



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**“CREATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS,  
PASS IT ON!” — ALBERT EINSTEIN**

Art is an expression of ideas or feelings that manifest through a variety of media that are created with imagination and skill, such as ceramic, collage, design, drawing, jewelry, metalwork, mosaic, needlework, painting, performance, photography, sculpture, stained glass, and many more.

Culture consists of the characteristics and knowledge of a group of people, encompassing their art, beliefs, customs, food, language, literature, music, social habits, religion, and other interpersonal connections.

Both art and culture articulate human values and give us a means to relate to and understand one another. They help us empathize with those who are different from ourselves and give us a context to build relationships.

The study of art and culture enriches the human experience. Art education improves problem solving and critical thinking skills, builds focus and perseverance, and nurtures creativity, confidence, and collaboration. Cultural awareness promotes effective communication and profoundly increases the ability to appreciate and enjoy a variety of new people and experiences.

The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support art and cultural programs in their clubs and communities, and to expand understanding on every level, from local and regional to national and international. Our goal is to create projects that include crafts, dance, drama, food, music, and other manifestations of art and culture that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place. As Edgar Degas once said, “Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”



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



**2020-2022  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY  
SERVICE PROGRAM**

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**CHALLENGE PROJECT:  
YOUTH ART CONTEST**

Sponsor a Youth Art Contest, preferably in March during Youth Art Month. Consider making it a community-wide event and inviting all schools to participate. Partner with the Art League or other organizations and include categories such as oil, watercolor, charcoal, pencil, mixed media, and others. Arrange for judges and ribbons and awards. Display the artwork at a local bank or library and hold a reception with refreshments to announce the winners and celebrate all participants.

Or, for a smaller event, hold a Youth Art Contest or a Poster Contest at a local school. Separate entries by grades or select one grade to participate.



### **DOOR WREATHS FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

Members of the Wednesday Review Club of Killeen (TX) made Mother's Day door wreaths for assisted-living residents. Each wreath was personalized based on the resident's favorite activities, hobbies, pets, and colors. Members donated all the craft items and worked together to create and deliver the wreaths.



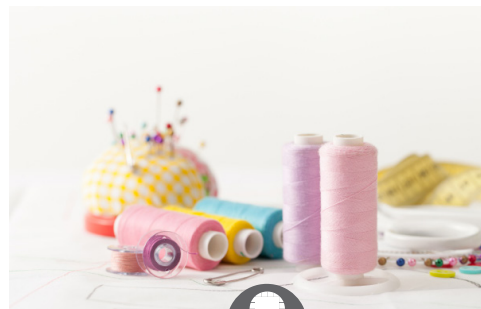
### **CRAFTING AND CREATING TOGETHER**

The Woman's Club of Springfield, Inc. (VA) utilized members' talents to hold a new crafting class each month. Members taught watercolor painting, chalk drawing, crocheting, sewing, and other crafts. As a result, 15 baby blankets and 24 chemo caps were donated to the hospital, and 92 cough pillows were sewed, stuffed, and donated for heart patients.



### **INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

Members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Cypress (CA) held an international potluck luncheon. Members prepared food from their birth country. Using two world maps on the wall, red pins showed 14 places of birth. Blue pins were used to show countries members had visited. Geography and travel-trivia contests were played during dessert. Together members learned more about each other and the world.



### **SEWING KITS FOR HAITI**

During a mission trip, a GFWC Altamaha Woman's Club (GA) member noticed a Haitian woman pulling thread out of her dress to mend a pair of pants. She recognized the need for a sewing kit. Her club adopted the idea and created sewing kits by filling Parmesan cheese containers with pins, spools of thread, needles, scissors, buttons, a tape measure, a seam ripper, a thimble, and a pincushion. A total of 75 kits were made and donated.



**PROJECT IDEAS**

Be inspired by this list of ideas of how GFWC clubs can support the Arts and Culture Community Service Program. Find further information about organizations named here under Resources.

