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Sidewalk artistry with chalk draws all ages downtown

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Vallejoans of all ages got their hands dirty Saturday, participating in a collaborative chalk art piece that stretched along Georgia Street.



HANNAH Woody, 6, lies down next to her drawing at the Chalk Walk in downtown Vallejo on Saturday. (Stacey J. Miller/ Times-Herald)

The pavement provided a canvas for children and adults to unleash their imaginations at what Vallejo Main Street organizers said they hope will become an annual event.

Coordinating the project was Mark Wagner, an Alameda artist who is planning on creating the world's largest chalk drawing with the help of a few thousand children later this month.

"I love getting the community out and working together," Wagner said. "It's also nice for me to be out with all these people instead of working alone, isolated in my studio."

Wagner, who does chalk art events around the Bay Area, said it's great to work in chalk because of its temporary nature.

"It's refreshing because it is just here and now," Wagner said.

Chalk Walk organizers said about 200 people came to Saturday's event and left an original piece of art on one of the sidewalk squares.

"I think it's wonderful to draw our community together like this and let children participate and let their creative juices flow without being judged," said Teena Miller of Vallejo.

Larry Gordon and Elyse Brown, two friends who perform with their dance group at the Town House bar on Georgia Street, said the event was a way to get in touch with their inner children.

"This is so relaxing, I don't even know how long we've been here drawing," Brown said as she colored in her part of the sidewalk.

Gordon said Vallejo needs more events like this to get families downtown. "A lot of people are hesitant to come down here, but having a family-friendly day like this helps bring them down and maybe realize it's not so scary," Gordon said.