

CELEBRATE ART AND QUALITY ART EDUCATION!

MARCH
IS
YOUTH
ART
MONTH!



**Council for Art
Education, Inc.**

Sponsor of Youth Art Month



Start With Art

Learn for Life

THE COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION, INC.
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<http://acminet.org/cfae.htm>

WHAT IS YOUTH ART MONTH?

Youth Art Month is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.

Youth Art Month provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are fostered through experience in the visual arts that are not possible in other subjects offered in the curriculum.

Youth Art Month's Purposes are:

1. To direct attention to the value of art education which develops divergent and critical thinking; multicultural awareness; and technical, communication, and expressive skills.
2. To increase community, business and governmental support for art education.
3. To recognize art is a necessity for the full development of better quality life for all people.
4. To expand art programs in schools and stimulate new ones.
5. To increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art exhibits, workshops, and other creative ventures.
6. To provide additional opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in creative art learning.
7. To encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
8. To recognize art education as a viable component in the total education curricula that develops citizens of a global society.
9. To reflect and demonstrate the goals of the National Art Education Association that work toward the improvement of art education at all levels

WHO SPONSORS IT, WHY AND HOW?

In 1961, The Crayon, Water Color & Craft Institute, Inc. forerunner of The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI), a non-profit association of art and craft materials manufacturers, created Children's Art Month. Created in cooperation with the National Art Education Association (NAEA), a professional society of art educators, the purpose of Children's Art Month was to "emphasize the value of participating in art for all children."



By Libby; age 7, Northbridge, CA

In 1969 the observance was expanded to include secondary school students and has been celebrated nationwide since that time as YOUTH ART MONTH.

In 1984, ACMI created The Council for Art Education, Inc. to administer the national Youth Art Month program and encourage funding for the program. Current members of the Council include: ACMI, which provides all administrative support and the majority of funding for national Youth Art Month; NAEA, whose members carry out local Youth Art Month activities and whose state affiliates help fund state Youth Art Month programs; and The SHIP, a group of art materials exhibitors at the annual NAEA Convention. The General Federation of Woman's Clubs, a volunteer women's organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service, is also actively involved in promoting Youth Art Month.

To help promote observances, The Council for Art Education, Inc. stimulates and coordinates Youth Art Month activities at the national level. The annual event, "School Flags Across the U.S...Flying High," is an example. Each year, state Youth Art Month Chairpersons hold a student flag design program. A theme is selected that is representative of the individual state and the spirit of Youth Art Month. A design is selected and made into a flag. An opening ceremony is generally held in Washington, DC the first week in March to honor the student designers in front of families, friends, teachers and U.S. legislators. The flags are flown in a place of prominence in Washington, DC throughout March and then are displayed in the Youth Art Month booth at the NAEA Convention before being returned to the individual state.

The Council seeks the active cooperation and support of national organizations and institutions. It provides publicity through a listing in calendars of national days, weeks, and months.

For March publications, it prepares press releases for selected consumer, business, and education publications, as well as newspaper and radio/TV stations throughout the country.

The Council also seeks to place pertinent feature stories in general consumer magazines and is alert to possible tie-ins with other organizations on the national level.

Each March, the observance spotlights art education through governors' and mayors' proclamations, states' capitol events, and thousands of local exhibits. It has the endorsement and support of many U.S. Senators and Members of Congress and state legislators who speak out on behalf of art education. The Council and NAEA encourage and assist state Youth Art Month Chairpersons, who are appointed by state art education association presidents, in their efforts to stimulate and coordinate state and local activities. These chairpersons submit reports to the Council on their efforts and results.

At the National Art Education Association Convention, the Council annually recognizes outstanding achievement at the state level by conferring awards on certain state chairpersons.

The Council and NAEA are happy to provide you with suggestions and information to assist you in planning and carrying out community activities. They will help you do your part in gaining support for art.

IS YOUTH ART MONTH FULFILLING ITS PURPOSE?

Indeed it is. The state reports provide documented evidence that Youth Art Month activities have been vital in saving many art programs from curtailment and extinction. Other programs have been expanded with additions to the art department staff, facilities, and budget. However, with competition for the taxpayer dollar putting art programs in constant jeopardy, the need for Youth Art Month will never cease.

