

*Art Within Reach*  
Mansfield Art Center  
Ohio Arts Council 2023 ArtsNEXT Grant  
Deadline: March 1, 2023

## **The Mansfield Art Center's Mission**

The Mansfield Art Center is an art center in the Woodland neighborhood of Mansfield, Ohio. The MAC was founded as a non-profit arts organization in 1945 and has been operated by the Mansfield Fine Arts Guild since then. The Mansfield Art Center opened in 1971 with an exhibition that featured works lent by Agnes Gund, an international patron of Modern Art. Since its opening, the Mansfield Art Center's mission has been to "Enrich the lives of all children, families, and adults through the arts with gallery exhibitions, art education, artist workshops, and related activities."

Notable gallery exhibitions at the Mansfield Art Center include *The Art of Brick* by artist Nahan Sawaya in 2013, *Paintings and Assemblages* in 2022 by John Mellencamp, a Grammy Award winner and member of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as well as an accomplished painter. Furthermore, the annual May Show at the MAC allows all Ohio artists to show their work. In 2022, a record-breaking 600 entries from 207 artists representing the best of Ohio artists working in various mediums submitted works to the 77th Annual May Show.

The Mansfield Art Center is committed to students of all ages. We offer an internship program to students furthering their education by studying arts and art education at local universities and colleges. The intern responsibilities range in scope to extend each intern's view of working within the world of the arts. Including exposure and application in learning and teaching in multiple mediums at various age levels, exposure to program development, learning about marketing, development, and data, and knowledge of exhibit curation and art sales. Most significantly, interns work to fulfill the MAC's outreach goals by providing art instruction to underserved youth in the Mansfield community. For eight weeks, interns are in charge of teaching and creating art projects for students, as well as making lesson plans, all while following a budget where they manage the purchase and supplies needed to complete the different projects they decide to teach.

In 2019 the Mansfield Art Center began the Art Rising project, which was the expansion of the new education wing. The Covid-19 global pandemic halted construction, but in 2021, the new education wing opened. Since then, the MAC has provided art education classes and workshops to not just members of the Mansfield community but statewide Ohio residents. Financing for the new wing of the art center was funded through grants, donations as well as the "General Assembly of the State of Ohio designating \$750,000 of the funds appropriate in ALI C230FM to the Commission to finance all of a proportion of the capital facilities costs associated with a certain Cultural Project." In 2022, the General Assembly of Ohio designated \$50,000 to cover the costs of finishing construction of the outdoor pavilion and funds to make the entire art center ADA handicap accessible.

## Art Education at the Mansfield Art Center

In 2022, the Mansfield Art Center provided art classes to over 1,700 individuals in over 300 classes ranging from drawing, painting, glassblowing, tufting, ceramics, 3D printing, digital art and animation, stained glass, glass fusing, and jewelry.

In the summer of 2022, the MAC started offering summer camps again. The main goal for these camps was to introduce children to different art mediums (mentioned above) taught at the Mansfield Art Center. To start the Art Exploration camps, the Mansfield Art Center instructors and the team provided 15 students participating in the S.A.F.E Homeless Program (Student Achievement Through Family Engagement) an opportunity to participate in summer camps the MAC offers. This program was funded through grants from the Richland County Foundation. S.A.F.E's mission statement is to "reduce barriers to the education of homeless children and youth." The Mansfield Art Center partnered with this organization as part of the MAC's outreach mission to allow all students access to the arts. This program was titled *Art Within Reach*.

Upon arrival, the children were timid, shy, and vocally displayed doubt about wanting to participate. One grandmother brought in five of her grandchildren, and each of them begged her to take them home. However, by the end of the week, this same grandmother showed up early to watch her grandchildren proudly display their projects during an awards ceremony where they received two scholarships—one from their school district, the Mansfield City Schools, and one from the Mansfield Art Center.

Throughout that week, children were encouraged to create and use their imagination to get messy as instructors introduced them to different art mediums. Most importantly, students embraced the one-on-one instruction they received from instructors and worked with each other during the creative process. By the end of the week, this group humorously and collectively sang a "Wheels on the Bus" rendition while working together.

