

Art in the Schools Program (2015-2016)

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¡ORALE! Kings and Queens of Cool! Introduced students to Pop Surrealism broadening visual literacy and celebrating the current culture of Northern New Mexico and its relationship to current national culture.

The Harwood Museum of Art brings Taos arts to the world and world arts to Taos. The Museum believes that all children should have access to the arts regardless of income or background. Our goal is to make the Harwood collection and special exhibitions accessible to our entire community, young and old. We believe introducing children to art at an early age provides countless benefits; encourages positive risk-taking, builds links to our histories and cultures, while teaching visual literacy and creative problem solving.



The University of New Mexico's Harwood Museum **Art in the Schools** program is an innovative museum-based studio art program that provides in-depth arts education to at-risk, low-income school children in Taos County. Studies show that at-risk children of low socioeconomic status who engage in regular arts programs have higher GPA's, higher graduation rates and college enrollment, as well as higher career aspirations and civic engagement (NEA 2012). Since the program began in 2007, the Harwood has developed a strong partnership with the local public Enos

Garcia Elementary School, the largest school in the region with a high population of at-risk and special needs children. AIS is offered free of charge to every school in Taos County. The 2015-2016 academic year has already begun. Currently we are scheduling every class Pre-K – 5th from Title I Enos Garcia Elementary School (EGES) as well as K-8th Taos Integrated School of the Arts (TISA), and special needs classes from Ranchos Elementary and Arroyos del Norte Elementary..

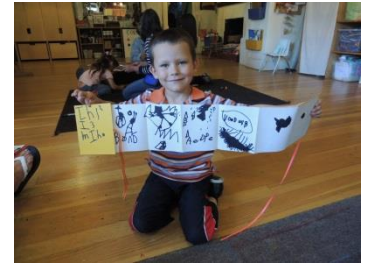
In 2015-2016, AIS will provide over 3,500 2-hour visits to 1,200 children in 50 classes throughout Taos County. We will continue to reach out to Life Skills and other Special Needs classes serving 500 children with physical, emotional or cognitive challenges. For the second year, we received a Kennedy Center Museum Access for Kids contract to engage more children with cognitive, emotional or physical disabilities.

Art in the Schools exposes students and teachers to exemplary works of art within a historical and social context. Using the Harwood Museum's collection and local artist/instructors, the program offers students opportunities to learn new modes of visual, verbal and creative expression while fostering critical thinking skills and encouraging joy through learning. Each class is scheduled for multiple 2-hour visits to the Museum from September through May. Designed and facilitated by Harwood educators, each project focuses on a specific area of the Museum's collection, and related activities are aligned with the National Standards and New Mexico Standards for Visual Arts, integrating study, hands-on art-making and exhibition.



To facilitate participation and eliminate the cost of transportation (and encourage exercise), Harwood educators meet Enos Garcia Elementary classes at the school and assist with the ten minute walk to the Museum. The VSA contract through the Kennedy Center and funding from the Fasken Foundation has allowed us to offer other schools transportation to the Harwood. Once in the Museum, students participate in interactive dialogue about selected works of art and reinforce the learning through hands-on art making activities in the Harwood art

studio. A selection of the children’s work is displayed in the Museum and shown in the hallways of their schools. Additionally, children who participate in the program are invited to bring their families to visit the museum at any time for free, simply by introducing themselves to the admission staff. Many children bring their parents or grandparents to “their” Museum – often the first time for these families - which opens the Museum to the community: Hispanic, Native American and Anglo.



Art in the Schools uses the power of art to transform young lives by creating opportunities for mastering arts literacy, gaining self-confidence, honing critical thinking, and practicing language skills for both English and Spanish speakers, exploring collaborative and independent learning models, and fostering cultural awareness. With repeated exposure to the museum, as the children move up through the grades, they experience many original art works and art making opportunities, thus increasing their art literacy. This regular engagement in the arts has been shown to narrow the achievement gap, motivate student learning through increased opportunities for creative thinking and problem solving, which are linked to overall advanced academic achievement.



Participants

Enos Garcia Elementary School and upper grades at TISA Charter School are located within walking distance to the Museum thereby eliminating transportation costs. The program currently serves over 50 classes from Pre-K through 5th grades including Arroyos del Norte, Ranchos and Enos Life Skills classes. In the 2014-15 school year, Art in the Schools hosted 2,755 student visits, with 371 teachers and aides for a total of 3,126 contact visits.

A Title I school, EGES has a student population that is 83% Hispanic, 8% White, 8% Native American, and 1% Asian or African American. All students are eligible for the free lunch program based on the Federal Poverty Level of \$26,600 for a family of four. In Taos County, 25.3% of the population lives below poverty level. (US Census 2013) This increases to 27% for children, 24% for Hispanic and 43% for Native Americans (City-Data.com). There are 12 dual language classes at EGES, 75% of these students are Native Spanish Speakers. 150 EGES students are identified with learning, physical and/or emotional disabilities. Enos: 24 % in Special Ed vs. 13% US Average. These factors define this population as “at-risk” and of low socio-economic status (determined from family income, parental education level and parental job status).

Outcomes - The Art in the Schools program

- increases students’ understanding of diverse media, techniques and artistic processes;
- fosters critical thinking skills;
- creates opportunities for personal reflection through the exploratory process of art making;
- engages children in self-evaluation of completed works;
- provides opportunities for collaboration, critical thinking, and strengthening self-confidence; and
- Makes the Harwood Museum an interactive and fun learning environment, encouraging participants to return for self-directed visits with their families



Thank you for helping us inspire the youth of the Taos community.