



# ARTS

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**i** Visit [www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/) for updates and more information.

### “CREATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS, PASS IT ON.”

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

In this fast-paced world we live in today, everything seems to be only a click away. Because of this, our current generation has lost the necessity to be creative. Many people today have limited vision when they hear the word ‘Art.’ They immediately think canvas and paint but there is so much more to art than that! In generations past, the art of quilt-making was not so much about visual appeal as it was the necessity and resourcefulness to stay warm. Does this statement spark within you thoughts of other things that our ancestors may have deemed luxuries — theater, concerts, intricately-designed jewelry — that might be considered everyday occurrences or purchases today? The avenues of art are only limited by our imaginations. Aristotle is credited with the quote, “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”

GFWC members are very vocal about many other things that we are passionate about, why not art? There are many studies — pro and con — regarding the Arts in connection with education. However, I dare to ask the question, ‘How can being taught and/or encouraged to express yourself through art — be it music, drama, making or painting something — be a bad thing?’

The GFWC Arts Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support arts activities in their clubs, schools, and communities. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make their world a more beautiful place. As Edgar Degas once said, “Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” The goal is to create programs and projects that include music, literature, dance, drama, theatre, and other arts-related areas, both traditional and innovative, that cause the world around us to see and feel what they might have only once imagined.

**i** Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC partners to the Arts Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).

### IDEAS

Program ideas are endless. Below is a list of ideas on how clubs may support the Arts Community Service Program. Think outside of the box, put a new slant on an idea, and adapt it to your club work. With all projects/programs, think diversity — work with or for other groups or highlight diversity as the theme.

- Create an “Our Town is Great” map of your community with



### 2018-2020 ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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### VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The GFWC Brandon Service League (FL) sponsors an Arts Festival for kindergarten-aged, developmentally disabled, public school students in their area. Members host 100-200 children, teachers, and chaperones for a fun-filled 3-4 hour adventure. With the help of local high school students, the kindergartners make arts and crafts at different stations. Outside, there are sites for puppets or magic shows, kid-sized musical instruments, and storytelling. Members work with local restaurants such as McDonalds and Chick-Fil-A to provide lunch. This is often the only field trip for these students.

### 2018-2020 INITIATIVE

In 1994 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January was declared a National Day of Service. Each and every club in GFWC is asked to do a service project on that day. It may be in any area, any type of project. OUR GOAL IS 1,000 CLUBS PARTICIPATING.



### **"MY DEDHAM" SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

The **GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club** (MA) asked local 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to send in their unique views of Dedham using digital photography (smartphone camera). The club collaborated with local schools to advertise the event and the local artist guild was asked to judge. Recognition of the top entries followed with the winning selections being featured in the local paper. At an awards ceremony, the grand prize winner received a digital camera as their prize. The top three finalists received a copy of their image on canvas.



### **VOLUNTEER ARTS TEACHERS**

**GFWC Fairview Heights Woman's Club** (IL) identified the need for art teachers in local schools. With Illinois in a serious budget crisis, the Fairview Heights school district eliminated art programs. The arts chairman for the club volunteered to conduct art classes free of charge as a volunteer at Illini Elementary School. She took on the task of teaching art to approximately 340 students in Pre-K through fourth grade. The clubwomen were given a storage room at the school that they turned into an art room. Each class project takes about six or seven days to teach due to time constraints. Some teachers also requested holiday projects for their students. Twelve members have given over 180 hours of service to this ongoing project.



### **KID'S BRUSH**

The **GFWC Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club** (WI) held a Plein Air Arts program for elementary students in conjunction with Oconomowoc Festival Week. Twenty-eight students are given a swag bag of supplies to use to create a work of art outdoors. This year members used an inspiring new location in the backyard of a local church on Fowler Lake. Secured at a lower rental rate cost, the move allowed more money to be spent on art supplies. Club members also jumped in to help process the screen printing of the Kids' Brush t-shirts to reduce their cost. Club members scoured the internet and shopped on discount day to get the best prices for art supplies to fill the swag bags full of everything the young artists needed to make their masterpieces. Finished pieces of art were displayed at the library and patrons were able to leave positive notes of encouragement for each artist.

pictures/drawings and descriptions of historic sites, monuments, and points of interest. Print it and distribute to your Chamber of Commerce, library, town hall, and other prime locations. Include club contact information.

- Host an art supply drive within your club. Contact your local school district or community center to see what is needed.
- Hold a "Chalk The Walk" contest for elementary school children on sidewalks in front of your municipal building, library, elementary school, etc. Have an international theme. Club supplies the chalk and blue ribbons to the winners.
- "Hire" student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events.
- Hold a fundraiser to purchase a large piece of equipment for your local schools' art, music, or drama departments, such as a potter's wheel, kiln, microphones, or technology.)
- Work with local Girl Scouts or Juniors clubs to foster a safe Halloween by offering free face painting to children before they trick or treat.
- Attend public art displays, plays, and concerts as part of a social event for your club.
- Use member art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- Hold a Christmas centerpiece/wreath-making workshop at a local florist as a club program.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza with oversized greeting cards. The cards are constructed of 4' x 4' pieces of wood painted with a holiday greeting. Celebrate diversity by recognizing the many holidays that take place during December.
- Sponsor ads in local theatre or school theatre playbills.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.



- Sponsor an author visit to your local library.
- Have elementary school children draw pictures of people in the community who are important to them, like teachers, cafeteria workers, Sunday school teachers, day-care workers, parents, grandparents, etc. Display them at the town library, city hall, or school. Give ribbons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each grade.
- Establish scholarships for students studying the arts such as literature, drama, or music. This could be to attend an arts school or summer camp.
- Establish awards that acknowledge the artistic achievements of club and community members.
- “Love the Policemen, Bus Drivers, Firemen, or Veterans” – Assist local elementary students in making Valentine cards for town policemen, bus drivers, firemen, and veterans.
- Sponsor Youth Art Month activities in your community during the month of March.
- Feature art created by children with disabilities during Special Olympics.
- If your State Federation has a Youth Art Contest, consider having the Chairman add a category that is specific to special needs children. Many times these students never receive recognition for their creativity.
- Establish and support artist-in-residence programs and artist speakers.
- Establish and/or facilitate an Art Therapy program at a local nursing home or assisted living facility.
- Volunteer at your local schools to assist with or establish an art program for students.
- Feature art or art forms that are indicative of another culture at monthly club meetings — origami, Faberge Eggs, Ukrainian Easter Eggs, Russian icons, etc.
- Decorate ceramic piggy banks or have local artists, art classes, or town officials decorate them. Put them in area businesses to collect money for high school scholarships or to support the local high school band or glee club.

## **GFWC RESOURCES**

**A.R.T. (ARTISTIC REALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.)** has created technologies, studio programming, and training that empowers those who lack the articulate use of their hands to gain perfect individual control of the art-making process start to finish. Contact A.R.T. at [a.r.t.lefens@artrealization.org](mailto:a.r.t.lefens@artrealization.org) or 908-359-3098.

## **AWARDS**

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Arts Community Service Program projects and partnership projects, as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Arts Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.



Refer to the Awards section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current Resolutions for the Arts Community Service Program are listed here by Number and Title. Refer to the complete text of each in the [2017-2018 Resolutions document](#).

010-010

Funding for the Arts



# ARTS

- 010-020 Museums
- 010-030 Support of the Arts in Schools and Communities