While learning different art mediums, students also learned valuable life skills. Through mosaics, they created a picture frame of themselves smiling to encourage self-confidence. Working in the hot shop, they learned awareness and patience. Lastly and most importantly, during the class, students exemplified passion, humor, imagination, independence, respect, determination, and decisiveness while creating art.

Although the MAC does not envision *Art Within Reach* as an annual art education program, the Mansfield Art Center wishes to provide this service to more students participating in the S.A.F.E program in the summer of 2023. With help from the Ohio Arts Council, the Mansfield Art Center can provide up to 30 children with a profound art education program tailored specifically to their needs.

## **Art Within Reach Proposal**

The Mansfield Art Center has already acquired a total of **\$5,500** from local community partners, allowing for one whole week of camp for 30 students. With help from the Ohio Arts Council, the Mansfield Art Center respectfully requests a grant of \$5,500. These funds will allow the MAC to provide an additional week of camp for 30 different students enrolled in the S.A.F.E Homeless Program.

- \$2,000 donation from Mechanics Bank (Mansfield, Ohio)
- \$1,000 donation from Park National Bank (Mansfield, Ohio)
- \$2,500 from Richland County Foundation
- \$2,000 donation from Sutton Bank

The innovation type that describes the Mansfield Art Center's *Art Within Reach* program best is Incremental Innovation. Using allocated funds through the ArtsNEXT grant from the OAC will allow the Mansfield Art Center to establish a new long-term partnership with underserved youth in the Mansfield community.

## **Partnership with S.A.F.E Homeless Program**

[S.A.F.E Organization](#) - Link to S.A.F.E Homeless Program's Website

The Mansfield Art Center is partnering with the S.A.F.E Homeless Program to provide children enrolled in the S.A.F.E with an opportunity to participate in our *Art Within Reach* summer camp.

"S.A.F.E is a Mansfield City Schools Program partnered with local shelters and the community, federally funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education under the McKinney-Vento Education for the Homeless Children and Youth Program. The S.A.F.E Homeless Program is a collaborative effort by the Mansfield City Schools, local shelters, and the community to provide supplemental educational services to children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. S.A.F.E serves approximately 500 children and youth annually."

"The S.A.F.E Homeless Program provides different services to those that participate, such as school supplies for school-aged children, enrolled support to ensure that children are enrolled successfully into school, transportation, community collaboration, campus wear for students in grades 7-12, professional development, and community awareness."

Qualifications for enrollment in the S.A.F.E Homeless Program include

- Children and youth who share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardships, disasters, or similar reasons.

- Living in a public or private space not designed for humans.
- Living in substandard housing.
- Living in transitional or emergency shelters.
- Living in a motel/hotel, trailer park, campground, car, abandoned buildings, or similar settings."

Members of the S.A.F.E Program that the Mansfield Art Center will work with include:

- Dr. Holly Christie, Director of Student Support Programs at Mansfield City Schools
- Phil Mitchell, S.A.F.E. Coordinator

Members of the Mansfield Art Center

- Tony Sansalone, Events Coordinator, and Instructor
- Pia Douglas, Studio Arts Coordinator, and Instructor

### **Art Within Reach Goal**

The goal for *Art Within Reach* is to provide four camps, totaling 15 students at a time, for two weeks. One week will be funded through donations from community partners. Additionally, if granted, the OAC ArtsNEXT grant will cover the costs of a second week.

- Camp 1 - June 5-9, 2023 | 9 am-12 pm
- Camp 2 - June 5-9, 2023 | 1 pm-4 pm
- Camp 3 - June 12-17, 2023 | 9 am-12 pm
- Camp 4 - June 12-17, 2023 | 1 pm-4 pm

Each day of the week for camp will focus on a different medium where students will create 2-3 projects each day. The Mansfield Art Center has already secured instructors for the *Art Within Reach* program, all of whom are local practicing Ohio-based artists, including

- Don Snyder - Ceramics
- Yani Sheng - Printmaking, Painting
- Amanda Griner - Glassblowing
- Tony Sansalone - Digital Art, Animation, Drawing, Painting
- Victoria Hoefler - Fibers
- Gus Phillips - 3D printing
- Teri Lovett - Jewelry
- James Fleeson - Painting
- Pia Douglas - Glass Fusing, Mosaics
- Todd Rein - Special Movie Effects

For each camp, students will be broken down into three groups, five students per group. The children will be separated based on age; if all children are roughly the same age, then groups will

be random. Each group will be working on a different project using the same medium. The goal is to introduce students to other ways to create using the same art medium.

