



For Immediate Release

Art Expression, Inc. Celebrates National Arts in Education Week

[Pittsburgh, PA]—Art Expression, Inc. joins thousands of arts organizations and communities across the nation to celebrate **National Arts in Education Week, September 9-15**. Art Expression will recognize and celebrate the transformative power of arts education through activities that honor the efforts of teachers, artists, art and music, therapists, and cultural groups working to make the arts a crucial part of education in the lives of community members.

Everyone in the community is encouraged to participate in what has become the country's largest annual collective celebration of the arts in education. More information on how to find, share, and get involved with celebrations across the country is available at www.NationalArtsInEducationWeek.org.

Advocates work to secure equity in access to arts education and articulate the role of the arts as a pathway to academic success. Former Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has stated, "This is absolutely an equity issue and a civil rights issue." A report from the National Center for Education Statistics has found that high-poverty schools are significantly less likely to provide students with access to arts education. This is why Art Expression works so hard to obtain grant funding in order to keep the costs free to all participants. We partner with various sites to close educational and social gaps.

Recently, Art Expression facilitated a summer program in Sharpsburg in partnership with All of Us Care and Volunteers of America. *ARTistic Dreamers* focused on showing students examples of artists who were inspired by their dreams. We selected a wide variety of artists, from those who had no formal art training due and limited intellectual capacity, to immigrants from Asia and Europe who wound up working for Disney animation studios, to Jewish, Mexican and African American artists who highlight their own cultural heritage. Children enjoyed learning how the artists struggled with academics and feeling confident, yet never lost their love of art-making. They loved making their own art as well.

"When students learn through the arts, they flourish in school, in work, and in life," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "It is critical that we keep an ongoing dialogue with elected officials and educational decision-makers about the arts as an essential part of a complete education. Arts in Education Week is the perfect time to

recognize and share the message of this impact with friends, family, and community members.”

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