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Arts and Culture Community Service Program

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Theme: Luminescent Arts

Deadlines: Literature entries to Chairman by February 1, 2025

Photography entries to Chairman by February 1, 2025

Art and culture combine to define our basic humanness and can be found in every location around the planet as we work to make our lives better and to find things that we enjoy, either as a group socially or as an individual. In the study, development, and love of the arts and culture, there truly is... "SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!"

Another quote from Ms. Rashad, "Where the Women go, the Culture goes!" should be the rallying cry for all clubs, Districts, and State Federations within GFWC. Our members should represent the vanguard in leading the development of projects and programs to highlight and focus support for all aspects of human expression. From local activities like awarding art scholarships, sponsoring local and school art contests, participating in community beautification projects, assisting little theater activities, sustaining library growth and expansion, developing photography contests, backing local choral performances – and not just sponsoring, but *participating* in the above activities – contribute to a GFWC approved statewide project. Or perhaps reach out to sister clubs in our GFWC International network to learn about their arts, local customs, and culture. By learning from them and sharing what we know, we expand our horizons and develop a greater understanding of our world and the people with whom we share it. The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program hopes to provide the impetus for the development of and the appreciation for Art and Culture throughout all our involved communities; be they rural or urban, sophisticated or not, rich or poor, and at every level, from beginner to expert. The Arts and Culture Community Service Program exists to provide creative project ideas, support to ensure greater impact, and encourage club women to participate in and/or otherwise facilitate a love and appreciation for the arts across their community and within their entire sphere of influence.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE: DEVELOPING COMMUNITY ORIENTATED ART

GFWC encourages clubs to take an active role in creating and enhancing their community by partnering with their city government, Chamber of Commerce, local schools, and other organizations (i.e., Art League or Artist Guild) to create mural paintings throughout their city or town. Murals that highlight the local culture and display pride in their town's history and traditions, as well as showcase local celebrities or figures prominent in the historical legacy of the community. Murals can be located on city property and schools, as well as local businesses. Working with other entities helps to develop community-wide pride of accomplishment. Garnering support from all the above, as well as enlisting the help of club members, students, retirees, and other service organizations, is key to the development and activation of this project. If a building is too big a project, there is nothing wrong with starting small and working your way up. Start with a standalone sign or billboard, something that can be changed to accommodate the seasons or is portable and can be moved around town to highlight an event or activity that the community is enjoying. Let your ideas flow, and don't forget to brand your artistic endeavors with your club's name, contact information, and the GFWC Emblem.

“EDUCATE”

- Award Art-related Scholarships to deserving students planning to continue their artistic endeavors.
- Identify members of your club with a talent for art and encourage them to share their knowledge with other members or perhaps with students from local art classes.
- Hold cooking demonstrations during meetings to introduce foods and customs from other cultures.
- Sponsor a trip to a museum or the theater for students and engage members as chaperones.

“ENGAGE”

- Work to develop relationships between your club and other service organizations in your area to take on large projects together.
- Participate in or sponsor local arts and crafts contests.
- Set up tables at local festivals to sell handmade items from the club's members as a fundraiser.
- Sponsor a craft time at a local elementary school or daycare...something hands-on, messy, and fun.

“EMPOWER”

- This one is easy because by “EDUCATING & ENGAGING” yourself, your club, and your community, you are laying the foundation for the “EMPOWERMENT” of everyone within your sphere of influence.
- By your example, you will “EMPOWER” others to:
 1. Learn a new skill.
 2. Try a new food.
 3. Experience a new culture.
 4. Develop a deeper understanding of this world in which we all live.