

**UNDERSTANDING  
DELAWARE:  
HOW A GLOBAL OUTLOOK  
CAN CHANGE THE WAY  
WE VIEW OUR OWN  
COMMUNITIES**

Quinn Kirkpatrick



# LIVING ABROAD

While living abroad, World Scholars are encouraged to try new things, to travel, to be an active part of the community we are living in, and to develop our cross-cultural communication skills.

In order to do this effectively, many World Scholars do research into their host country. When planning to travel, we look up key phrases like "best things to do in [insert famous city name here]." While we are abroad, we talk to locals, and find the best coffee shops, or sample the local cuisine.

When traveling, these actions are standard. It makes sense to try to learn all we can about a place where we are going to be living for 4 months.



# RETURNING HOME

World Scholars who return to Delaware after being abroad often feel as though they've lost something.

Compared to Rome, Madrid, Auckland, and Athens, Delaware seems lackluster. There is very little pride in the state of Delaware, especially by students who compare it to these global tourism destinations.

The symptoms of reverse culture shock (frustration, boredom, restlessness, negativity toward your native culture) also exasperate the feelings of resentment toward the state.



# CHANGING MY PERSEPECTIVE

I have lived in Delaware my entire life, but every day I learn something new about the state. Whether this is learning about a historical event that took place in downtown Wilmington, or a garden nearby that focuses on sustainability, once I opened my eyes to it, Delaware has never ceased to amaze me.

Before going abroad, and especially when I got back from Rome, I did not care about Delaware. I wanted to leave this state and never look back. It wasn't until I started applying the same level of care and attention to my home state as I did to the countries I visited in my time abroad, that I realized my local community had so much to offer.



# DISCOVERING DELAWARE

After being evacuated from Copenhagen at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I co-created Discovering Delaware with my friend Kayla Williams.

Discovering Delaware is a documentary series that offers an in-depth look at what makes Delaware special. It is a comprehensive, easily digestible, presentation of Delaware in the form of short videos.

Discovering Delaware was created because we wanted to change the way that people view the state of Delaware. It isn't boring, as many say, the information about it is just not readily available to the public. We wanted to make it readily available, and highlight aspects of the state that are particularly less well-known but very important.





Discovering Delaware Official Trailer




Watch later



Share



Watch on  YouTube

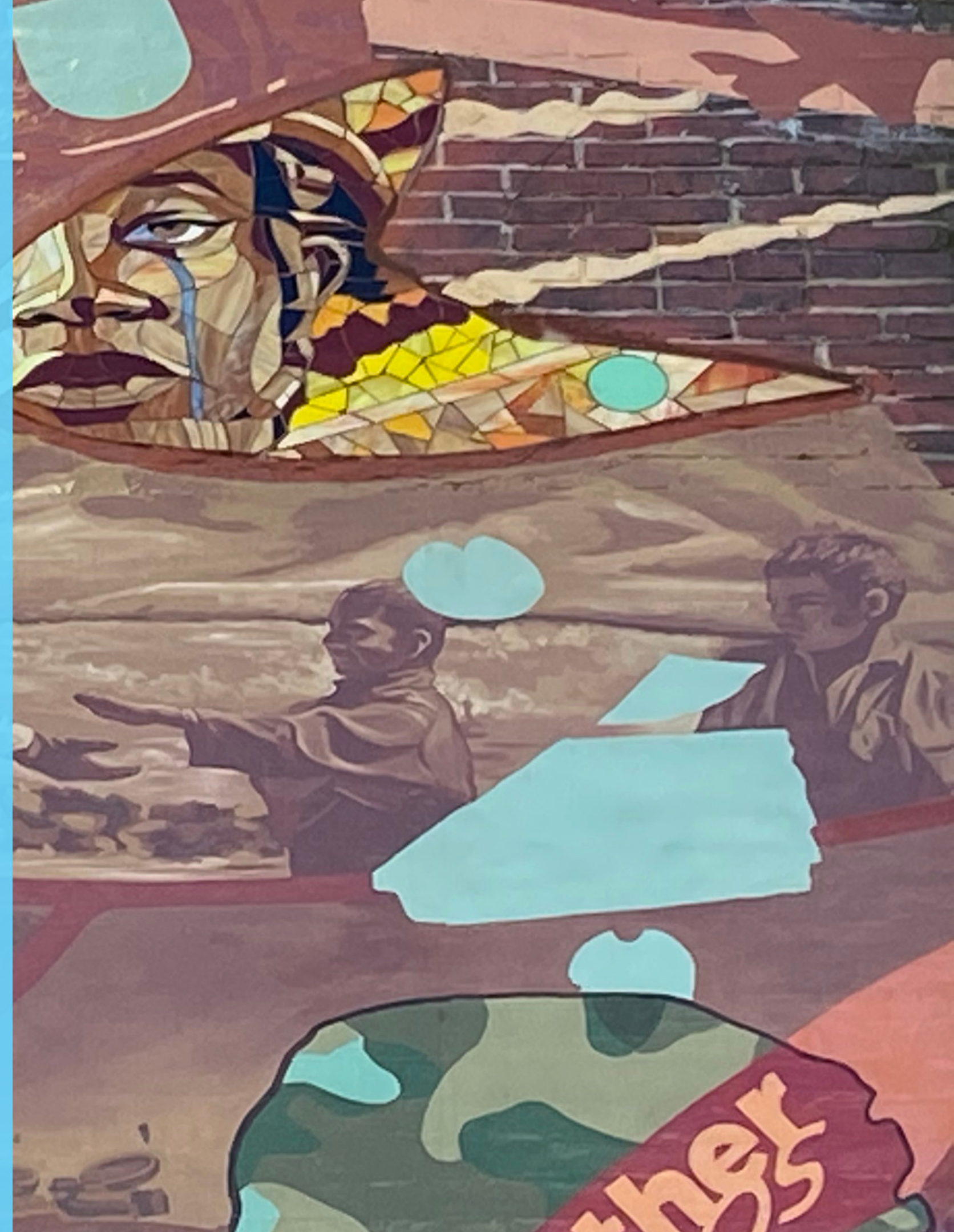
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jlzqt2no4L8>

# GIVING DELAWARE THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES

Starting this large project in the midst of a pandemic was not easy, but both my project partner and I were able to be flexible and adapt to the new world we lived in. There were many times that we had to change the project in order for it to be successful, and effectively convey the information we wanted to show the World.

Delaware may not be a tourism hot spot, or globally known, but the history that happened here, and the culture within this state, are important.

**Having a global outlook is realizing that there is no place in the world that is more important than anywhere else. Delaware included.**



# FINDING DISCOVERING DELAWARE

Discovering Delaware is an ongoing project.

To learn more, visit:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCFmxf-mC3aB\\_1YebX-HYo8Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFmxf-mC3aB_1YebX-HYo8Q)

[www.instagram.com/discoveringdelaware/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/discoveringdelaware/?hl=en)

