

Star Treatment

Arts Center nurtures young talent for National Youth Art Month



Young aspiring artists will get their 15 minutes of fame this March when the Arts Center hosts its Ninth Annual *Youth ArtsFest*, a free community festival showcasing the talents of student actors, singers, dancers, musicians and artists from all over the Lowcountry.

The highlight of the Arts Center's National Youth Art Month celebration, the March 7 event will include variety-show style performances in the Elizabeth Wallace Theatre, mini-art workshops in the Disney Art Studio and the Crayola Dream-Makers exhibit in the Walter Greer Gallery. The festival runs from noon to 4 p.m.

"It's important that as a community we encourage and support our young artists and offer them opportunities to demonstrate their skills," said Arts Center Director of Education Alana Adams. "This festival is all about building up their self-esteem and confidence to continue to pursue their dreams."

To that end, the Arts Center hosted three Crayola Dream-Makers workshops this fall in partnership with the Beaufort County School District and the Arts Council of Beaufort County, introducing some 70 private, public and home-school teachers and after-school educators to the prestigious arts enrichment program.

It is the 10th year the Arts Center has participated in Dream-Makers, introduced by Binney & Smith in 1984 to help kindergarten through sixth grade teachers incorporate hands-on art activities into their classroom curriculum.

This year's resource guide, "Dreams You Can Count On," features 12 innovative art projects that focus on mathematical concepts, such as collecting and organizing data, measuring and scaling objects, counting and estimating.

In one lesson, called "Counting Shapes Among the Splatter," teachers were shown how to use the German Bauhaus-style of art created by Paul Klee to teach geometry and fractions.

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Student artwork inspired by the lessons will be featured in the Crayola Dream-Makers' exhibit on display March 4-29 in the Walter Greer Gallery. Among the suggested projects are beaded pin cushion-like forms, 1960s necklaces with three-dimensional geometric beads and garden collages.

In addition to viewing the finished pieces in the gallery, children attending *Youth*

ArtsFest will have the opportunity to create Dream-Makers artwork of their own at mini-workshops being taught throughout the afternoon in the Disney Art Studio.

Youth Art Month also will include two student field trip performances by Celtic Crossroads, a group of traditional Irish musicians and dancers renowned for their energetic concerts.



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