




IDEAS THAT WORK



Through the years, state chairpersons, local art teachers and others celebrated Youth Art Month and promoted quality art education with wonderfully creative ideas. Here are just a few of them:

STATE	FESTIVAL OR EVENT
Alabama 	Chalk It Up Days/Festivals – students reproduce famous artwork on their school sidewalks.
Georgia 	Promoted Youth Art Month Facts or Quotes every day in March on several local television stations.
Illinois 	Sent an email to every IAEA member in central and southern Illinois to increase participation in Youth Art Month activities. Tweeted about Youth Art Month all month, using hashtag #ILYAM . Started a discussion board within a LinkedIn group of professional artists to recall their experiences with art educators.
Indiana 	“Beautiful Farms of Indiana” Art Contest using soybean crayons , highlighting an art material made from crops grown in their state.
Louisiana 	Featured a different artist of the day every day in March ; Students painted the great monuments of the world on their school windows.
Maryland 	“Who Wants to be an Artist” contest based on the theme of the millionaire show that was held each day during the month of March and at the end of the month students with the correct answers received prizes.
Minnesota 	Worked with Target Corporation to include an article on Youth Art Month in their March news-letter, a national publication that is sent to over 107,000 schools across the United States. Target Corporation has a special “Take Charge of Education” program, through which customers with charge accounts can designate a school of their choice to receive a percentage of their purchases. The article in Target’s March newsletter encouraged all schools to use their March checks to support the arts in their area.
New Jersey 	Multicultural art night titled “Passport to Art from Around the World” – students and their parents took an imaginary tour to Japan, Holland and Mexico and art therapy students performed a play featuring “ventriloquist puppets” they had made using paper mache . At the Hudson County Youth Art Month celebration at the Liberty Science Center, students dressed up as live works of art.
Oklahoma 	Produced and distributed an impressive “Arts Power” guide book , a collaborative effort of the state art education organizations and the business circle of Oklahoma that is comprised of business leaders from small businesses to large corporations across Oklahoma. It features 10 key avenues to improve arts education in your local school. More details can be found at www.artspower.com .
Oregon 	Created shoebox trunks that students designed in the style of their favorite artist , while the art educators statewide received a lesson plan incorporating objectives, materials list, procedures, and cross-curricular connections.

STATE	FESTIVAL OR EVENT
Tennessee 	Participated in an art exchange through Sister Cities International with student artists from Russia . An art contest took place and winning student art was exchanged between the cities, along with student biographies, pictures and gifts, bringing awareness of the importance of art education to two very diverse areas.
Vermont 	Students created Temenos Books (based on the ancient Greek thought, temenos is a magic circle, a sacred protected space where special rules apply and extraordinary events occur), to express images for global healing, peace and gratitude .
Virginia 	Door decorating contest during Youth Art Month honoring favorite children's books.

BENEFITS ALL

A growing trend in state Youth Art Month programs is to join with other projects for the benefit of all:

STATE	FESTIVAL OR EVENT
Arizona 	Students painted garbage dumpsters in the city during Youth Art Month.
Indiana 	Combined some of its Youth Art Month events with the "Very Special Arts" program.
Ohio 	Combined its Youth Art Month events with local community assistance programs , such as the "Harvest for Hunger" program.
Oklahoma 	Students painted lunchroom walls with story scenes to encourage younger children to read.
Maryland 	Students donated art to assisted living centers.

Below are several other project ideas you might want to try!

- **Artists-in-Residence programs:** local artists explain their own artwork and give lessons to students
- **Bus poster contest:** display student artwork in buses throughout March
- **Workshops:** student-run craft workshops at a local shopping mall or library
- **Exchanges:** statewide postcard exchanges and Art exchanges with foreign countries
- **Living art program:** students (or teachers) pose as famous pieces of artwork
- **"Edible Art" projects:** food item resembles a period of art, an artist, or a specific work of art
- **Charity:** quilt projects to benefit those who are less fortunate
- **Placemats:** student-designed placemats and table tents that can be used by local restaurants
- T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, note pads, refrigerator magnets, computer mouse pads, calendars etc., decorated with student artwork
- **Honorary chairperson:** appoint a local celebrity who is supportive of the arts and art education

Be sure to let us know what ideas worked in your state so we can share them with others!

