

## **Women in the Arts Committee: Arts-related program ideas**

Generic topics related to the arts can meet the needs and interests of all members. Consider choosing one arts-related topic each year when planning your chapter programs. Your chapter educational excellence committee can help plan these programs. For example, the research committee could present information about how to create and use a bullet journal while the WIA committee could teach some simple bujo doodles. Every member will be engaged learning a fun way to stay organized!

### **Arts-related topics**

- Art history: bio and samples of art for a female artist (writer, poet, dancer, actress...)
- Make and take projects (Search easy art projects on Pinterest.)
- Culinary art (Search for Fun Food)
- Chapter visual arts gallery: members bring one of the pieces they created, a favorite piece of art, or an item from a collection.
- Poetry appreciation/simple ways to write poetry
- Journaling, Bible journaling, bullet journals (bujo doodling), mixed media journals
- Music appreciation
- Study an architect: bio and samples of buildings created
- Zentangle
- Acrylic pouring
- Alcohol ink painting
- Calligraphy, hand lettering
- Napkin folding
- STEAM (innovative teaching that combines science, technology, engineering, art, and math)

### **Community sources for Speakers**

Consider local businesses and townspeople for potential arts-related speakers

- Art association or art gallery
- Photographer
- Dance studio (interactive Zumba, ballet, line dancing)
- High school choir
- HS dance team
- HS drama club
- Musicians
- Artists
- Florist (Flower arranging demo, meanings of flowers)
- Bakery (demo or interactive lesson on cookie or cake decorating)
- Author/poet
- Art, music, drama teachers
- Commercial card making company demonstrator (such as Stampin' Up or Close to My Heart) or a potential member who enjoys making cards

## **The Arts**

The arts are the physical expressions of creativity. The arts include architecture, ceramics, drawing, filmmaking, painting, music, photography, sculpting, literature, and performing. Any of these arts could be an interesting program for your chapter.

### **State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Handbook**

The Creative Arts Handbook provides an amazing number of ideas for topics. Your local county fair art winners may be listed in the newspaper or website. One of these blue-ribbon winners could show examples of her work, share the history or process for creating her work of art, and do a demonstration or interactive lesson with that particular technique.

Here are a few of the categories listed in the handbook. To download a copy for your chapter, visit the State Fair of Texas website on the creative arts page.

- Fine Arts: oil, acrylic, pastels, watercolor, ink, charcoal, printmaking
- Ceramics: hand-painted china, polymer jewelry or sculpture
- Designer craftsman: leathercraft, woodworking, metal art, jewelry, stained glass, painted rocks, origami, baskets, mosaic, collage, greeting cards, paper cutting
- Dolls (collections and handcrafted)
- Hobby: collections, such as buttons, spoons, salt& pepper shakers, thimbles
- Needle crafts: needlepoint, counted cross stitch, crochet, knitting, smocking
- Photography
- Scale models: Lego creations, dioramas, kits

There is even a category for Glue-a-Shoe and pumpkin decorating. So many great ideas for things we can learn about or experience at a chapter meeting.

### **WIA committee member ideas**

Women in the Arts Committee members compiled a list of arts-related chapter program ideas. Some of these ideas are very specific to the committee members' hometowns but can be helpful to chapters to locate art opportunities in their own locale.

One of the things we did a couple of years ago was to have our monthly meeting at an art studio where we all painted pictures together. It was one of the most fun meetings AND we were able to get to know each other better while all learning that we could indeed actually paint. (There are commercial versions such as Painting with a Twist and Pinot's Palette. Or ask a painter from the local artist association to conduct a step by step painting class at your chapter meeting location.)

This summer, we toured the home of an icon in our area. The focus was on the architecture, decorating style and the art in the home which is now a historical landmark.

Since many of our members are retired, we try to do some activities as a group. One I have recently suggested for the coming year is to attend events together—local HS Christmas concerts, local HS plays, Broadway Spotlight plays (they are a traveling group that performs big name plays), trips to the local museums as a group.

I am a part of the local host committee for our Texas speech teacher convention this year. We have scheduled a tour of the local performing arts center. They will take us on the tour of the inner workings and the designs. Ours is really fascinating acoustically.

My speech and debate team has performed for a meeting before and then discussed the process for preparing what they perform for poetry month (April). (Speaking of poetry month in April: a program on poetry is a great chapter program.)

We had a meeting where we all created tie-dyed scarves. We brought in someone that had done it and they walked us all through the steps. It was beautiful to see what each lady created.

We had a local author (New York Times Best Seller at that) come and talk to us about her writing process and do a reading.

We have learned to decorate cookies. One of our members sold beautifully decorated cookies in her spare time. She taught us how to do it.

We had an expert in xeriscaping come in and present a program. Master Gardeners make excellent speakers.

Every summer Amarillo has a High Noon on the Square. They have live music downtown as well as lunch trucks to purchase from. What a great opportunity to see some local bands and have an outing for your members.

A chapter member could prepare a power point presentation showing interesting local sculptures, outdoor murals, architecture, etc. We often neglect to visit the wonderful things in our own towns. There are also “virtual tours of famous museums”. Type that phrase into your search engine and pick a museum tour that would interest your members.

One of our members went on a Road Scholar painting trip to Chincoteague Island. She presented her experiences to her chapter. It included elements of literature, scholarships, art, history, and ponies.

Our chapter had an excellent program in October. We toured the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden in Abilene. Steve Neves, the sculptor from Hardin-Simmons University, spoke to us about each sculpture in the largest collection of storybook sculptures in the US. Every summer an illustrator/writer comes to Abilene for the Children’s’ Art and Literacy Festival (CALF). Abilene, known as the Storybook Capitol of Texas, has been doing this festival since 2011. During the festival children are given a lanyard and presented with badges at each place they attend. I helped last summer at the Grace Museum and passed out badges after children listened to two stories about a bear, followed by an opportunity to create a bear with clay. Numerous parents and grandparents come from out of town every year for this event.

I am doing a program for my chapter in January. I will be teaching members basics of how to use Alcohol Inks. We will be making either coasters or pendants. (Directions for both can be found on various Pinterest sites.)

We invited the Hand Bell Choir to perform at a meeting.

UIL High School Students presented selected readings at one of our meetings.

A local chef showed how to make smoked salmon pâté and chocolate mousse with macerated strawberries (and then we got to sample!)

We used rubber stamping techniques to make greeting cards.

Members brought old handmade quilts and told their stories.

One of our members painted a building size outdoor mural for our town. She will present a chapter program to share the process for designing and painting such a large work of art.

**We hope you find some fun and interesting ideas for your chapter programs. We would love to hear from you. Send us your chapter’s arts-related program topics.**

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