

WILMINGTON PARTICIPANT BECOMES ADAMS COUNTY COORDINATOR

Rich Neumann, Communications Manager for Adams County, Colorado has had the opportunity to experience the National Arts Program® as both a participant and now a coordinator. We feel this unique perspective has given him a greater understanding of the program and its purpose. We recently reached out to Rich and asked him to elaborate on his NAP experiences....

"I first came to know the National Arts Program® at the City of Wilmington, Delaware, where the annual employee art exhibition was a highlight of the year for many employees, including me. As a visual artist, I appreciated the opportunity to display my art without having to spend the energy and expense of organizing a solo show. I also enjoyed the camaraderie, inspiration and encouragement that came with participating in a group show.

When I moved to Colorado to assume a new position with Adams County in Brighton, Colorado, one of my first initiatives was to develop a series of employee events designed to improve morale and foster team spirit among the workforce. While my team and I had moderate success with a variety of activities, including holiday cookie contests, a Super Bowl chili cook-off, and a series of seasonal tailgate parties, my intention all along was to introduce the National Arts Program® as one of our keystone events in hopes that I could capture some of the same excitement I had experienced back in Delaware.

Nothing prepared us for the overwhelming interest in the program. More than 150 artists registered for the inaugural exhibition, submitting nearly 200 pieces of art. The entire week leading up to the opening night gala, all non-work related conversations around the water cooler revolved around the exhibition. Employees were genuinely astonished to discover the range of talent and subject matter among their colleagues and their family members. Once again, art proved itself to be the great uniter! My hope is that this year's event serves as a creative catalyst that will result in even greater participation next year.

The first annual "Artfully Adams" employee art exhibition was an unequivocal success that would not have been possible without the generous support of The National Arts Program®. I've witnessed firsthand the transformative effect the program can have on the workplace, and I am extremely grateful for this invaluable partnership."



Rich Neumann, Communications Manager for Adams County, Colorado poses with NAP participant Jodi Neal (right) as she delivers her mixed media piece entitled "Fly on the Wall".

Honolulu Artist Shares Inspiration Behind Winning Piece

NAP exhibitions bring forward a magnitude of hidden talents from people within the communities where they are held and this year's Honolulu, HI exhibit was no different. The exhibition featured a wonderful display of artwork from all medium categories across every skill level. One such piece was "Untitled" by Kristin Laitila, who received the Second Place award in the Intermediate category.



In the interest of learning a little more about the creativity behind some of the truly original artwork that gets displayed in our shows, we reached out to Kristin to inquire about what motivates her artistically.

Kristin finds inspiration for her "handicraft" creations from numerous sources, but it is her "I'll try anything once" attitude towards the arts that allows her the freedom to create without expectation. Kristin's first motivation often comes from the necessity for function as she actually wears the hats she creates stating, "due to my unfortunate inclination towards sunburns, a wide brim is always a practical choice." However, this is as far as function goes, as she pushes it aside during the embellishment phase of her creative process.

For this particular hat, she found inspiration for the adornments from a local orchid show where the variety of shapes and colors of the flowers at the show were so mesmerizing that she often found herself covertly poking the petals just to verify they were real. Aiding in the finishing touches of the flowers, Kristin took a cue from a picture of a 1950's necklace in a costume jewelry book, that she actually borrowed from the library where she works, which inspired her to wrap the wire in embroidery floss.

Kristin's winning piece proves that you can find inspiration for both form and function from your daily life, you just have to be willing to embrace it.

AUSTIN'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN

After the last City of Austin show in 2012, the NAP's long-term partner, VSA Texas, faced a number of changes including the loss of their venue space. However, April Sullivan, who had been coordinating the exhibit for the last ten years, knew that the show must go on. In order to ensure this, April brought the program to the attention of the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department in hopes that they could pick up the torch. Alberto Mejia, Manager of the Dougherty Arts Center, was intrigued by the opportunity to showcase the artistic talents of the city's employees. After reaching out to the NAP to discuss the specifics involved in running the program, he was thrilled to bring the exhibition back in 2015.

Under new leadership from the Dougherty Arts Center, the NAP exhibition not only gained a professional gallery space, but a new dedicated coordinator by the name of Guiniviere Webb. Guiniviere was very enthusiastic about providing this opportunity to the community and worked diligently to promote the exhibition. This is evident from the large amount of artwork on display.

