



OAKLAND SUPER HEROES MURAL PROJECT

Get to know the Super Heroes!

Serenity: Serenity is a shy but charismatic Mexican girl who lives in Oakland. When she is 10 years old, her mother dies unexpectedly and because of the state of her grieving father she must move in with her evil aunt. However, before her mother dies she gives Serenity a flower necklace, which holds all of her mother's magic powers. After years of being locked away by her evil aunt, she escapes and is shocked to see the devastation of Oakland. When she comes across an "old rundown park" she has the desire to help and with that intention, her mother's necklace begins to glow. In a flash, the power of the necklace transforms the park into a "beautiful oasis". She continues to restore all the parks of Oakland, making Oakland residents have "pride for where they lived". "Living in trashy conditions no longer frustrated citizens because the city was now clean and the people of Oakland were happy". Litter lessened and crime rates decreased because of Serenity's care for her environment and the impact on the community.

Bob: Bob is a Jamaican boy who is forced to move away from his parents to live with his grandparents in Oakland in order to protect a powerful and secret family heirloom. Marley, his father in Jamaica, gives Bob his magical beanie after someone raids their house to try and steal it. Once safe, hidden, and then forgotten about in Bob's closet, Bob begins hanging out with the wrong crowd in high school, and becomes addicted to drugs. By chance, he stumbles across his dad's old beanie and decides to put it on, ridiculing the notion that his parents thought it had magic powers. Yet, after wearing it a short while, Bob feels different, reflective of his own behavior. He feels as though "he could see his future, and how every decision that he makes... would affect his adulthood". He goes to a party but chooses not to join his friends like he normally would but rather show them what he has seen of himself. As he exhales, his body tingles and a "rainbow of smoke pours out of his mouth....creating little windows, portals into his friends' futures". Bob's friends all stop and listen to him. "Bob started to go to many parties, but not to drink or do drugs; instead he went to save lives". Bob knew it was never too late to do the right thing and "many people started to make different choices", thanks to him.

Sasha: Sasha is a gay, albino, Parisian young boy who, one day, swallows a butterfly, which transforms his skin to glow gold, permanent tattoos. However, after his father passes away, he decides to move to Oakland to reunite and live with his mother for the first time. He becomes regretful of his decision and changed life upon seeing the "junky apartment" and state his mother is in. But just in that moment, he sees a "man vandalizing a wall with spray paint" and yells at him to stop. The man's refusal is met with the golden butterfly tattoos that create a bright flash, erasing everything from the wall. Sasha then decides to give Oakland a chance. He uses his butterfly tattoos to protect himself and others against bullies at school. "It became Sasha's goal to protect the unprotected and use his golden butterfly tattoos for good....Sasha began to think of Oakland as his home. It was a place where Sasha was really needed, and in a way, Sasha really needed Oakland. Oakland had opened his heart to helping others."

Paris: Paris is a 103 year-old Unicornian who takes the form of a 17 year-old human girl, from a far-away planet called Unicornia. She decides to move to Earth because of the danger and poverty that exists on her home planet. She has a magic tattoo made from "secret and rare Unicornian ink" and brings with her a musical instrument, called the "saxalin, a saxophone mixed with a violin", created from a meteor and intertwined with her soul. She finds herself in Oakland where she is adopted as a baby by loving parents. As a toddler she realizes that Oakland is in no better condition than Unicornia and begins to plan how to love and help her community. Once older, "Paris stops aging" and with her "magic powers matured," she decides to put her plan into action. At the wave of her arm with the magic tattoo, she commands all the animals in the Bay Area to help clean polluted water and harmful radiation in the Oakland community. (The magic Unicornian ink enables the animals to ingest the pollution without injury, "making it disappear"). Paris also recognized other problems around her such as drug abuse, and so played her magic saxalin, which would remove all destructive and addictive thoughts from the listener's mind.