FREE TEACHING RESOURCE / 6–8 / 05

Unexpected Scale: Our Streets

CULTURE & SOURCES • context, care & extension

Why this place, why this lesson?

Local experiences can include a corner-store bag, rain boot, grocery cart, porch step, public transit token, school notebook or plant; foreground everyday life rather than defaulting to Mardi Gras symbols.

Broader perspectives

Permit subjects from any lived community; avoid requiring a New Orleans-specific identity. Invite multiple readings of public and private space.

A culturally responsible teaching protocol

Name the makers — Identify artists, communities and cultural bearers by name where sourced and relevant.

Differentiate study from appropriation — Students may analyze techniques and contexts without copying sacred, ceremonial, or culturally restricted imagery.

Avoid a single story — Offer multiple identities, geographies and points of view, including everyday life rather than only festivals.

Give students agency — Students can choose a different relevant subject and retain the same artistic learning goal.

Check the record — Distinguish primary testimony, museum interpretation, observation and speculation; cite the actual source.

Ask permission — Obtain permissions for interviews, photographs, student work displays and public sharing when required.

Lesson-specific caution

Use objects from real lived experience; do not portray working-class neighborhoods as visual curiosities. Invite respectful, accurate place-based narratives.

Verified starting points for teachers

• **Preservation Resource Center: context for Louisiana neighborhoods and built space**
https://prcno.org/

• **Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Arts Content Standards**
https://doe.louisiana.gov/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/louisiana-arts-content-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=4

• **Studio Thinking framework: Eight Studio Habits of Mind**
https://www.studiothinking.org/the-framework.html

Student reference log

Who created the image, object, quote or source?

When and where did the work or event occur?

What does the source actually say or show?

Which elements are my own interpretation?

Do I have permission to reuse the material?

Extension for advanced or returning artists

Two-panel scene showing who gains or loses space when the object changes scale; explain design choices using evidence.

About the instructional design

This lesson is a free original adaptation of the teacher-provided 2026 Artistic Investigations document. Its ten-stage inquiry structure and reflective goal-setting are preserved. The accompanying author resource, Fostering Artistic Growth: A Teacher's Guide to Instilling Studio Habits of Mind, informs the studio-habit emphasis. The full text of that published book was not supplied or reproduced.

The eight Studio Habits of Mind originate with Project Zero / Studio Thinking research. This independent resource does not imply endorsement by the book publisher, Louisiana Department of Education, cultural organizations, or Studio Thinking.