WHERE IS YOUTH ART MONTH AND HOW DO YOU FIND IT?

It is in virtually every state, in many communities, in schools, libraries, stores and other places. To find and participate, simply follow these suggestions.

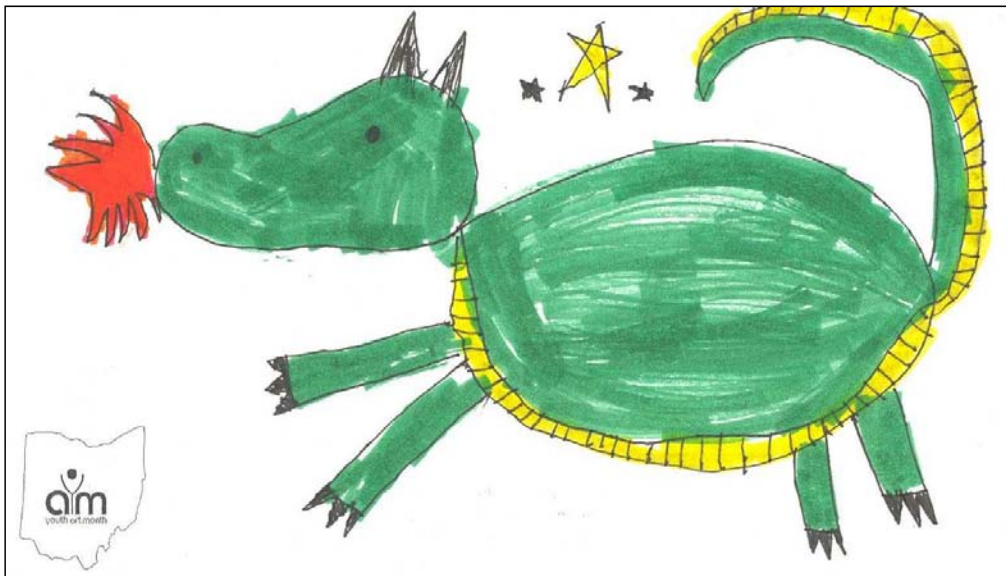
WHO CAN START AN OBSERVANCE?

Anyone can.....You may be an art educator, a parent, a librarian, a youth organization leader, a businessperson, a student—anyone who has a genuine concern for quality art programs and who is willing to work with others in the school system or community. The observance may be small or large. It may range from a single exhibit in a single school to a school system to a community-wide project.

The earlier you start planning your activities, the more effective your observance will be.

TIE-IN WITH YOUR STATE

Find out the name of your state chairperson from your state art education association or the Council. Tie in with the state program, which sometimes develops a state theme, organizes a state capitol student exhibit, and provides important tools such as buttons, posters, and bumper stickers. If these are not available through the state, NAEA sells advocacy materials and a variety of promotional aids for art education.



Ohio YAM Flag by Logan; Kindergarten, Centerville, Ohio

GET OTHERS TO HELP

Enthusiasm is contagious. Try to get as many people as you can in various positions and different backgrounds to cooperate and assist you. As a first step, think about the people you know and how they can help.

The opportunities are virtually unlimited once you get started. To avoid confusion and duplication, give each person you involve a specific job, such as:

- Getting a proclamation from your mayor and the support of local officials
- Arranging for exhibit areas
- Arranging for talks, forums, and discussions
- Getting community organizations to undertake appropriate activities
- Collecting quotes in support of art education from leading citizens
- Collecting quotes from young students on what art means to them
- Publicizing activities and special features and interviews
- Arranging for newspaper features and fillers



Alaska YAM Flag by Jessica & Janae; 11th & 10th grade, Anchorage, AK

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR MAYORAL (OR GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION)

WHEREAS art education contributes powerful educational benefits to all elementary and secondary students including the following:

- Art education develops students' creative problem-solving and critical thinking abilities;
- Art education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other expressive qualities;
- Art education gives understanding of multicultural values and beliefs;
- Art education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects;

