

WALE Conference 2016



Create @ the Library: Arts and Crafts for Adults

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Presentation can be found at:

[Part One](#)

[Part Two](#)

1. Intro and Welcome

- Agenda
 - Details of program
 - Materials
 - Budget
 - Staff time
 - Sources for ideas
 - Response from public
 - Our projects: photos and details from the programs
 - Presentations
 - Questions
 - Closing project

2. Launching our program: Why arts and crafts @ the library for adults?

- Children's crafts programs:
 - Many offered in libraries
 - Fun for some parents, too! Adults seemed to enjoy helping their kids
- Fewer programs offered for adults
 - Local art classes offered but costly
 - Paying for class = seriousness and expectations
 - This is just for fun - for the love of making things
 - Class is intended to be low pressure
- Many people need to be creative but don't have space or materials, or don't take the time at home.

3. Speaking of creativity... selected quotes

- "Art is not about beauty, it's not about esthetics and it's not about talent. Art is just a form of self-expression.....And how can we judge a form of self-expression? How can we judge someone's feelings and thoughts that are portrayed in an art piece? How can we tell them that they are lacking talent, that their work of art is not beautiful or appealing to the eye? What is important is how the artist felt during their creation. And this is why all of us should be able to give ourselves the chance to experience art and the beauty of expressing ourselves artistically."
--[IMPORTANCE OF ART IN AN ADULT'S DEVELOPMENT](#), Anamaria Olaru
- "Medical professionals are beginning to recognize the role that creative arts play in the healing process; increasingly, arts in medicine programs are emerging throughout the United States and worldwide."

--[THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ART, HEALING, AND PUBLIC HEALTH: A REVIEW OF CURRENT LITERATURE](#),

Heather L. Stuckey and Jeremy Nobel

- “Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi first described this phenomenon as flow: a few moments in time when you are so completely absorbed by an activity that nothing else seems to matter.”

--[THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON CRAFTING](#), Jacque Wilson, CNN

4. Launching our program: How did this begin?

- Many "art parties" at home (A great alternative to dinner parties for shy people!)
- First programs held at another library
- Response was very good so wanted to repeat at new location
- Proposed at new library: 10 month process to launch
 - Proposal to supervisor
 - Researching materials to find cheapest options
 - Friends of the Library Grant application
 - Tested with staff party
- Began in September 2015 as a trial
- Accidental team formed (Letting Our (creative) Lights Shine!)
- Success!

5. Program Details

- Program time: 2-4 pm on first Thursday of each month
- Limit: 20-30 participants, depending on program
 - Sign-up by calling
 - Waiting list
 - Reminder & supplies
 - No shows
- Room: meeting room set up
 - 6 tables, 24 chairs
- Computer presentation

6. Materials

- Essential ingredients
 - Pencils
 - Watercolor
 - lead
 - Paint
 - Watercolors
 - Acrylics
 - Erasers
 - Fine point black markers
 - Paper:
 - watercolor
 - scrapbook
 - origami
 - Tacky glue
 - *Good* glue sticks

- Scissors
- Also helpful:
 - Palettes
 - Construction Paper crayons
 - Oil pastels
- Borrow equipment! We have borrowed:
 - Crock pots
 - Sewing machine
 - Kiln and glazes

7. Sources for Materials

- Craft stores (use those coupons!)
 - Michael's
 - JoAnn Fabric
- Blick Art
- Amazon
- Jerry's Art
- Discount School Supply
- Local specialty shops:
 - Seattle Pottery
 - Brambleberry
 - GloryBee
 - Scent of Thyme
 - Zenith Supply
- Don't forget about donations of materials!

8. Budget

- Our budget:
 - Friends of the Library grant
 - Special fund from Schack Art Center
 - Donations
 - Grants: for the future
- Cost of different projects: many variables!
 - One method to budget for several months –
 - Compile list of ingredients and supplies for each project.
 - Find best prices
 - List tasks
 - Copy website where idea was found if applicable
 - Put it all in one place, such as in a Word document.
- Using what you have, some projects “only” cost staff time:
 - Heart ART: Cost FREE
 - Need to purchase: Nothing
 - Need to do: Make samples.
 - Make painted papers.
 - Cut hearts (die-cut)

9. Staff Time

- Time spent before program:
 - Elizabeth (full time) estimates 3-6 hours per month
 - JoAnna (part time) estimates 1-3 hours per month
- Set up and clean up
 - One hour set up
 - One hour clean up
- Fun extras: Outside of work stuff for the seriously crazed crafter types
 - So far we've held three staff art parties:
 - Clay flowers and owls (at the library)
 - Hypertufa pots (at home)
 - Chuck Close inspired portrait (at the library)
 - Continuing Education
 - Schack art classes
 - Painting class: YMCA fundraiser
 - Ben Franklin classes

10. Sources for Ideas

- Books
- Magazines
- Etsy
- Google image searching
- Pinterest
 - Curating
 - Ideas
- Facebook
- Look at local classes!
- Following on Facebook:
 - Deep Space Sparkle
 - Amanda
 - Ben Franklin
 - Otion/Bramble Berry/ Soap Queen
 - 1001 Mandalas

11. Response from Public (a sampling of comments received)

- "It was so fun hanging out yesterday and creating with you. Thank you for this awesome gift of some 'me' time. 😊 Creating is long term energy building. The project was fun!"
- "Thanks for your reminder; I have been looking forward to this project. Heck, I have been looking forward to them all!"
- "That was so much fun yesterday! I was really kind of nervous because I'm not creative at all, but [the painting] turned out kind of nice!"
- "Love the art classes in the library, as it introduces me to things I would not normally try. Thank you!!!"
- "I love the Create at the Library classes! It's a wonderful supporting environment, no stress, just fun. All my projects have turned out well. And being on a limited budget, free classes are great!"

- “The atmosphere is fun, the staff and classmates are very helpful and energetic. PLEASE CONTINUE this series! 😊”
- “These classes are so much fun! Please keep having them. Some of these people become friends – fostering a sense of community. I personally could not afford the supplies used in each class, so the library providing “the goods” is wonderful. Thanks again.”

12. Fourteen months of Our Classes

- Some examples of classes grouped by difficulty, prep time and cost:
 - Easy (Prep time and Cheap)
 - Origami (Kusudama)Flowers
 - Valentine Cards
 - Books into Art
 - Watercolor flowers
 - Watercolor Mandalas
 - Easy but a little more costly
 - December crafts
 - Mixed media collage on wood
 - Chuck Close group project (optional framing)
 - Cheap but more prep
 - Sweet Spring Bird
 - Lots of work and more costly or needing equipment
 - Clay Flowers and Owls
 - Hypertufa pots
 - Clay Bird Sculptures
 - Lip balm and bath salts
 - Melt and pour soap

13. Presentations (*all can be viewed, copied, and altered*)

- [Soap making](#)
- [Birds of Clay](#)
- [Chuck Close Inspired Portrait](#)
- [Hypertufa Pots](#)
- [Watercolor Mandalas](#)
- [Mixed Media Collage on Wood](#)
- [Sweet Spring Bird](#)
- [Watercolor Flowers](#)
- [Clay Flowers and Owls](#)
 - [Glazing Our Works](#) (part two)

14. Questions?

15. Create @ the Conference: Window Stars!