

Presidents Project: Healing Arts Project

The purpose of this project is to introduce our Healing Art Program to Healthcare Facilities or Schools. There is a part of our brain the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) that is affected by aesthetic experiences, like art or beauty. It triggers activity in a network of brain regions including the OFC. Marilyn Backus send me an article from The Epoch Times about how Nature has shown to have a calming and restorative effect, especially in health care settings, a well-chosen garden image could provide patients, families and staff with a sense of peace and comfort.

There was a study done at a hospital where a group of patients of similar age and medical issues were placed on the same floor and one group faced a brick wall and the other a grove of trees. The group that faced the grove of trees asked for less pain medicine and recovered earlier than the group facing a stone wall.

Donating a garden photo or painting to a health center as a form of healing art in the name of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania would be a meaning and thoughtful gesture and also alien beautifully with the Federation's focus on Celebrating Nature. It could serve as both a gift to the community and a reflection of the Federations' values, reinforcing the idea of gardens as places of healing and growth.

The Federations' name on the donation would also raise awareness of our organization's work and contributions to the well-being of others.

How to donate our art:

Identify the right contact. Find out who is in charge of patient services, community outreach, and facility management. This could be the hospital's administration, a patient care coordinator, or head of the art therapy program.

What are the needs of the facility: What is their environment, patient demographics, and whether they have any existing art program.

Introduce the GCFP and describe your club, its mission and your theme “Celebrate Nature-Embrace the Future”. Highlight any relevant past projects or community work.

Describe the Healing Art Project-Explain the concept of placing artwork of gardens and plants in the facility. Emphasize the benefits of nature-inspired art for healing, such as reducing stress, improving mood and aiding in recovery.

Give them details and information about the type of artwork, the size, how it will be installed , and any maintenance requirements. Offer flexibility in working with their space and needs.

Highlight the positive impact on patients and staff, and how this can enhance the facility’s environment. Mention any potential press or recognition for the facility’s involvement.

Initial contact: Send a formal email or letter (on GCFP letterhead) to introduce the project and request a meeting.

Attach a proposal and ask for further discussion or questions if needed.

Prepare a presentation if a meeting is scheduled, it can be visual presentation of the artwork or photo. Be prepared to discuss how you project can be tailored to their specific environment and answer any logistical or financial questions.

Final Steps:

If they agree to move forward , outline the next steps, including timeliness, installation processes, and any legal or administrative paperwork.

Express Gratitude: Whether they accept or decline, thank them for their time and consideration. Maintain professionalism and thoughtfulness.

I am very please to say we have our first donation to the Healing Art Project.

Marilyn Backus donated two paintings by Betty Fisher, who is a well-known artist, in western PA. The paintings will in a doctor's office with a label stating who it was donated by.

Nancy Cuttic, also donate one of her paintings to be used for the Healing Art Project.

There is a letter that is available to use when you are going to contact a health care facility or school.

I would appreciate having photos of the art work you are donating and where it will be placed. A label will be sent to you.

Barbara Campbell

President's Project

Healing Art Program