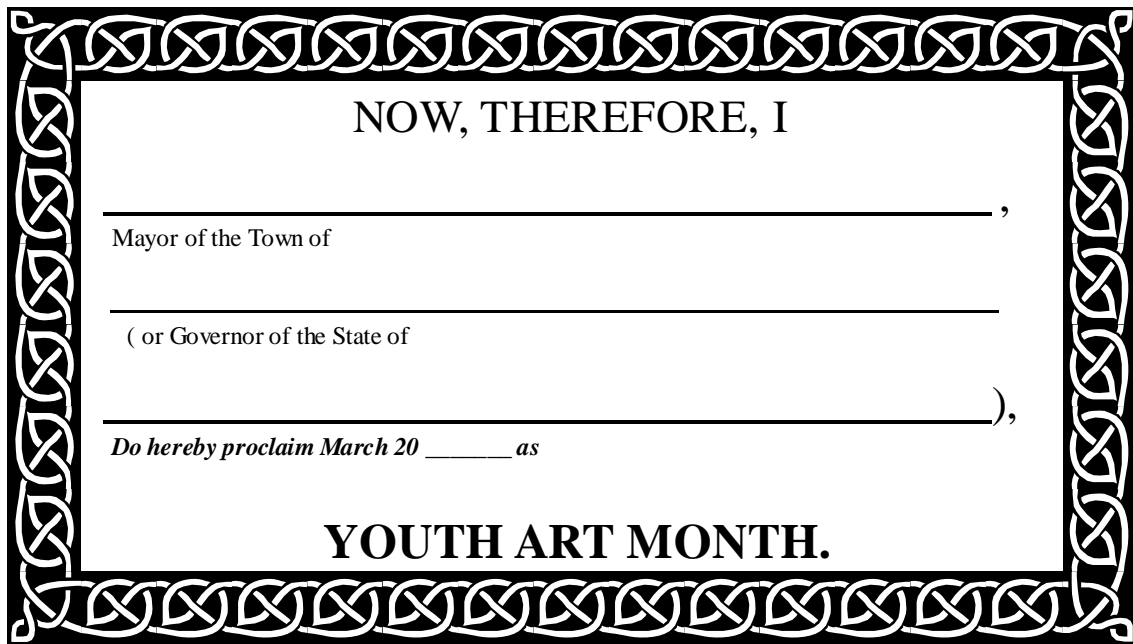
- Art education interrelates student learning in art production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS these benefits of art education form the basis of “World Class Standards” developed by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS our national leaders have acknowledged the necessity of including art experiences in all students’ education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that support should be given to art teachers as they attempt to strengthen art education in their schools and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is proclaimed that March be observed as YOUTH ART MONTH. All citizens are urged to take interest in and give full support to quality school art programs for children and youth.



NOW, THEREFORE, I

_____ ,

Mayor of the Town of _____

(or Governor of the State of _____

_____),

Do hereby proclaim March 20 _____ as

YOUTH ART MONTH.

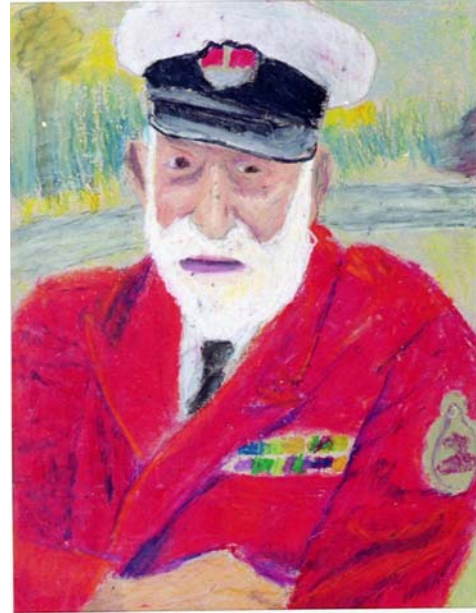
ARRANGING FOR EXHIBITS

Attractive exhibits please young artists and increase their interest in art; they give educators and youth leaders a chance to demonstrate the value of their art programs; and they provide commercial concerns with an opportunity to build traffic and create goodwill.