Each student who takes part in the *Art Within Reach* program will require transportation from a parent or guardian to and from the Mansfield Art Center each day. S.A.F.E coordinators will require each parent or guardian to commit to transportation before enrolling them into the program.

The Mansfield Art Center hires instructors and pays them as contracted employees. Instructors are paid \$5 per hour per student. Based on three groups of five students, instructors will be paid \$25 per hour.

### **Schedule and Projects**

- Monday - Ceramics Day | Instructors: Don Snyder, Tony Sansalone, Pia Douglas, Interns
  - Wheel Throwing
    - Students will learn how to throw on the wheel with artist Don Snyder creating bowls and cups.
  - Handbuilding
    - Students will learn how to hand build using clay with instructor Tony Sansalone. Students will be taught how to create coils and slabs using different tools and encouraged to develop an organic-shaped ceramics project.
  - Air Dry Clay
    - Students will learn how to use air-dry clay by creating a three-dimensional animal with their instructor Pia Douglas. Pia will teach the students how to create a base skeleton using wire and foil, then show how to use air dry clay to build, shape and mold their animals.
- Tuesday - Painting and Printmaking Day | Instructors: James Fleeson, Yani Sheng, Tony Sansalone, Pia Douglas, Interns
  - Color Theory Painting
    - Students will learn primary color theory by mixing acrylic paint with artist James Fleeson. James will teach the students how to paint in layers; students will then have creative freedom to create and paint.
  - Self Portrait Painting
    - Instructor Tony Sansalone will teach the students how to create self-portraits, allowing them to choose between either acrylic or watercolor paint. Tony will teach the students how to grid out their paintings so that they correctly draw their proportions.
  - Block Printing

- Students will learn block printing with instructor Yani Sheng. Yani will teach the students how to correctly hold and use their carving tools and different methods and ways students can try printmaking.
  - Screen Printing
    - Students will quickly screen print T-shirts they can wear for the remainder of camp.
      - Shirt sizes of each student will be requested by S.A.F.E Coordinator before camp
- Wednesday - Technology Day | Instructors: Gus Phillips, Todd Reid, Tony Sansalone, Pia Douglas, Interns
  - Animation/Digital Art
    - Students will learn how to create quick animations with instructor Tony Sansalone. Tony will teach the students how to use the drawing app Procreate on the iPad. iPads will be provided by the Mansfield Art Center.
  - 3D Printing
    - Students will learn how to create designs through a 3D modeling program with instructor Gus Phillips and then how to operate and print their creations on the 3D printers.
  - Movie Effects/Makeup
    - Students will learn from special effects movie artist Todd Reid how to use special effects using different makeup techniques.
- Thursday - Glass Day | Instructors: Amanda Grier, Tony Sansalone, Pia Douglas, Interns
  - Glassblowing
    - Students will be taken one at a time by glassblower Amanda Grier. Amanda will teach the students how to be safe in the hot shop and help them create unique glass pieces. Students can choose to make a glass flower, paperweight, or wand.
  - Glass Fusing
    - Pia Douglas will teach the students how to safely use glass powder, frit, and stringers to create their own glass fused piece. Students will be using different molds and colors. They can create a dolphin, earrings, sunflowers, etc.
  - Mosaics
    - Students will learn how to create a mosaic project using fused glass pieces. Students will explore mosaics through mosaicing picture frames and then learn how to cement their pieces. Students and parents will be surprised with a picture of themselves at the end of the week.
- Friday - Jewelry and Fibers Day | Instructors: Teri Lovett, Victoria Hoefler, Tony Sansalone, Pia Douglas, Interns
  - Metals Pendants

- Students will learn from the instructor, Teri Lovett, how to cut their pieces of metal and then mold their metal plates using different hammers. Teri will then teach the students how to use wire to make pendants.
- Marble Keychain
  - Students will put marbles in a hot kiln and then drop them in cold water, shattering the glass inside and creating a beautiful, unique piece. Students will then learn how to use wire to make their marble into a keychain.
- God's Eye
  - Students will learn how to do a weaving project with instructor Victoria Hoefler using yarn and two dowel rods. Victoria will teach the students to weave between their dowel rods to create a beautifully woven kite-patterned shape.

