In October, students from Steve Foster’s art class presented original designs for a BMW art car in hopes that their artwork would be transferred to a real, working vehicle. Foster finally chose the design and had planned to assemble a team of about six students to paint the car, but his plans quickly changed when the number of volunteers exceeded the amount of work that needed to be done.

“I didn’t know how to include everyone, but these guys are a motivated group, and you never want to discourage that,” Foster said.

So instead of buying one car, Foster is now the owner of a 2001 BMW and a 1969 Plymouth, both of which will be turned into mobile works of art. The Fury is being handpainted with acrylics, while the BMW will get a checkerboard design using a traditional automotive paint treatment.

The project is something Foster has wanted to do for a long time, and since this is his last year before retiring from Saddleback High School, he figured he’d better make it happen.

To start, each student was given a schematic of a BMW and told to create six designs. From there, the students were divided into small teams and tasked with consolidating their ideas into one design that they would present to the class as if they were pitching an idea to a client. The Fury’s design is a compilation of artwork from several design groups.

The majority of the students will work on the Fury, with Foster now the owner of a 2001 BMW and a 1969 Plymouth Fury III, both of which will be turned into mobile works of art. The Fury is being handpainted with acrylics, while the BMW will get a checkerboard design using a traditional automotive paint treatment.

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**Wooden Floor takes its moves to nation's capital**

Organizations that aim to empower youth through the arts announces a partnership with CityDance.

**By Katherine Wright**

In 2008, two years after it was founded, The Wooden Floor, then named CityDance Learning, began receiving inquiries from students and their families about gaining access to the arts. Now 10 years later, The Wooden Floor is expanding its reach to the city and rural parts of the country through training with Washington, D.C.-based non-profit CityDance, which The Wooden Floor received in 2013, became the organization’s first official partner in November. CityDance promotes and produces professional dance programs in Washington, D.C. The Wooden Floor will be working with CityDance’s Children’s Dream Program, an initiativethat provides professional dance training to youth inunderserved neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to train young people from the community who would not otherwise have access to it.

The program, which originally started in 2008, has grown from four classes offered by two teachers to more than 25 classes offered by numerous teachers and teaching artists across the country. A key component of the program is the opportunity to perform original work as a part of CityDance’s “DREAM” program, which is a professional salon-style event that provides a platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their work. The program is open to students of all ages and experience levels, and performances range from contemporary and hip-hop to jazz and ballet.

In addition to dance, The Wooden Floor promotes academic and social services to students and their families as a way to increase graduation rates. Since 2005, all students involved in the program have also graduated from high school and entered college.

The Wooden Floor offers 175 students techniques classes as well as the opportunity to perform original dance and the driving force of the youth development program.

Said Reese: “At the end of the day, our shared goal is to create a life path for our students. We are determined to help them to do just that.”