Lining Up Your Exhibit Locations:

Arrange well in advance for your exhibit space at the desired time. In addition to school classrooms, corridors, cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, or auditoriums, the windows and interiors of a wide variety of stores have been used extensively for exhibits. Among other sites around town are:

Airports
Art Galleries
Banks
Bus Terminals
Churches
Clubs
Colleges
Community Centers
Hotels
Hospitals, Children's Wards
Museums
Libraries
Parks
Railroad Stations
Restaurants
Shopping Centers
Theaters
Town Halls



By Brad; age 10 , Cumberland, OH

Deciding on a Theme or Special Purpose:

A theme or special purpose can add character to your exhibit. It can provide a focus of attention and help you arrange a display of greater meaning than a mere random sampling of artwork. It can also make it easier to gain publicity and generate interest.

Organizing the exhibit: Display the work of many different children, not just the especially talented. Remember, your exhibit should focus on the learning that resulted in the production of the artwork on display. Specify art media of many kinds to get a varied exhibit --- crayon, watercolor, tempera, chalk, and clay. By using tables and stands, crafts as well as drawing and paintings can be included. Pictures in general should be not smaller than 12" x 18", no larger than 18" x 24".

Mounted pieces show to best advantage. Mount children's drawings on cardboard large enough to form a border around the work. An 18" x 24" painting fits nicely on 22" x 28" mounting paper, with room to type or print on the bottom the young artist's name, title of work, age, class, and instructor.

Different colors of background paper may be used if harmony and balance are kept in mind. Very large sheets of mounting paper may be used with several paintings on each. By skillfully overlapping a few of these larger displays, and isolating others, a sense of drama and excitement can be achieved. Avoid overcrowding. Art needs air.

Posters to explain the theme or the purpose and to interpret the importance of art education should have large, readable lettering with a uniform style from poster to poster.

Building Your Audience: A great way to promote good attendance is to have the children make their own invitations and posters. These should be proudly sent to parents, relatives, local artists, school officials, and community leaders. You'll find more information on building your audience in the section entitled, "Publicizing Your Activities."

Be sure that your guests are welcomed. Appoint young receptionists and guidelines to greet the guests and to explain the exhibit. Consider serving refreshments. Invite attendees to comment on your show by having them sign a guest book with space for comments. This will provide useful information for future exhibits.

ARRANGING FOR TALKS, DISCUSSION, FILMS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Programs on various aspects of art for young people and the importance of art in general are excellent means of creating community interest and support for art education. Contact program chairpersons of PTA's, PTO's, PTSA's, women's clubs, church groups, and service organizations, as well as radio and television stations.

Some possible subjects are:

- Are the art facilities in our community adequate?
- What is a good art education program?
- Art is everybody's business.
- Why our schools need a strong art program.
- How to improve art education in the schools.
- The taste of the nation begins with the child in school.
- All children have creative abilities—how can we develop them?
- Art is a basic tool.

For guidance, the publications, "Standards for School Art Programs" and the "National Arts Education Accord," are available from NAEA.

You may also plan a demonstration of pupils at work or parent participation with art materials in the regular classes with the children. You could arrange for a film to be shown.



Vermont YAM Flag by: 3rd and 4th Grade Students at Randolph Elementary School, Randolph, VT

GETTING THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED

In addition to planning exhibits and displaying Youth Art Month posters, various local groups can undertake activities such as those suggested below. Try to get as many segments of your community as possible to participate. Plan a joint concert and art exhibit. March is also “Music in Our Schools” Month.

School and Youth Groups can arrange for:

- Youth Art Month buttons or ribbons for everyone in school to wear
- A Day in the Arts, integrating art into all subjects
- Talks by artists, designers and architects
- Art field trips
- Parent-child workshops
- Art films for young people
- Group discussions on what art means
- Themes on “What art means to me”
- Parents’ day to observe art classes
- TV demonstrations with children participating
- Symposiums on the value of art education on radio or TV with youth participation
- Exchange exhibits within a state, with other states and foreign countries
- A joint paint-in with a senior citizens group or with grandparents

Libraries can:

- Invite illustrators to speak
- Feature books on children’s art, art careers, and illustrating
- Display children’s art and crafts
- Conduct discussions on subjects related to art

Museums and Art Centers can:

- Feature special exhibits of children’s art
- Arrange tours for children

PTA’s and civic groups can cooperate with youth and school groups by:

- Devoting a meeting to a discussion of the purpose of art programs
- Honoring an outstanding art educator
- Featuring a special art “class” for members
- Scheduling a talk and/or a demonstration by an artist, art educator, or youth leader

