

Art Committee Advisory Report  
February 21, 2025  
Submitted by Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair  
Covering October 2024 to January 2025

*Children's Arts and Crafts Programming*

On October 5, Fall Fest on the Farm took place. Thanks to the contributions of several artists, community volunteers, and support from the Farm, children's crafts were offered to the community in the Chesapeake building. Kites were colored, owls were collaged, fall stamp-and-sticker 'zines were created, bookmarks colored, and spooky night critters were drawn with wax pastels by community children of all ages. Kits to make over 100 of each craft were prepared, and most of the supplies were entirely exhausted.

For Christmas on the Farm, on December 14, again due to the efforts of artists and community volunteers and support from the Farm, holiday-themed children's crafts were offered. In the Baker Building, wreath and candy cane ornaments made of sparkly red, white, and green tri-beads were assembled, wooden ornaments of various types were colored, and scratch-art and peel-and-stick crafts were made. In addition, grab-and-go kids were offered along with Russell Farm-branded carrying sacks. There were over 130 of each type of ornament made. The Baker Building was full of kids of all ages throughout Christmas on the Farm and left open until the end of Night of Lights for families to enjoy. Crafts remain popular with children—and indeed there were other crafts offered by other groups that afternoon. These are a great way to bring the community in to enjoy the farm as a family at no cost to them.

*Art Programming: Sketch Group and Monthly Classes*

Saturday Sketch Group met each week at the Farm from 9 AM to noon, with a couple of exceptions for Santa's breakfast and holiday absence. The City of Burleson's marketing staff has continued to work with our artist leaders to create and promote each week's drawing theme. Themes included everything from "Dapper Frogs," turkeys, and wizardly creatures to holiday sweets, snowmen, and pickles. Sketch group continues to be offered at no cost to the community, with attendees of all ages participating. Most sessions saw a handful of participants, with one or two bringing in 12 or so participants.

Karen Kaiser offered an art class once each month, except December. These classes meet immediately after the sketch group. A drawing class, "Beastly Eyes" was offered in October, but canceled due to low enrollment. In November, eight attended the Creative Coloring class. In January, eleven attended the Precious Stones watercolor class.

Looking forward, for one Saturday afternoon each month, Karen Kaiser is scheduled to continue with her art classes throughout Spring and Summer. Our next class is “Dip Pen Doodles” on February 22 at noon. We are also in talks to potentially develop a second monthly class, at low or no cost to the public, of drawing tutorials with a local art professor.

Additional home-school art classes and holiday kids’ camps, such as those provided by Kid Create were offered. Please see Mary Ann’s farm report for more on those.

### *Red Chair Lecture*

A Red Chair Lecture was organized and held on October 26. Tim Brys and his son Wylie shared their story, *Wylie Finds a Dinosaur*, a children’s book written by Tim and based on his and Wylie’s experience discovering a new species of dinosaur. They signed copies of their book and shared fossils for the community to view. In addition, the public was able to interact with several “living dinosaurs,” including an endangered turtle, monitor lizard, and baby alligator, while learning about wildlife and resource conservation. Refreshments were provided as well, all at no cost to the public.

*Our next Red Chair Lecture is scheduled for March 22. It is called “Mind’s Eye: Imaginary and Recollected Art of Lucas (Mick) Swindall.” Mick will discuss his artistic journey and display his work, which includes paintings of nature, rural scenes, and natural-inspired abstracts.*

### *Art Advisory Board Planning and Oversight*

Art Advisory members continued to meet regularly and coordinate with farm staff to help serve the community. Art committee members Tom Sale and Nancy McKenzie have been coordinating with the city and an outside firm to incorporate art into the city. Karen Kaiser and several regular members of the Saturday Sketch Group were among those who were selected to paint barn quilts, 4’x4’ quilt-pattern paintings that will be displayed for the public in public spaces around the city.

We continue to look forward to improvements in the climate control in the Chesapeake Building as spring and summer classes are on the horizon. We also have provided what feedback we can to help move the dial forward on the efforts to upgrade the garage into a usable dedicated art space for the community.