- Make homemade holiday cards for nursing home residents or Meals on Wheels recipients.
- Hold a recycled art contest for art projects made using recycled materials.
- Work with your Chamber of Commerce and/or Tourist Commission to create a map of your community with pictures/drawings and descriptions of historic sites, monuments, and points of interest. Print it and distribute to your Chamber of Commerce, tourist center, library, town hall, and other prime locations. Include club contact information. Create an “Our Town is Great” map of your community with 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 local schools, daycare centers, and/or community centers to see what is needed.
- Be crafty – make homemade gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or other occasions.
- Be creative – design and decorate a garden.
- Help build, paint, and decorate a Little Free Library.
- Provide artwork and help decorate a reading nook at the library, a local laundromat, or other location in your community.
- Donate books with an art theme to the public library, a school library, or a Little Free Library.
- Donate seasonal and holiday-themed coloring sheets for children at schools and libraries.
- Donate art books, sketch books, coloring books, crayons, and other art supplies to hospitals, doctor/clinic waiting rooms, and shelters.
- Hold a “Chalk the Walk” contest for elementary school children on sidewalks in front of a municipal building library, elementary school, or other public venue. Choose a theme and have your club supply the chalk and ribbons for 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.
- Visit or hold a club meeting at an art gallery, museum, local cultural center, or tourist center.
- Explore museums online with Google Arts and Culture or visit Art Galleries and Art Museums through their websites for virtual gallery tours.
- Develop an art scavenger hunt at a local or online museum for your members or students. Select items for participants to find and snap photos (if allowed) or document the location in a notebook. Discuss the art pieces after the hunt.
- Organize a weekly or monthly market in your community for local artists and crafters to display and sell their work.
- Use member art or children’s art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- Hold a holiday centerpiece/wreath-making workshop at a local florist as a club program.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- Sponsor ads in local theatre or school theatre playbills.
- Sponsor an author visit to your local library.



- 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 Police, Bus Drivers, Firefighters, or Veterans” – Assist local elementary students in making Valentine cards for town police, bus drivers, firefighters, and veterans.
- Include a category in Art Contests 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.
- Feature art created by children with disabilities during Special Olympics.
- 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.
- Host a craft time at the library to make simple crafts with children. Coordinate with the library story time and match the book theme or make a seasonal or holiday themed craft.
- Visit nursing homes and assisted living facilities and organize artistic activities. Make crafts, work on a sewing project, listen to music, or paint.
- Sew and stuff teddy bears or other animals for preschoolers on their first day of school. These can also be donated to the police, firefighters, or paramedics for children in their care.
- 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 and or glee club.
- Participate in your club, district, and state arts and crafts contests by entering your crafts, needlework, sewing, painting, and photography items. Enter photographs in the GFWC photography contests.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Feature art or art forms that are indicative of another culture at monthly club meetings—origami, Faberge Eggs, Ukrainian Easter Eggs, Russian icons, and others.
- Host an international dinner party. Choose a country or region as a theme. Decorate and select the meal to fit the theme. Learn about the culture by sharing facts about the area including food, music, lifestyle, etc.
- Volunteer at a school to teach a lesson from your cultural heritage to students. Include information about the food of the culture and provide samples for the students to taste.
- Present a few interesting facts at each club meeting to acquaint members to a variety of international, regional, and local cultures.
- Study and compare pottery or fabrics from different areas of the United States and other countries.
- Attend a performance by an international group, such as the Beijing Opera, Russian Ballet, or Vienna Boys Choir.
- Attend an internationally themed musical, ballet, or theatre performance, such as “The King and I,” “Romeo and Juliette,” or “Don Quixote.
- Research and learn more about well-known international ballets, operas, musical composers, museums, and artists.
- Host or attend an international festival celebrating music, food, art, and culture from around the world.
- Celebrate international holidays, such as the Chinese New Year, Oktoberfest, Cinco de Mayo, and Bastille Day, and learn more about the historical attire, customs, food, and entertainment of those cultures.
- Explore how other cultures celebrate Valentine’s Day, Christmas, New Year’s Day, and their Independence Day.
- Learn about art galleries and museums throughout the world such as those in Florence, Italy; Paris, France; Vienna, Austria; Buenos Aires, Argentina; St. Petersburg, Russia; and New York City, USA.



- Host welcome events for international students at the local university and local boarding schools.
- Invite foreign exchange students to speak about their life and culture at meetings.
- In preparation of the 2021 GFWC Convention in Toronto, Canada, research and share information about Canadian art, dance, music, museums, customs, and holiday celebrations.
- Learn about Native American culture and its various forms from one part of the country to another. When traveling, visit museums on Native American culture, such as the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, location of the 2021 Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

## **CONNECT WITH GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

### **CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE**

- Purchase bolts of fabric for Canine Companions to sew vests for dogs or stuffed puppies.
- If you live near the Regional Centers, offer to provide meals, etc. when team training is being offered.
- Make donations for dorm rooms or decorate the dorm rooms at Regional Centers.
- Contact your closest Regional Center to see if your club can fulfill any items on their wish lists.
- Visit and tour a regional training center.
- Participate in the Canine Companions Signature Event—DogFest Walk 'n Roll. For more information visit [www.cci.org/dogfest](http://www.cci.org/dogfest).