The exhibit boasts the highest number of participating artists, 133 in total, since Austin joined the program making it clear that the participants were excited for the return of

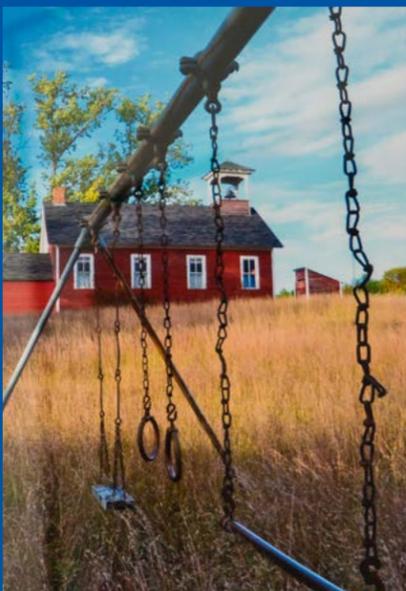


"The Chicanos"; Marissa Maldonado; Intermediate, First Place; Photography; Relative; Resource Recovery.

the program! Guiniviere commented that numerous people mentioned that they were happy to see the show back and they look forward to the event each year.

The NAP is thrilled to have Austin back on our annual roster thanks to the hard work of both previous and current coordinators. It is their passion that allows the NAP to run such amazing shows all over the county!

INTERMEDIATE ARTISTS



"Rocky Ridge School"
Debra Livingston
Photography



"A Perfect Pair"
Deonda Scott
Mixed Media

Avera Health System Celebrates Fourth Year



Dr. David Kapaska, Avera Regional President and CEO was honored to attend Avera's Fourth Annual NAP Reception. He presented awards, shook hands and took pictures with all of the award winners at the July 27th ceremony, which took place at the Avera Prairie Center with an estimated 200 in attendance.

The exhibit included 150 works in total, 41 coming from the Youth and Teen categories. In an effort to offer even more encouragement to the younger artists, Judges opted to award additional prizes in those categories. In total they distributed six honorable mention ribbons and ten scholarship awards between the Youth (12 & Under) and Teen (13-18) groups.

Carol Rogers, an Art Therapist for Avera Health System, has been the coordinator of their National Arts Program® Exhibit since its inception. She presented a professional and beautiful display for their fourth annual showcase and took advantage of our non-matching scholarship award to enhance many facets of the exhibit and awards reception.

AND THE BEST OF SHOW WINNERS ARE...



From left to right: "Improvisation" by Nancy Grobe; "Juanita" by Alex Hernandez; "Honu Surfacing Towards the Sun" by Albert Koorenhof

Teen 13-18

Manchester - Kayli Neil

Adult Intermediate

Honolulu - Albert Koorenhof

Orlando - Bob Skinner

VIA Metropolitan Transit - Alex Hernandez

Adult Professional

Austin - Nancy Grobe

Avera Health - Aaron Culey

VCU Health - Carren Clarke

McAdoo

IN THE NEWS THIS QUARTER

4 things you need to consider before investing in art

With major art fairs taking place across the globe from Chicago to Istanbul to Shanghai, art enthusiasts, collectors and sophisticated investors alike are questioning whether to acquire works of fine art as investments. And as significant appreciation emerges in some corners of the art market, we see growing interest from clients about incorporating art into their investment portfolios.

Pope Blesses Philadelphia Art Piece Inspired By One Of His Favorite Paintings

Pope Francis made an unannounced stop Sunday to bless an art installation, a grotto adorned with 110,000 knots, each representing a personal hardship or societal challenge. The work was inspired by one of his favorite paintings, "Mary, Undoer of Knots." It shows Mary untangling a long ribbon — a symbol of smoothing life's difficulties.

Elderly express themselves through graffiti art

Some are hard of hearing or don't see well, others complain about stiff joints, one is 101 years old. All have become graffiti artists under a project to energize Portugal's elderly. Learning how to paint graffiti—a form of urban art often associated with unruly adolescents—is bringing cheer and a can-do attitude to pensioners in this rural Portuguese city.

To read full articles visit our website.

THE National ARTS PROGRAM®

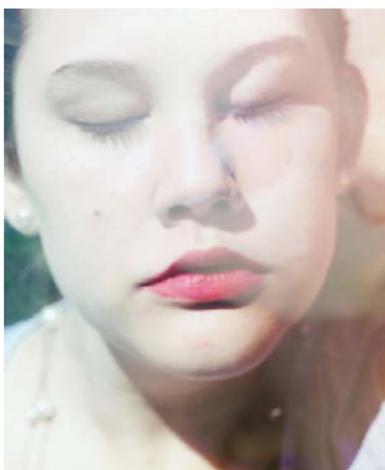
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The National Arts Program® was established in 1982 to identify, showcase, and reward the visual artistic talent in America. Today we sponsor 82 venues across the country with steady growth.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(From left to right clockwise)

Steven Owen, "Man with Pipe", Professional, Painting

Tracey T. Stropes, "Kitty Corn", Youth 12 & Under, Works on Paper

Shaley Keller, "Put It All on Me", Teen 13-18, Photography

Aubrey Corriveau, "Dan", Professional, Painting

Tina Robertson, "Ms May", Intermediate, Photography

Louise Hallauer, "Cute", Professional, Painting

Joanie Springer, "Corra", Professional, Painting

Kirstin Kastern, "Shadow", Amateur, Photography

