



## The Council for Art Education, Inc.

*Sponsor of Youth Art Month*

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[www.acminet.org/cfae.htm](http://www.acminet.org/cfae.htm)



### What is Youth Art Month?

Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Established in 1961, YAM provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are not possible in other subjects. The Council for Art Education (CFAE), a sponsor of Youth Art Month, adopted the national theme, "Start With Art, Learn for Life." Art Education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills. All of these skills are vital to the success of our future leaders – our children.

#### Youth Art Month's Purposes Are:

1. To direct attention to the value of art education which develops divergent and critical thinking; multicultural awareness; and technical, communication, and expressive skills.
2. To increase community, business and governmental support for art education.
3. To recognize that art is a necessity for the full development of better quality of life for all people.
4. To expand art programs in schools and stimulate new ones.
5. To increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art exhibits, workshops, and other creative venues.
6. To provide additional opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in creative art learning.
7. To encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
8. To recognize art education as a viable component in the total education curricula that develops citizens of a global society.

### Who Sponsors Youth Art Month, Why and How?

In 1984, The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) created the Council for Art Education (CFAE), to administer the national Youth Art Month program and to encourage funding for the program. Current members of the Council include:

ACMI – The Art & Creative Materials Institute, which provides all administrative support and a majority of funding for national Youth Art Month;

NAEA – The National Art Education Assn., whose members carry out local Youth Art Month activities and whose state affiliates help fund state Youth Art Month programs;

The SHIP – a group of art materials exhibitors at the annual NAEA Convention.

GFWC – The General Federation of Women's Clubs, a volunteer non-profit organization committed to community improvement through volunteer service.

The Council seeks the active cooperation and support of national organizations and institutions. The Council also seeks and has received monetary and in-kind contributions from individuals, art material manufacturers and distributors.

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## Who Sponsors Youth Art Month, Why and How? *(continued)*

To help promote observances, CFAE stimulates and coordinates Youth Art Month activities at the national level. The annual event, "School Flag Across the U.S....Flying High," is an example. Each year, state Youth Art Month Chairpersons hold a student flag design program. A theme is selected that is representative of the individual state and the spirit of Youth Art Month. A design is selected and made into a flag. An opening ceremony is held in Washington, DC (funds permitting) the first week in March to honor the student designers in front of families, friends, teachers and U.S. legislators. The flags are flown in a place of prominence in Washington, DC for the remainder of March. The flags also are displayed in the Youth Art Month Museum at the NAEA Convention and in the ACMI booth at the National Art Material Trade Association (NAMTA) Convention before being returned to the individual state. CFAE has also started some special events to help further promote Youth Art Month, including the distribution of tote bags of donated art materials at the NAEA Convention, and the creation of the Youth Art Month Museum.

Each March, the YAM observance spotlights art education through governors' and mayors' proclamations, states' capitol events, and thousands of local exhibits. It has the endorsement and support of many U.S. Senators and Members of Congress and state legislators who speak out on behalf of art education. The Council and NAEA encourage and assist state Youth Art Month Chairpersons, who are appointed by state art education association presidents, in their efforts to stimulate and coordinate state and local activities. These Chairpersons submit reports to the Council each year detailing their efforts and results.

At the NAEA Convention each year, the Council recognizes outstanding achievement at the state level by conferring awards on certain state Chairpersons.

## What Can I Do to Help?

As we see events unfolding in our world today, many of us consider how we can make a meaningful contribution to our Society. The Council gratefully accepts and respectfully requests your tax-deductible contributions. All who have an interest in promoting and supporting art education and quality art programs nationwide – from foundations and corporations to individuals – are urged to donate. Your support of YAM is vital to art educators as it helps provide the recognition and support they need for art education funding from their state and city government and education officials.

Several levels of contributions have been established as follows:

- ◆ Partner \$ 10,000
- ◆ Patron \$ 5,000
- ◆ Associate \$ 2,500
- ◆ Supporter \$ 1,000
- ◆ Friend < \$1,000
- ◆ Sponsor a Flag Designer – cover the travel and hotel expenses of a State YAM Flag Designer so they can attend and participate in the YAM Flag Event in Washington, DC
- ◆ In-Kind Donations of Products or Services



All contributors are recognized in our written publications, including YAM News, the Flag Event program and press release, on our website and in signage at all YAM exhibits including the national Flag Event, the YAM booth at the NAMTA Convention, and in the YAM Museum at the NAEA Convention. Signage will also be displayed on donated materials within the YAM Museum.

For more information on Youth Art Month, please contact Debbie Munroe, National Youth Art Month Coordinator, at [debbiem@acminet.org](mailto:debbiem@acminet.org).