

“Creating Solutions for the World We Share” 2011 Alameda County Art IS Education Program

INTRODUCTION

“Creating Solutions for the World We Share” is this year’s Alameda County *Art IS Education* theme. This program encourages Alameda County youth to express through the arts creative solutions for how we can take care of ourselves, each other, and the planet.

Art IS Education is a program of the Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, a project of the Alameda County Office of Education in partnership with the Alameda County Arts Commission. Art IS Education is an annual showcase of arts learning in Alameda County schools in March during national Arts Education Month. Events include presentations of visual and performing arts created by K-12 students with a public gathering at a school or community site. Over the last 11 years, Art IS Education has become a highly visible countywide event that creates a vehicle for students to share with their community what they are learning in and through the visual and performing arts.

THEME

The goal of the theme, “Creating Solutions for the World We Share,” is for the arts to be a way for youth to deepen their understanding of the natural and social ecologies in which we live as well as a way to use their creativity to contribute to a healthy future. The theme is deliberately broad so that communities across the county can choose to explore one of the many creative ways we take care of ourselves, each other or the planet.

Examples of theme explorations from the Alameda County Arts Commission’s *Creative Power* program at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center include:

- ❖ **Taking care of ourselves** –Students individually chose short mottos or belief statements that would help them each focus on positive thinking and personal transformation. Together they selected several to express with a large scale mural of an urban environment.
- ❖ **Taking care of each other** – Students discussed the problems they face as a community, and as a group chose themes of hope, transformation and non-violence to help address these challenges. They created individual pieces about these themes and are currently working on combining them into a larger collaborative artwork.
- ❖ **Taking care of the planet**– Students learned about environmental issues and the positive effects of recycling. Using compositional and sewing skills, they created quilts on these themes.

PLANS FOR 2011

- ❖ **Art IS Education Launch Event** will be on December 1st from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in partnership with the AC Transit Freedom Bus Art Contest. The location will be Peralta Elementary School at 460 63rd Street in Oakland, CA 94609.
- ❖ **Planning and Presentation Toolkits** including customizable flyers and youth certificates will be available for download online as in previous years. Special materials for the library partnership will be developed such as arts books lists, arts web link lists and bookmarks.
- ❖ **Alameda County Sustainability Program** is working with the Arts Commission and arts educators to share examples of youth arts projects and lesson plans on their web site to encourage community members to teach their children about the environment and sustainability through the arts.
- ❖ **Alameda County Libraries** are planning youth arts events at each of the county libraries for March 2011. Proposed events exploring the theme include storytime sessions, hands on workshops, visual art exhibits, community arts days, and performing arts presentations by local student groups featuring environmental or sustainability themes.
- ❖ **Featured Events** in each of the districts of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will be presented by the Alameda County Arts Commission as in 2010. The goal of these events are to help strengthen the county, city and school district partnerships supporting arts learning in our county.

GET INVOLVED

- ❖ Join us for the Art IS Ed launch and bring your school and local arts organization partners.
- ❖ Participate in the AC Transit Freedom Bus Art Contest.
- ❖ Plan an arts learning event at your school or other community venue and use the online toolkits to support your planning.
- ❖ Share images of your student artwork and lesson plans involving ecological themes on the county Sustainability web site.
- ❖ Link up with your local county library and involve your students in the planned activities either through participation or by sharing their artwork.
- ❖ Attend or volunteer to help out with the featured event in your county district.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the Art IS Education Launch Event, Freedom Bus contest or Planning and Presentation Kits, contact Kathy Graddy at kgraddy@artiseducation.com.

If you have questions about the Sustainability program, Alameda County Library partnership or Featured Events, contact Violet Juno at violetjuno@gmail.com.