By the end of *Art Within Reach*, each student will have created at least 15 different projects. Each Friday of the program, the Mansfield Art Center will hold a graduation ceremony where each student will receive two scholarship certificates for participating in the *Art Within Reach* Program, one from the Mansfield City School's district and one from the Mansfield Art Center.

### Budget and Fees

## Ceramics Day | Monday's | June 5th and June 12th

Materials	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Clay (7.5lbs per person)	\$5 per person	30	\$150
Stroke n' Coat Glazes	\$25 per 16 oz bottle	12	\$300
Air Dry Clay (2.5lbs per person)	\$10 per bucket (5lbs)	15	\$150
Don Snyder Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
			\$750 total for 30 children

## Painting/Printmaking Day | Tuesday's | June 6th and June 13th

Materials	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Acrylic Paint	\$20 per half gallon	6	\$120
Canvas	\$3 each	30	\$90



Wood Panel - for gallery show	\$10 each	30	\$300
Brushes	\$150 set	1	\$150
Rubber Stamps for Printing	\$26 for pack of 8	4	\$104
Ink	\$13 per color	15	\$195
Screenprinting Kit	\$50 per kit	2	\$100
Plain T-Shirts	\$10 per pack of 5	7	\$130
Yani Sheng Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
James Fleeson Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
			\$1489 total for 30 children

### **Technology Day | Wednesday's | June 7th and June 14th**

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
Special Effects Makeup	\$300 total	1	\$150
3D Filament	\$30 per filament	7	\$210
Todd Reid Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
James Fleeson Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
			\$660 total for 30 children

### **Glass Day | Thursday's | June 8th and June 15th**

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
Glassblowing Flowers	\$30 each	30	\$900
Mosaic Frame	\$5 each	30	\$150
Cement	\$60 for 20lb bucket	2	\$120
Glass Frit - Fusing	\$15 per container	10	\$150
Amanda Grier Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
			\$1470 total for 30 children

### **Jewelry and Fibers Day | Friday's | June 9th and June 16th**

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
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Copper Sheet - 6x6in	\$18 per sheet	3	\$54
Marbles	\$20 per pack	1	\$20
Wire for Jewelry	\$13 for 100ft	2	\$26
Teri Lovett Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
Victoria Hoefler Instructor Fee	\$25 per hour	6hrs	\$150
			\$400 total for 30 children

**Total Estimate Price - \$4,675**

- Each S.A.F.E student that participates in the Mansfield Art Center's *Art Within Reach* program costs \$175 per student.

The Mansfield Art Center will also budget out the remaining \$825 for unexpected expenses, such as the need for more materials and the cost of labor if more instructors are needed.

### **Mansfield Art Center Scholarship Fund**

As mentioned earlier, the Mansfield Art Center does not see *Art Within Reach* as a continuing education program provided annually. Instead, the MAC views this as a starting point to raise donations for the Mansfield Art Center Scholarship Fund, which funds art classes for the community's underserved youth during the year. The students attending the *Art Within Reach* camp will be asked to donate one painting they created during camp to be a part of a pop-up exhibition and Gala titled {Insert title of the exhibition here}. All proceeds will benefit the Mansfield Art Center Scholarship Fund.

{The Insert Title of Exhibition here} and the Gala will be held June 17, 2023. The students, their families, Mansfield Art Center instructors, and members involved in the S.A.F.E organization will be invited to a private ceremony to view their paintings hanging in the galleries. That evening the Mansfield Art Center will hold a private Gala, where tickets will be available for purchase, and people will be able to buy the student's paintings through a donation amount of their choosing. The Mansfield Art Center will also hold an art auction where all proceeds help fund the Mansfield Art Center Scholarship Fund. The artwork that will be auctioned off will all be donated by local artists in the Mansfield community.

