

Rainbow Heart Mural Meanings:

Film Wheel: Representation in the media (film, literature, etc.) with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and 2Spirit flags. This is important as our portrayal in the media effects public opinion on us and our rights.

Hummingbird: Healing. The hummingbird springs forth with a rainbow from the film wheel. The colours green and blue have meaning as well, with green representing safety, growth, and renewal and blue representing acceptance, recovery, and compassion.

Handprints: The pain of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community. There are over 300 handprints, each from a different person in the community.

Human figure: An image representing god. The colours and patterns are space-inspired, and the figure is painted touching the handprints; acknowledging the pain there.

Green circle: artist Case Lettinga's personal representation of herself. In her words, "The bounded circle represents myself, with the radiated green background symbolizing growth in Christ. The three triangles (or "tops of the trees") represent the Holy Trinity living inside me, with the "tree shapes" rooted in three "planters." The angled lines coming off of the "planters" represent tent stake lines, an ode to my time with the Calvinist Cadet Corps, a boy Scouts-like organization which was a feature of the Christian Reformed Church of my youth."

Eyes: The eyes represent strength, survival, and mourning for the pain of our community. They are shown crying and reflecting an image of a pride flag.

Sunflower person: This representation of the Queer community at large incorporates many flags in the LGBTQ+ community, a black power fist, and one eye that is crying pooling into a broken heart.

Butterflies: Each made from a separate pride flag, the butterflies represent freedom.

Background: Swirls and pastel gradient represent the Holy Spirit (ever-changing/flowing).

Major themes: Pain/suffering, the Christian god, Survival, Healing, Self-Identity

Historically Queer icons represented:

The Rainbow:

The rainbow became a common LGBT symbol in 1978 with Gilbert Baker's Pride flag, originally made specifically for gay men. This was the predominant flag for the LGBTQ2S+ community for many years until the progressive pride flag (shown behind the cross) was introduced in 2018. The rainbow is still a symbol of the diversity of the LGBT community and each colour has a specific meaning (as it did with the Baker flag):

- life (red),
- healing (orange),
- sunlight (yellow),
- nature (green),
- harmony/peace (blue),
- spirit (purple/violet).^[24]

The original flag also had sexuality (pink) and art/magic (turquoise) but these colours were removed because of an issue with the fabric.

Other flags:

Each flag in the LGBTQ community has a very specific history and usage. Some communities have multiple flags, for example, the Lesbian community has 13 different flags, each with a different history and meaning. Many LGBTQ flags are recent, and more continue to be made to this day. We've tried to incorporate some of the most iconic flags in this mural.