

Creative outlet for summer



— James Crichlow/staff

Students are painting a mural on the side of the Peoples Pharmacy building at Eighth and Myrtle in Durkeeville.

Students use their talents for 'Rhythm'

By Orlando De Bruce
Staff writer

This summer, 16-year-old Adrian Fletcher is learning that teamwork can make her life easier.

She works outside with six students in the blazing sun. Their summer job is to paint a *Rhythm* mural featuring a jazz artist on the side of Peoples Pharmacy at 1801 N. Myrtle St. in Durkeeville, just west of downtown.

After only a week on the project, the amateur artists have nearly finished it, and are gearing up for another one.

"It looks really good," said Fletcher, a junior at Robert E. Lee High School.

"This is a mural that brings people together from all neighborhoods — College Gardens, Durkeeville and New Town."

"Last summer I spent my time working in the office. This summer I'm working with people and it's a good experience, because we're learning how to work together."

Fletcher is one of 63 students in Duval County hired for a summer work/study program sponsored by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, said Amy Crane, the council's marketing director. The program started July 25 and concludes Tuesday.

Crane said the council pays students \$5 an hour to work on artistic community projects and to attend summer school as part of its CANVAS program — Cultural Arts Network — Volunteers, Artists and Students.

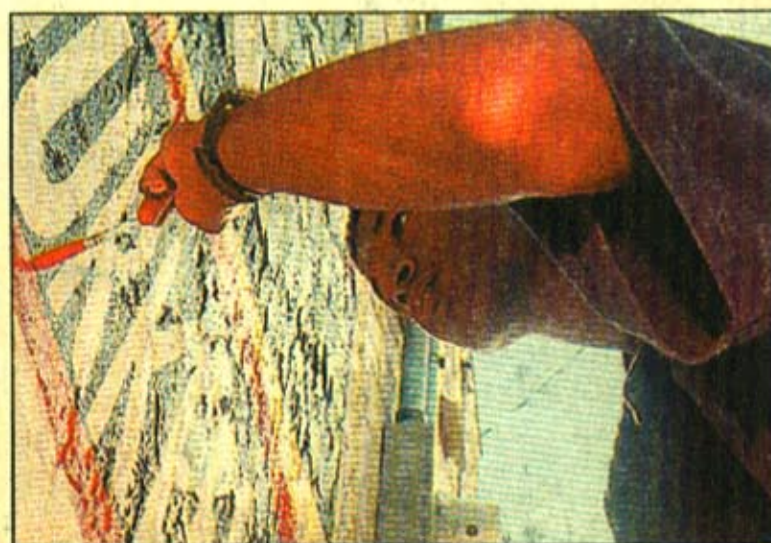
The CANVAS program was designed in 1996 to use art to help students develop professional work habits, build community spirit through visual enhancement and improve academic achievement, Crane said.

During the day, students work on their summer tasks and some afternoons they take educational field trips to learn, among other things, resume writing and job-interviewing skills, Crane said.

"There are a lot of things we're trying to do with the students besides create tomorrow's artists," Crane said. "We want them to take pride in their neighbor-



Above: Artist Daniel Wynn is the creative mastermind behind the mural at Eighth and Myrtle in Durkeeville.



Left: Clyron Butler works on the mural on the Peoples Pharmacy building. Students were hired by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville for the project.