

Access the Arts

CREATE. CONNECT. INSPIRE

ABOUT US.....

Our name says it all..."Access the Arts - Create. Connect. Inspire." We CREATE opportunities for people of all ages, races, cultures and economic backgrounds to come together and celebrate the arts through gatherings, concerts and classes. We CONNECT musicians, actors, singers, speakers, dancers, and artists to groups that will benefit from the joy of the experience. We INSPIRE troubled youth to identify their passions and find healthy outlets for expression in art, music, and literature. In 2019, AtA funded a series of interactive arts programs in Highland Local Schools called The Joy Project, that engaged children in classical music, painting and musical theater. In 2020, we brought The Joy Project to the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. We have been organizing and funding artists and musicians who visit and provide weekly classes to the children there. Our goal is to encourage unity, provide emotional healing, and bring joy to others in need in Northeast Ohio. We are successful because of several people who volunteer their time all through the year to support this non-profit. Thank you to Janet George, Laurie Wood, Lindsay Bond, Joan Zacharias, Julie Spaite, Missy Schreiner, Lisa Tecco and Steve Back for all you continue to do!



Sharon Center Community - Arts...

[accessthearts.net](https://www.accessthearts.net)

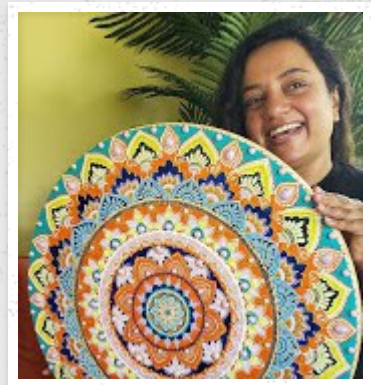
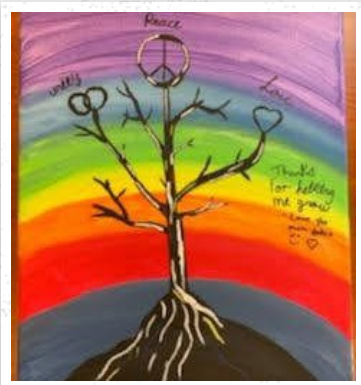
We are a non-profit organization bringing education, arts and entertainment to communities in Northeast Ohio via music concerts, festivals and teaching events.

WHAT HAS ACCESS THE ARTS BEEN UP TO?

- As Bob Ross once said, "Exercising the imagination, experimenting with talents, and being creative are truly the windows to your soul." Cheri Smith from Brush Tips Studio in Wadsworth brings this quote to life each week as she meets with the youth at the detention center to teach them painting techniques. At each meeting, she also encourages them to use art as a healthy outlet for their emotions. Since the pandemic began, Cheri has been teaching all her classes on Skype. Thank you Cheri for your dedication and compassion!



- Nirali Shah from Akron Henna Art has met with residents by Zoom to teach the techniques of Henna Art. The mandalas and Henna hand paintings she teaches are all an important part of Indian culture. She has taught residents the calming nature of Henna painting and the significance of the mandala symbol as one of the circle of life. AtA is so grateful to have Nirali share her art and passion with the residents.



- Along with art, AtA has also been introducing music to teenagers as well. Rolando Pizana is a musician and singer who meets each Saturday to teach different genres of music and music history. He also plays a virtual concert for teenagers each week and talks to them about opportunities for them in music. Rolando is so good at connecting with these teenagers! Thank you Rolando for being an integral part of Access the Arts projects.



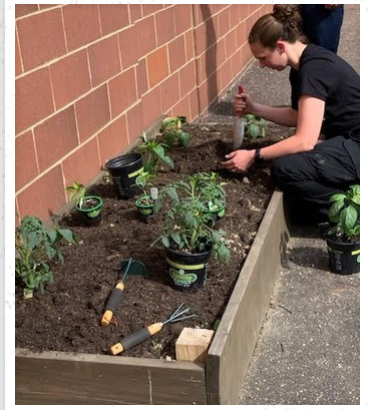
- As summer rolls around, the outdoor weather is becoming more and more inviting. Last year the JDC installed some raised beds in the youth's outdoor exercise area. Julie Spaitte and Joan Zacharias have started a vegetable, flower, and herb garden to brighten their summer days. The youth can earn extra time outdoors with good behavior to maintain and enjoy this beautiful garden. They will be eventually painting some garden rocks as well. Thank you to Julie and Joan for volunteering your time and expertise on this. Thanks also go to Jaclyn Balliet and Megan Millikin from the JDC for working in the dirt!



ALL SMILES HERE!



"TO PLANT A GARDEN ...



