

Arts in the Community Program

OBJECTIVE: Encourage members to create and contribute to arts education and activities in all communities

ACTION PLAN

ARTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

VSA arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, is an international organization dedicated to providing quality art programs for children and adults with disabilities. *VSA arts* creates opportunities in music, dance, drama, and the visual arts for individuals with disabilities to participate in mainstream society.

Promote national *VSA arts* programs, such as the Young Soloist Program, Young Playwrights Program, and the *VSA arts* programs for veterans.

- o Distribute information available from state *VSA arts* directors. (See Resources)
- o Be an on-site volunteer at a promotion or event.
- o Inform teachers of two programs available from *VSA arts*: “Start with the Arts” and “Express Diversity.”
- o Support *VSA arts* with monetary donations.
- o Investigate the *VSA arts* online Artists Registry; encourage disabled artists in your community to register.

Promote state *VSA arts* organizations.

- o Work with *VSA arts* to have a GFWC member appointed to your state’s *VSA arts* board of directors. Support that appointee with travel funding.
- o Provide opportunities for display of artwork at club, district, and state meetings and events.
- o Provide performance opportunities at club, district, and state meetings and events.
- o Assist with *VSA arts* state festivals as on-site volunteers, or provide funding and support services.

Promote local *VSA arts* programs.

- o Sponsor or coordinate a *VSA arts* festival.
- o Investigate the *VSA arts* website for more ideas: www.VSArts.org.

ART FOR YOUTH

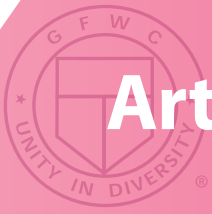
Youth Art Month, administered by the Council for Art Education Inc. Youth Art Month, is observed each March. It highlights the importance of youth art education and encourages public support for quality school programs.

- o Support existing state celebration plans.
- o Organize an observance on the local or state level.
- o Host school art exhibits or student art exhibits at local malls or community centers.
- o Encourage community members to become involved in Youth Art Month.
- o Have the mayor or governor sign a Youth Art Month proclamation.
- o Advocate for increased support for art education in schools. Encourage your elected officials to support art education in schools.



FINE ARTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF GFWC MEMBERS LIVES. Clubs provide appreciative audiences for local artists, writers, musicians, composers, and craftsmen.





Arts in the Community Program

- o Work with local businesses to sponsor opportunities for arts education.
- o Obtain and fulfill school art department and public library art wish lists.
- o Work with the media to feature a Youth Artist of the Month.
- o Showcase youth talent at club, district, state, and region meetings.

FOSTER COMMUNITY ART

- o Establish and award music, drama, or art scholarships.
- o Support a Renaissance festival in your community, see www.RenaissanceFestival.com for a list of events nationwide.
- o Support local theater groups with donations, help with set construction, and make costumes.
- o Sponsor summer concert and theatre programs.
- o Sponsor ads in local theater playbills and programs and in school theater playbills.
- o Establish a local club arts mini-grant program.
- o Participate in community First Night events on New Year's Eve each year.
- o Sponsor senior citizen, youth at risk, incarcerated youth, and after school craft workshops.
- o Work with local university and community theaters by volunteering or giving monetary support.
- o Collect donated musical instruments for children in school bands and orchestras, and foster music and movement programs for young children.
- o Promote film festivals in the community.
- o Donate tickets for young people to attend an art show, a symphony, the opera, or the theater.
- o Join or start a square, ballroom, line, or ethnic dancing class and perform at senior centers, schools and other venues.
- o Join or start a choral group.
- o Establish and support artist-in-residence programs.
- o Sponsor an "Oldies" dance at a senior center.
- o Support local and school art therapy programs (see Resources).

RESOURCES

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

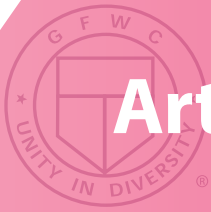
1250 New York AVE NW | Washington, DC 20005

P: 202/783-5000 | W: www.NMWA.org

Contact: Ellen Pollack, National Programs Coordinator

The National Museum of Women in the Arts brings recognition to the achievements of women artists of all periods and nationalities by exhibiting, preserving, acquiring, and researching art by women, and by educating the public concerning their achievements. NMWA conducts education programs, maintains a library and research center, and supports a network of national and international chapters.





Arts in the Community Program

VSA ARTS

1300 Connecticut AVE NW, STE 700 | Washington, DC 20036

P: 800/933-8721 | TTY: 202/737-0645 | F: 202/737-0725 | W: www.VSArts.org

Contact: Stephanie Litvak | info@vsarts.org

COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION, INC

1280 Main ST PO BOX 479 | Hanson, MA 02341-0479

P: 781/293-4100 | F: 781/294-0808 | W: www.ACMINet.org

Contact: Sarah Balkam, National Youth Art Month Coordinator | sarahs@acminet.org

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

P: 202/416-8806 | W: www.Kennedy-Center.org/Education/Partners

The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Education Department through its Partnerships in Education Program provides a free, valuable online recourse for education directors, arts presenters, teachers and other arts educators. The Touring Programs and Resources site provides a listing of resources (some free of charge) that include professional development workshops for teachers, seminars for artist development, classroom materials for teachers and students, workshops for parents and community members, and much more.

AWARDS

CLUB

A \$50 award is given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective Arts in the Community Program. The award is based on narrative reports. State chairmen should forward the winning state entry to the national GFWC Arts in the Community Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.

STATE

GFWC certificates are awarded to one state federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in the GFWC Arts in the Community Program. Award presentations are made annually in honor of junior and general membership participation.