### **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

- Construct and decorate a parade float designed to promote Heifer International and join in the next parade in your community. Hand out bookmarks and “Cow Tail Candy” along the parade route.
- Support Heifer’s “Women’s Empowerment and Entrepreneurship” project and help women earn living incomes in traditionally male-dominated cultures ([www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/womens-empowerment/index.html](http://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/womens-empowerment/index.html)).

### **MARCH OF DIMES**

- Create blankets for babies. Create a pattern just for your club. The blankets will be distributed to military moms at baby showers sponsored by March of Dimes.
- Create baby hats with your club’s special colors. March of Dimes has a toolkit that provides instructions and guidance for pattern and size ([www.marchofdimes.org/materials/Advocacy-Toolkit-Q3-2019-v2.pdf](http://www.marchofdimes.org/materials/Advocacy-Toolkit-Q3-2019-v2.pdf)).

### **OPERATION SMILE**

- See how your club can help prepare a child for life-saving surgery with coloring pages, stuffed animals, and games to relieve the stress of surgery. Visit <https://catalog.operationssmile.org/prepare-kids-for-surgery-0>.
- Host a neighborhood ice cream social to share the mission of Operation Smile and the resulting improvement in the quality of life for children. Accept donations to support an operation.

### **PCAA**

- Distribute the pinwheel coloring sheets to elementary school children, recognizing the pinwheel as a symbol of PCAA during Prevent Child Abuse Month in April.

### **ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL**

- Sew mask straps. Do you have seamstresses in your club? Consider meeting to assemble bags with materials to make mask straps for the children at St. Jude and having seamstresses taking the bags home to complete the project with their personal sewing machines.

### **UNICEF USA**

- Consider how individuals in other countries are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilize UNICEF’s website to gather information on how different cultures are tackling the pandemic and how UNICEF has already helped reach over half a billion people with COVID-19 prevention messaging ([www.unicefusa.org/mission/covid-19](http://www.unicefusa.org/mission/covid-19)).



**GFWC RESOURCES****Americans for the Arts** [www.americansforthearts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org)

Americans for the Arts builds awareness and support for the value of the arts and works to ensure that every American has access to their transformative powers.

**A.R.T. (Artistic Realization Technologies, Inc.)** [www.artrealization.org](http://www.artrealization.org)

A.R.T. 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 artmaking 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.

**Google Arts and Culture** [www.artsandculture.google.com](http://www.artsandculture.google.com)

Google Arts and Culture provides virtual tools to explore works of art and tour famous sites and landmarks, offers information about nearby museums and other centers of arts and culture, and supplies space to create a virtual gallery of your favorites.

**National Endowment for the Arts** [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation.

This site also lists Arts Councils in each state [www.arts.gov/partners/state-regional](http://www.arts.gov/partners/state-regional).

In partnership with state and jurisdictional arts agencies and regional arts organizations, the NEA provides federal support for projects that benefit local communities.

**National Organization for Music Education** [www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org)

The National Organization for Music Education advocates and provides resources for music education, hosts professional development events, and offers opportunities for both students and teachers.

**AWARDS**

The GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Arts and Culture 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 Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for the Arts and Culture Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

**SPECIAL ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD**

A "President's Prize" of \$100 plus an award certificate will be given at the 2021 and 2022 GFWC Annual Convention to the club that best interprets the official GFWC holiday theme. The official theme for 2020 is "What a Wonderful World" and for 2021 the theme is "Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy." The themes can be interpreted in any manner that fits a club-sponsored holiday event or project, such as homemade or decorated stockings filled for a children's shelter, a holiday party for nursing home residents, or a holiday tree at a local library or community center. To apply for the award, complete the President's Prize Award Form and mail or email it to Arts and Culture Chairman Angela Cutrera by March 15 at the addresses specified on the form.



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



## PRESIDENT'S PRIZE AWARD FORM

A "President's Prize" of \$100 plus an award certificate will be given at the 2021 and 2022 GFWC Annual Conventions to the club that best interprets the GFWC holiday theme.



**STATE FEDERATION:**

**CLUB NAME:**

**CLUB CONTRACT & PHONE NUMBER:**

**NARRATIVE:** Please provide a short description of 100 words or less and one or two photos of your club's holiday event or project that interpreted the official GFWC holiday theme.

Mail or email this form and photos to Arts and Culture Chairman Angela Cutrera, 1426 Jasmine Drive, Opelousas, LA 70570, or [Angelacutrera1@gmail.com](mailto:Angelacutrera1@gmail.com). For GFWC's use of photos, please include the Creative Arts Waiver Form found in the Awards, Contest, and Grants section of the GFWC Club Manual.

## 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 2020 Resolutions for the Arts and Culture Community Service Program are listed here by number and title. Refer to the complete text in the Resolutions July 2020 booklet, filed under "R" in the digital library of the Member Portal.

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