Religious organizations can schedule:

- Announcements of Youth Art Month by the clergy
- Displays of church school art

Health organizations and hospitals can:

- Display the artwork of confined or afflicted children in children’s wards, clinics, and offices

Business and commercial enterprises can participate, too:

- Shopping centers can set up arts and crafts workshops and exhibits of children’s artwork
- Restaurants can feature Youth Art Month on menus and table mats
- Advertisers can feature Youth Art Month in their advertisements and postage meters
- Department stores can hold a children’s fashion show with a theme such as, “Art is basic to style”
- Variety and stationery stores can feature displays of children’s art materials
- Industrial plants can arrange special tours for children and exhibit the art work of employees’ children
- Businesses can feature ads created by students



Washington YAM Flag by Bobby; 9th grade, Bellingham, WA

COLLECTING QUOTES

Collecting quotes by leading citizens and young people on the importance of art for youth is well worth the effort. First, it stimulates these influential people to think about art education; and second, it is a good publicity device since names make news.

Write a personal letter to the presidents of various clubs and organizations, as well as politicians and other prominent people, asking for a short statement to assist in your Youth Art Month program. Compile these and send them to your local newspapers and broadcasters.

The following is a sampling of quotes:

“...the arts represent one of the ways through which humans construct and convey meaning, and the creation of art forms requires the use of judgment, perceptivity, ingenuity, and purpose— in a word, intelligence.”

Elliot W. Eisner

“Too often, the arts have been thought of as a nice, but rather non-essential part of education. When we give our children the chance to explore and develop their own creativity, we encourage the sensitivity and ability for self-expression that is so crucial a part of the well-informed, well-educated person.”

Robert F. Kennedy

“Art is a natural, right from an early age. The child’s garden (of art) is missing in America today. A child should begin to work with materials just as soon as he is able to hold a ball. By holding a ball, a child gets a sense of the universe....The ball or sphere leads the child to other geometric shapes --- the cone, the triangle and cylinder. He is now on the threshold of nature itself. When the child begins to work with materials and begins to create ... a new world is opened to him.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

“One of the most wasteful decisions any school could make would be to discard arts education as a “frill.” The investment in a fine arts curriculum is repaid many times over by the quality of life it fosters in the community and by the growth it encourages in our most valuable asset: our children.”

*William E. LaMonthe,
CEO, Kellogg Company*

QUOTES FROM CHILDREN ON WHAT ART MEANS TO THEM:

“If you did not have art you would not have a pretty world.”

An eight year old child

“Art is wonderful and adventurous. It takes you to another world. I think that every child should learn about art.”

A nine year old child

“Art is a wonderful thing. You probably couldn’t live without it.”

A ten year old child

“Art is the thrill of being able to work and create with my hands.”

An eleven year old child

PUBLICIZING YOUR ACTIVITIES

Colorful and imaginative posters or mobiles strategically placed are attention-getters. To reach a wider audience, make a list of available means of communication in your community. Include daily, weekly, and Sunday newspapers, broadcasting stations, AM, FM, and television, as well as bulletins of churches and organizations and in-house newsletters.

At least six weeks before the event, send a simple photocopied letter to any or all of the above to alert them to your preliminary plans.

About two weeks in advance of the observance, send a news release to your entire list to remind them of your earlier letter and to give more specific details.

About a week after mailing your release, if possible make a phone follow-up to key newspaper and broadcasters. Your release may have escaped their attention, so be prepared to give a brief summary.

Ask if you can help them to expand the story for their readers or listeners. Do they require additional information? Will they send reporters or photographers?

Remember to send your state Youth Art Month Chairperson copies of materials you generate and publicity you receive to be included in your state’s Youth Art Month report.



By Jordan; age 10, Sedalia, MO

Newspapers: Remember that newspapers must interest their readers, so try to have your activities newsworthy. Also, remember that some newspapers have many departments: Children's Section, Education Column, and Society News, depending on their size. Try to supply interesting information for each. After your initial letter telling of your plans, telephone the various departments' editors and offer to cooperate in developing a feature story. If you have collected quotes by leading citizens or children, offer them to newspaper for use as fillers or as a feature.

