

All communities have the ability to construct a “mosaic” based on the contents of their community. A mosaic, at its most basic artistic definition, is a piece of art constructed from totally different materials and ideas. Communities, groups of diverse individuals who are connected through a shared value or common interest, can serve as the muses for these mosaics. All artists are able to form artistic communities, but also draw off of the characteristics and ideas of the larger community around them. In this way, artists are able to work together and thrive off of the ideas of one another, although these ideas oftentimes spring from the larger community surrounding them.

In creating choreography, large collaborations are not heard of. Dating back to the 19th century, Petipa and Tchaikovsky collaborated to conceive *The Nutcracker*, which is today one of the most well-known pieces of classical ballet. They were able to combine their artistic visions and inspire each other with their individual ideas to create something great. Collaborating during the choreographing process allows choreographers as well as composers to bounce off of one another. The contrast that oftentimes comes with collaboration can also be rather appealing, as differing ideas can cover a larger range of movement rather than ideas that are too similar.

One of the most accurate physical representations of a true mosaic is the Mosaic District in Merrifield. It incorporates a number of different elements into it, with a wide range of food from different areas of the world and actual mosaics of artwork that are open to display. What makes it a true mosaic, though, is that it is continuously growing. There is always something new being constructed, and that should be true of any mosaic. As the community changes and evolves over time, as should the artistic inspirations that are seen in mosaics. Communities of artists have more material to think about as they express their view of the world through their art, and mosaics continue to expand.



Artwork from a mosaic of canvases in the Mosaic District