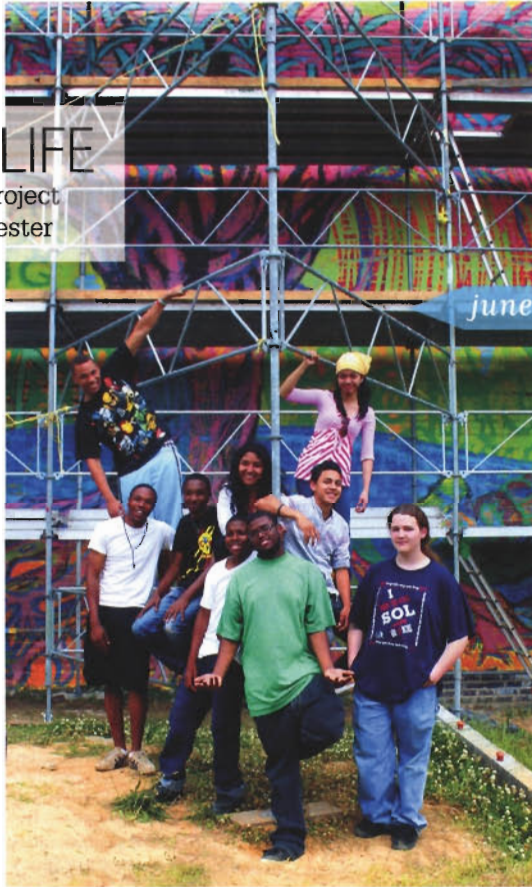
If you've passed the corner of Hull Street and Cowardin Avenue on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon and wondered what those kids on the scaffold are up to, you'll find out on Saturday, June 12. This is when their mural will be unveiled. Guided by Richmond artist Curtis Gutierrez and coordinator Rachel Mehl, they'll be showing their version of a tree of life.

Mehl, a bilingual educator, was recruited last fall by the nonprofit ART 180 to oversee the grant-driven Intercultural Mural Project, which was implemented at the request of the city's department of parks, recreation and community facilities; the Richmond Public Library, and the Hispanic liaison office. Using the Communities in Schools and English as a second language programs, Mehl brought students from George Wythe and Huguenot high schools into the endeavor, which will cover an 1,800-square-foot side of music producer Daniel Deckelman's two-story building.

"It's a tree of life with roots representing the strength of the community," Mehl says.

Gutierrez explains that with the mural, they are striving for an optical effect, by piling patterns upon patterns and colors on colors, which will give the mural animation. The kids are interested in the mural's size and scope (and clambering on scaffolding). "What they don't get yet is the enduring nature of a mural," Gutierrez says. "It'll be here as a voice for the community after they've gone to college; I hope long after that, too."

The public is invited to the unveiling to hear from the participating students. Noon. 233-4180 or art180.org. —HK



June 12

June 4-29

• photography

Creative Maturity

For her VCU thesis, **Carlie Collier** shot black-and-white photos of more than 20 older



female artists across the state, with accompanying interview excerpts. "Muses" is at the downtown Richmond Public Library, and Collier will speak at the June 4 opening. Free. 646-4740 or richmondpubliclibrary.org. —BE