A letter to the editor can summarize the aims and achievements of local art programs.

Radio and TV Stations: Like newspapers, radio and TV stations are interested in newsworthy events. Arrange for a special interview on radio or a demonstration on a TV program. Ask broadcasters to use public service announcements and to tape special spots.

Organizations and Groups: When sending your news release to local community, civic, service, and businesses, as well as youth organizations, ask them to announce your activity at meetings and offer to provide a speaker, demonstration, or panel for one of their programs.



The News Release Form: Because editors and broadcasters are deluged with requests for space and time, your chances for gaining their attention will be greater if your news release follows this form which is generally accepted:

Using standard white paper, type your name, address, phone number, and affiliation in the upper left hand corner. The date is placed in the upper right hand corner. The title, in CAPITAL LETTERS, should be short, interesting and indicative of what you have to say.

Double-space the body of your release. In the first paragraph, give the essentials. Be sure to indicate all pertinent information -- event, date, time, place, purpose, people involved. Be sure to verify spelling of names and places. If you augment this information in the following paragraphs, the release will practically write itself. It should be inclusive but short -- no more than two pages and preferably one.

By Adarsh; age 7, Baton Rouge, LA

**RADIO/TELEVISION PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSPAPER FILLERS**

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Art teaches many things. It stimulates a child's spiritual and emotional responses to his environment. It develops creativity, perception, and imagination.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Art is for all youth, not just the especially gifted. Art activities stimulate creativity, imagination, perception, and selectivity so necessary for our future decision makers, businesspeople, engineers, scientists, and teachers.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Art has value in the development of every child. Through meaningful art experiences, children develop self-expression, higher level thinking skills, and cultural literacy.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

In a scientific and technological age, there is great need to provide a balance in school programs. Creative art experiences prepare children for imaginative, yet disciplined approaches to the solution of problems.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Art is a universal "language." It bridges cultural and generational differences.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Art activities advance all education. Art develops the imagination of a child. It causes him/her to become more aware of his/her environment and judge things from his/her own experience.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

One parent, a scientist, said: "It would be a grave mistake to be so concerned with a science program and its support that we fail to recognize and provide for an active working art program in which every pupil may participate." Our children must have this chance to develop their creative skills. Encourage and support art education in your local school.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

Lead children into the wonderful world of painting, drawing, and modeling with clay. It expresses thoughts and ideas even before verbal tools are developed. It heightens awareness and sharpens observation.

MARCH IS YOUTH ART MONTH

All children deserve art opportunities to draw what they see, what they feel, what they dream. At home and at school, your child deserves surroundings rich in expressive opportunities. Now, more than ever, in the present day atmosphere of energy crisis, environmental pollution, hunger crises, civil war and economic problems, our students need an outlet for their emotions.



By Mayra; age 13, Brownsville, TX

SOME IDEAS THAT HAVE WORKED

- Provide students art for local weather reports during March or show artwork during TV station breaks
- Youth Art Month commercials designed by students as class assignments
- Involvement of parents by sending children's artwork home with a letter asking parents to take it to their place of business
- Student "on hand" demonstrations in banks, stores, and shopping centers
- Having children from an entire school system prepare an original piece of artwork with child's name and school stating, "We ask your support for art for youth." Parents and other interested people are asked to distribute them at shopping centers and other high traffic areas
- Hold a bus poster contest and display student artwork in buses throughout March
- Living art program: students (or teachers) pose as famous pieces of art work
- Student-designed coloring books
- Student-designed placemats and table tents that can be used by local restaurants.
- T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, note pads, refrigerator magnets, computer mouse pads, calendars, etc., decorated by student artwork



By Vicente; age 14, Brownsville, TX

- Asking merchants to invite junior and senior high school students to do a series of newspaper ads
- Asking merchants to have children paint window scenes on their windows
- Having children donate a framed piece of their artwork to mayors and state legislators
- Having children design individual posters promoting Youth Art Month
- Designing banners to hang on Main Street and other main arteries
- Displaying artwork in local business windows
- Handing out one-page flyers with information on Youth Art Month
- Organizing a statewide poster card exchange among schools and/or communities
- Designing calendars featuring student artwork

SAY THANK YOU

When it is all over -- don't forget to thank everyone who helped you. Keep a record of your activities, exhibits, newspaper clippings, etc., as you will want to have your activities included in the state report.

