



The Arts Community

The power of art to move and transform human beings has been demonstrated throughout human history. Art has a double power in that it works on the creator and the beholder alike. Psychologists have long recognized the sublimating effect of art whereby unacceptably aggressive impulses are changed into socially acceptable forms. In the excitement of searching for chords on his guitar a young man is less likely to be out in the streets looking for trouble. So much human energy is employed in creating art – be it painting or sculpture or music or drama – that destructive behavior can be re-routed through a powerful communicative tool. Many local organizations are already developing artistic outreach programs to youth. The following suggestions supplement existing programs:

Enlist or develop a plan to enlist the aid and talents of the diverse arts organizations in the region to develop creative activities designed to attract youth and drawing them away from violence.

Urge youth groups to have outreach programs that provide classes in acting and theater production. Use schools, churches and/or community organization to house the classes and productions.

Contact youth interested in the arts, not only from high schools, but also through social service agencies catering to at-risk youth and/or publicize to a broad audience.

Organize playwriting competitions to showcase new talent with their final productions.

Encourage music students and other student- artists, at all academic levels, to mentor other younger aspiring musicians and artists.

Sponsor community collections of musical instruments. Encourage music stores to rent or sell instruments at reduced prices for students who could not otherwise afford them.

Appeal to established music/arts groups, such as local symphonies, performing arts institutions, colleges and universities, recording studios, foundations, and others to provide funding for art-outreach and teaching.

Encourage the dance community to actively pursue organizations, agencies, religious facilities, schools, and community centers to open their facilities for dance education and dance experiences.

Appeal to organizations with music production studios to make their facilities available to youth interested in music production and performance.

Provide educational opportunities to interested youth; offer scholarships to support their training.

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