After the exhibition and Gala, Phil Mitchell (S.A.F.E Coordinator) and Dr. Holly Christie (Director of Student Support Programs at Mansfield City Schools, Ohio) will be in regular contact with the art center recommending students who exemplify and express interest in learning art to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities. Students will be recommended for

the Mansfield Art Center Scholarship by their art teachers (Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Christie), who will then contact the MAC, where they will schedule any class available.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

The Mansfield Art Center does not keep demographic statistics of those who walk through the doors visiting exhibitions, gift shops, or taking classes. However, the central demographic to walk through our doors are white. Mansfield, Ohio, has a population of roughly 48,000. 70% of the population identifies as white, thus resulting in 30% of citizens identifying as people of color ([U.S Census Bureau](#)). Of the students attending the eight Mansfield School District schools, 49% are minority enrollment ([Public School Review](#)). The students targeted for the scholarship program and *Art Within Reach* are statistically proven to be more diverse than those who walk through the doors now.

The Mansfield Art Center wishes to provide more outreach opportunities for students and families to walk through the galleries and take classes. With the scholarship fund, the MAC will be able to provide students enrolled in Mansfield City Schools the opportunity to take classes, view exhibitions, and provide a safe space to express themselves. Knowing this, these students will ultimately keep coming back to the art center in the future.

### **Accessibility**

The Mansfield Art Center recently got designated funds from the Ohio General Assembly of \$50,000. A portion of these allocated funds will be used to make the art center ADA-accessible throughout the entire building and outside.

Additionally, multiple instructors have long-standing proven experience in teaching individuals who are mentally or physically disabled. Another vital qualification is that multiple contracted instructors and full-time employees at the Mansfield Art Center speak fluent Spanish, French, and Arabic. An important characteristic to note because one of the eight schools in the Mansfield School District is fully Spanish speaking.

### **Marketing**

The Mansfield Art Center has already secured a television interview to publicize the program with local radio and television personality Chelley Kemper on her show WMFD's Focus on North Central Ohio which focuses on topics specific to cultural affairs. The Mansfield Art Center and a member of the S.A.F.E organization will attend this interview, which is scheduled for May 11, 2023.

The Mansfield Art Center lies in Ohio's 12 Congressional District, represented by Congressman Troy Balderson. During the program, Congressman Balderson will be invited to the MAC to witness how crucial access to art is to the youth and community. Additionally, the Mayor of Mansfield, Timothy Theaker, and both State Senators representing Ohio, Senator Sherrod Brown (a Mansfield native) and Senator JD Vance, will be invited to observe the program. Ohio Governor Mike Dewine will be invited to attend as well.

### **Outcome and Impact**

As stated above, the creative arts are essential for children as they age and develop. The Mansfield Art Center believes that if children are exposed to art outside of their public school setting, they become well-rounded individuals who know the importance of art. Examples in which arts integration is essential include:

- **Cognitive Development** - One of the reasons that creative arts are so important for children is that they help with cognitive development. Kids build skills and abilities like learning cause and effect, patterning, planning, and other types of critical thinking.
- **Fine Motor Skills** - Another benefit of creative arts is that they help children develop fine motor skills through holding and manipulating art supplies like paintbrushes, markers, pencils, crayons, and chalk. Developing these fine motor muscles will help children later with writing, using tools, typing, and more.
- **Math Skills** - Creative arts also introduce children to mathematical concepts and strategies that can later form the basis for their understanding of math. In art, children often interact with different shapes, sizes, numbers, and spaces, which can help them start making comparisons, learn to count, and use other reasoning skills.
- **Language Skills** - Another benefit of creative arts for children is the development of their language skills. When creating art, kids learn how to describe what they've made, its intention, and why they choose to make it that way. This helps them learn how to develop their vocabulary.
- **Learning About Themselves and Connecting With Others** - Creative arts also benefit children because they allow kids to explore and express their feelings, how they view the world, how they view others, and how they view themselves. Art helps with children's emotional development as they understand themselves better and can connect with other kids with similar feelings, ideas, and views.