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Ed (left) and Bernie Massey in front of one of the flowered panels painted by Palisades Elementary students that will be mounted on the sides of taxis in New York City in September. The Massey's nonprofit organization, Portraits of Hope, is based in Santa Monica.

Photo: Max Taves/Staff Writer

Gardens in Transit Comes To Palisades Elementary

The oil derrick next to Beverly Hills High, a dirigible, a boat, the control tower in Long Beach and taxicabs in New York all have a common thread: they are decorated with vividly colored painted squares of vinyl in one of the largest ongoing art projects in the world.

Pacific Palisades resident Ed Massey and his brother Bernie spearhead the project, called Portraits of Hope, a nonprofit program that conceives and produces one-of-a-kind motivational, art, education and creative therapy projects.

The idea first came to Ed, a sculptor, painter and children's book author, who had been invited to bring his book and read at

Cedars-Sinai Hospital. "While I was reading, I saw kids doing art in their hospital bed on little 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper," said Massey, who wondered how he could bring art and beauty to those children who were hospitalized.

Using water-based acrylics and large sheets of paper, Massey took the project to the hospital. He invented a shoe paintbrush for those who couldn't use their arms, a telescope paintbrush (which allows a child to paint from the bed) and a mouth-held paintbrush.

The children's artistic efforts were mounted in Beverly Hills on the "Tower of Hope"—a covered oil derrick that rises above the high school track and was transformed into a tower of flowers.

The Masseys visited Palisades Elementary on May 30 to include students in their latest beautification project, Garden in Transit, featuring painted flowers that will be mounted on New York taxicabs in September.

Go to: www.portraitsofhope.org for more information.



Painted Flowers for Taxis



Palisades Elementary students Will Strachan (left) and Jake Kalichman participate in one of the largest collaborative art projects in the world by painting flowers on vinyl that will be mounted on taxicabs in New York City in September. (See story, page 14.) Photo: Max Taves/Staff Writer