WHAT IS THE ART AND CREATIVE MATERIALS INSTITUTE, INC.?

ACMI is a non-profit association of art, craft and other creative materials manufacturers. In addition to sponsoring National Youth Art Month, ACMI also sponsors a certification program to ensure that art, craft and other creative materials are evaluated by a qualified toxicologist for both acute and chronic toxicity and labeled, when necessary, with the appropriate health warnings and safe use instructions. Look for

the ACMI Seals on all art, craft and other creative materials you purchase.

The original text of this booklet appeared in the Winter 1978 issue of *Art Teacher*, published by NAEA. Project was coordinated by Dorothy G. Evans, former vice president of NAEA. This booklet was revised in 1993 by The Council of Art Education, Inc. staff and the NAEA PR/Advocacy Committee.

To receive a booklet on safety and a list of ACMI –certified products, please contact ACMI at 1280 Main St, 2nd Floor, P. O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341-0479 USA; Telephone: 781-293-4100; Fax: 781-294-0808

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION?

The NAEA is a professional association of nearly 15,000 art educators at every level of instruction -- from early childhood to university, administration, museum education, life learning...also, publishers, manufacturers and suppliers of art materials, parents, students, retired teachers, art councils, schools, anyone and everyone concerned about quality art education in our schools. Upon request, an extensive NAEA publications list is available, including advocacy materials. The NAEA President endorses participation in Youth Art Month according to NAEA's Mission: "To advance art education through professional development, service, advancement of knowledge and leadership." For more information, contact NAEA, 1916 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091; Telephone: 703-860-8000; Fax: 703-860-2960

For more information on Youth Art Month, including the name of your state's Youth Art Month Chairperson, contact:

The Council for Art Education, Inc.
1280 Main Street, 2nd Floor
P. O. Box 479
Hanson, MA 02341-0479 USA
Telephone: 781-293-4100
Fax: 781-294-0808

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION, INC., LINDA E. MURPHY:

During my thirty-six years as an elementary art teacher, I saw first hand the learning, creativity, excitement, connection making, self expression and self confidence my students achieved on a daily basis. Youth Art Month is an excellent way to reinforce the importance of the visual arts as an integral part of a total, comprehensive education and the need to expand art programs to schools which still do not have quality art experiences taught by certified art teachers.

As a member of the Youth Art Month Review Committee, the Council for Art Education, and the National Art Education Association, a co-sponsor, I have seen twenty-five years of cooperation between art teachers, students, parents, school administration, community and business leaders to make sure the visual arts and all the arts remain a part of each child's education. Whether a student has a piece of work in a school, community or state YAM Exhibit, their pride is the same. The National Flag Event is an amazing way to connect students with their elected representatives. I have seen art teachers who chair YAM observances become not only stronger advocates for the arts but leaders in their field as well.

Youth Art Month continues to be one of the most successful art advocacy programs available to all who wish to reinforce, advance and save art programs at all levels so no students are denied the opportunity to express themselves. The look on the face of a child actively engaged in the art process says it all.

MESSAGE FROM PAST NAEA PRESIDENT, MARK HANSEN:

The National Art Education Association is proud to be involved in Youth Art Month activities with The Council for Art Education, Inc. since 1978, when one of our members, Dorothy G. Evans, coordinated the publication of the original text for this document.

The month of March in most of the State Art Education Associations means, "Youth Art Month," as students' art is displayed in the schools, store windows, malls and State Capitol Buildings of our country. These events give visual evidence that help demonstrate the importance of the visual arts in the education of our nation's citizens. These events of visual art contribute to the development of leaders, scientists, artists, and inventors whose success depends on imagination, resourcefulness, and creativity.

The NAEA Board thanks those of you who become involved in this annual observance. Your efforts help emphasize the value of art education for children and encourage support for quality school art programs.

On behalf of the National Art Education Association Board of Directors I thank all who have worked on this revision and to the Delegates Assembly of NAEA for their efforts and approval.

Artwork courtesy of Cray-Pas Wonderful Colorful World Contest. & 2004 Youth Art Month Flag Event