

Art Committee Advisory Report
October 25, 2024
Submitted by Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair
Covering June to September, 2024

Children's Arts and Crafts Programming

New vendors joined the farm, offering multi-day children's summer camp. "Summer Art Camp with Ms. Gifford" was offered in June and July. Each camp covered 4 days and targeted various age groups. In addition, Kid Create began by offering "How To's of Drawing" summer camp in June, followed by "Modern Masters of Clay" in July and "Slimetastic Art" in August. Kid Create also offered homeschool classes in September. Crafts were also offered as a part of the "Fun on the Farm Camp" in June and "Endless Summer Camp in August."

Adult and Teen Art Programming

Saturday Sketch Group met each week at the Farm from 9AM to noon. We were able to work with city marketing staff to feature each week's theme in our social media advertising. We continue to see new artists attending as the creative themes, friends, and farm atmosphere draw interest. Participants each week ranged from a low of three to a high of fifteen artists of all kinds, with generally six to eight artists in attendance each week.

In July, we offered our second-ever "Adult Art Camp." Karen Kaiser and Tom Sale coordinated the event. The twenty-four participants ranged from teens to seniors, hailing from several towns in the region and one flying in from out of state to attend. The day included five, one-hour art projects, each taught by a different local artist, with lunch provided. Several campers have since joined sketch group and other farm activities.

Karen Kaiser also continued her monthly art classes. "Mandalas" watercolor in June had 22 students. In July and August, "Color Wheel Cactus," "Sea Turtles," and "Gemstones" watercolor classes met with twelve, eleven, and six students, respectively. Her "Fall into Art" series began with "Whimsical Owl" in September with four students.

Art Advisory Board Planning and Oversight

Art Advisory members continued to meet regularly to plan events and coordinate with farm staff. A second storage cabinet was added in the Chesapeake. We have received a number of donations over the summer from the public which have been worked into these cabinets for use in sketch group, art classes, and kids' crafts. We did receive a number of concerns regarding the

heat and have met with farm staff to express those concerns and try to work towards a solution as participants suggested the heat factors into their decision to enroll.

We continue to look forward to the addition of dedicated art space at the farm. In July, progress was made on that front as some of the funds raised from past events coordinated by Tom Sale were utilized to prepare the garage for assessment for its potential for upgrade. Workers removed the wooden loft and stairs, as well as the greenhouse lean-to. In addition, a great deal of volunteer work was undertaken to remove the items that were stored in the garage.

Finally, in September, several items were in the planning stage. Tom Sale is working on our next Red Chair Lecture in October featuring Tim Brys as he discusses the making of "Wylie Finds a Dinosaur." Karen Kaiser is also working to plan the next fall art class, "Beastly Eyes," and working with staff to put together the kids' craft projects for October's Fall Fest. In addition, plans to utilize the Baker Building Art Gallery to feature works of art from sketch group members are underway.