

Press Release Announcement

November 10, 2014

Gallery One Visual Arts Center commits to free art, seven days a week



Donor contributions will expand Gallery One's arts education programs through scholarships, Sunday Fundays and monthly classes for adults with disabilities.

Gallery One will commit at least 20 scholarships for the Art After School Program to budding artists ages 4-17 in the 2014-2015 school year. Classes are generally M-F on school days from 3-5pm at the Gallery and this year included a public art class for teens, a popular clay class on Fridays and a pre-school class (10am on Mondays). If you know a young artist that would benefit from these classes, please contact becky@gallery-one.org.

Former Art After School Student Misha Andrews learned that "children are full of creativity and should all have the chance to harness it. [Visual Arts] can help children form better connections to what they are learning in other subjects, such as math and science, and can help them better understand the world around them." Of her experience she says, "I will take my art experiences everywhere I go. They will stay with me through whatever and wherever my life takes me."

In addition, funds will go towards twelve free Sunday Fundays for all ages. Sunday Funday offers the community a chance to learn about artmaking techniques in the gallery. A lead teacher is available to help participants make a project to keep. Materials are free until they run out! The next Sunday Funday will be in partnership with the Museum of Culture and Environment on Nov 23 from noon-4. For this event, participants will learn a basic printmaking technique and draw inspiration from examples provided by the Museum.

Thirdly, funds will also support an extension of Gallery One's arts exploration for youth class by offering a similar class for adults with disabilities. The Arts Exploration class for youth is funded in part by United Way of Central Washington and a private donor to youth with autism, multiple sclerosis or other challenges. As they graduate from this program, this new class will

offer them the opportunity to continue to meet once a month with other adults with disabilities from the community. Many of the artists are Elmview clients. Bruce Tabb, Executive Director of Elmview has this to say about the opportunity, "These classes provide an incredible opportunity for people to express themselves. The creativity is incredible, the mediums used exciting. The program truly does offer those who might not have that opportunity, the chance to share their art, world, and perceptions." On the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm, instructor and artist Justin Gibbens will facilitate the class.

For many years Gallery One was a primarily a gallery, where friends came to meet and to view art. Over the past 47 years, it has grown to become an arts center for people of all ages and abilities to both enjoy and also to make and learn about art. "In combination with our recent success at our Paint Ellensburg auction, our membership, and donation contributions, we are expanding our commitment to our mission to provide education and exhibitions in the visual arts to anyone interested. I want people to know that they are welcome here, whether they want to take a class, meet a friend or spend some quality time with the family. Even if you're not taking a class, please stop in. We're open, every day," says Executive Director Monica Miller.

Known most for their First Friday evenings and major events (Paint Ellensburg, Soup Line), Gallery One offers many other opportunities for adults and youth .Workshops in printmaking, fabric art, painting and ceramics can be found on their website at www.gallery-one.org. OR for more information, stop in, it's free.