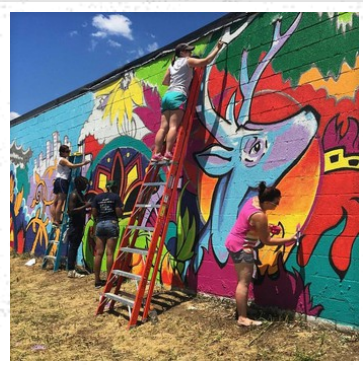
...IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW."



UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Joan Zacharias will be offering two clay art classes at the JDC in June and July. Some of their sculptures will be bowls to be donated to Feeding Medina County's fall auction. Thank you Joan for all you are doing!
- Cheri and Rolando will continue their weekly art and music classes through the summer. Additionally In August, Julie and Joan will be harvesting vegetables with the kids. Also, Nirali will offer art classes in the future as well.
- Lisa Tecco and Jane Back will be offering another twice-weekly book club by Zoom. The last book, **The House of the Scorpion**, was quite popular with the residents, and it sparked some new thoughts and perspectives in their minds. They asked for the sequel, so AtA bought those books for them as well! Thank you Lisa for volunteering your time to read with these young people!





- The Art Bomb Brigade is a non-profit, connected to the University of Akron Myers School of Art, that paints the large, stunning murals all over downtown Akron. They are collaborating with Access the Arts for a week-long mural project consisting of many individual mandalas that will come together to make one large piece. It is the perfect project for social distancing and will symbolize the coming together of so many different minds to make a beautiful finished mural. The advisors of the Art Bomb Brigade are professors Marissa McClellan and Elisa Gargarella, and they will be meeting each day on Zoom for 5 days with the kids to direct the painting of this mural. It will be on display at the MJDC art show in September.

- Access the Arts is beginning plans to bring arts programs to the Medina County Home. The Medina County home is a shelter for adults who are in need of custodial care. We hope to provide music, art and dance programs that will bring joy and comfort to the residents there.



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOGA AT BLUE HERON

WHEN

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH, 10AM

WHERE

BLUE HERON BREWERY & EVENT CENTER, BLUE HERON TRACE, MEDINA, OH, USA

MORE INFORMATION

This is a "Bend and Breathe at Blue Heron" event that will take place in their event center. It is a large space for social distancing between mats, and lunch is available on the patio afterward. This is a fundraiser for Access the Arts with all proceeds going toward continuing the arts programs for the MCJDC and beginning programs for the Medina County Home.



Bend and Breathe

at Blue Heron

Saturday, July 25th, 2020

10:00 - 11:00 am

Blue Heron Event Center
3227 Blue Heron Trace in Medina

Roots Yoga and Barre is offering a donation-based class to benefit Access the Arts (suggested min. donation \$15). Grab your mat, a friend, and some clothing you can easily move in for this yoga event for a great cause. No experience needed. **FREE BABYSITTING, FREE Mimosa,** and door prizes from area businesses. Afterward, lunch is available to purchase at Blue Heron Brew Pub, inside or outside patio.

All proceeds will help Access the Arts bring free arts programs to The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center and to the Medina County Home.

Safe protocols apply: Everyone will remain 6' apart. Please wear a mask until you are on your mat. Register ahead by going to www.RootsYogaOhio.com or RSVP to JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net. Walk-ins are also welcome, but those who sign up ahead will have their names in a drawing for great door prizes!

To learn more about the mission of AtA, go to AccessTheArts.net and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

MCJDC ANNUAL ART SHOW

WHEN

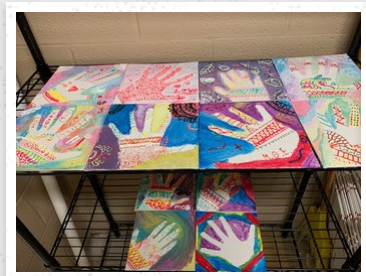
THURSDAY, SEP. 24TH, 4PM

WHERE

BLUE HERON BREWERY & EVENT CENTER, BLUE
HERON TRACE, MEDINA, OH, USA

MORE INFORMATION

Jaclyn Balliet, Ron Stollar and Megan Milliken from the JDC hold an annual art show to display the art of the residents throughout the year. Artist instructors, musicians, volunteers and benefactors will be there to support the JDC and celebrate the creativity of the children there. Please visit the show and donate to help them maintain their art supplies.



MUSIC IN THE CIRCLE CONCERTS - SHARON CENTER

LITTLE STEVE O

WHEN

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5TH, 7PM

WHERE

SHARON CENTER, OH, USA

SHARON CENTER, OH

MORE INFORMATION

Classic rock and folk duo in the gazebo. Access the Arts is providing refreshments as guests listen to great music under the stars!

THE AKRON BIG BAND

WHEN

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19TH, 7PM

WHERE

SHARON CENTER, OH, USA

SHARON CENTER, OH

MORE INFORMATION

Big band music will be featured in the circle while The Sharon Heritage Society provides refreshments.