

ARTS

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Arts Mission Statement

The Arts Committee philosophy is to include major artistic facets: music, visual arts, arts appreciation, and theater and dance. The approach is twofold: First, arts for adults, especially our club members to encourage arts participation and/or appreciation; and second, arts for children and youth. Our goal is to encourage youngsters to experience the arts and enhance opportunities for personal growth culturally, personally, and creatively.

Scholarships for Children and Youth in Hands-On Arts Programs

The Yellowstone Art Museum offers YAM Camp, a weeklong summer hands-on workshop for youngsters interested in visual arts. Since visual and musical arts overlap the theater arts and expand to include acting and dance. NOVA offers a summer theater camp as does Billings Studio Theatre's Rainbow camp. Both local organizations receive scholarship money to allow low-income children to participate in the camps. Our club also contributes to, or purchases outright, a musical instrument that becomes a "loaner" to a child who exhibits an interest in music but cannot afford to purchase an instrument.

Arts Appreciation for Children and Youth in Arts Programs

Visual arts are mainly supported via donations to the Yellowstone Art Museum that exhibits local and international art works. Docents guide children and through the galleries and teach at the same time.

The music venue donation supports the Billings Symphony Explore Music program that either sends musicians into the schools to perform for students, or invites students and teachers to attend workshops given by talented musicians who come to perform for Billings Symphony audiences.

Alberta Bair Theater brings national touring shows to Billings. Local and regional students attend the theater for special student performances. ABT provides advance materials to teachers and provides workshops for them. The opportunity is twofold: first, exposure to view and appreciate a show, and second, it is a place where children learn and practice audience skills.

Adult Arts Venue Donations

Angela's Piazza is a **Super Bowl** Souper Bowl function to support victims of domestic violence. Participants also choose a piece of pottery donated by an artist as well as enjoy soups donated by local restaurants. This club activity is split between the DV and Arts committees, so with 12 participants we each claim 6.

Art House Cinema is a newer venue for our community. It brings a variety of films that relate to the arts, societal issues and other movies that are not supported by other movie theatres. We donated \$400.

Auction Baskets Assembled and Donated to Nonprofits

Two auction pieces were donated to nonprofits as fundraisers. One was a matted painting by a regional artist, Mike Capser, given to the state MEA Teacher's Convention for their scholarship fund. The estimated in-kind value was \$75. The second was a basket of scrapbooking materials valued at \$200 and given to the Family Services toward their support of needy families.

Member Participation in the Arts

One club member donated 18½ hours to Billings Studio Theatre by making opening night refreshments for each new show and arranged for tickets so members and their friends would sign up to

attend various art venues in our area. Six members and one guest attended a play at Billings Studio..

Narrative for Special Project

The Arts Committee was in charge of the activity following our October meeting. At that time one of our members was terminally ill and needed much support.

Our Arts Committee brought blank cards stock , special art pens, as well as colored pencils, alcohol ink papers, crayons, fancy scissors and adhesives so members could design the own cards to send to her. At this meeting those 21 members also signed up for a specific day on the calendar so our sick member would receive a card every day and know we thought of her, loved her and prayed for her.

During my visits with her she mentioned how much those cards meant to her. That was reaffirmed by her two daughters at her funeral where they told me that the first thing Barb asked for every day was her mail. It was especially meaningful because her older daughter is also suffering with cancer which added to the family struggles. If there is any blessing to this, it is that she still had this daughter at the end of her own days.

Members of our club attended the funeral to be there as support of her daughters. There was enough cardstock to create additional cards that were given to Bev Ferguson, President Elect, for other uses such as Membership invitations to various functions as well as for other communication needs.