

## Art Force Five to host Albany workshops, activities while honoring Selma anniversary

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During the 50th anniversary of three historic civil rights marches, a new generation of social justice activists will visit the state capital touting the power of non-violence and creativity. The Art Force Five, a real-life superhero team comprised of Alfred University (AU) students, will provide a variety of workshops and activities during a seven-day tour throughout New York State beginning Saturday, March 7 in Albany and ending Friday, March 13 back in Alfred.

While promoting equality through art, the team will make efforts to also pay tribute to the Selma to Montgomery marches which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Art Force Five features heroes wearing colorful aprons (“capess in reverse”) and each possess their own artistic power. The team consists of Graphite, the illustrator; Brushstroke, the painter; Zoom, the photographer; 3-D, the sculptor; and Runway, the fashion designer. Their workshops use numerous modalities of learning including role playing, magic tricks, art activities, and positive reinforcement with prizes. The program, founded in 2006, strives to promote equality, reduce violence, and strengthen communities all through creative conflict resolution.

Albany highlights will include:

- **March 7 (10a.m.-5 p.m.)** Art stations at the Hannaford Kidz Expo at the Empire State Plaza will allow young heroes to make their own action figures and capes. An exhibit of diversity and civil rights in American comic books will also be presented. An additional art project will pay tribute to the 600 activists who risked their lives marching for voting rights on March 7, 1965 (known since as Bloody Sunday). (Open to the public.)
- **March 8 (1-3 p.m.)** “Creativity over Conflict” workshop at the Youth Camp Fair at Hudson Valley Community College in nearby Troy. This stage show proves that “creativity is the ultimate super power” and features magic tricks, prizes, and history lessons. Suitable for all ages but most enthusiastically enjoyed by ages 6-13. (Free and open to the public). Attendees are also invited to discover dozens of youth summer programs offered around the Capital District.
- **March 8-9** The Art Force Five are honored to provide training for emerging superheroes within the University of Albany’s staff and student leadership. Monday, March 9 also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the second Selma to Montgomery march known as “Turnaround Tuesday,” the first Selma march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Questions about the program can be directed to Dan Napolitano, at [D2D@alfred.edu](mailto:D2D@alfred.edu), or by calling 607-871-2671. Additional information and lesson plans can be found at [www.drawntodiversity.com](http://www.drawntodiversity.com).