

# **The Arlington Artists Alliance**

## **Activities of the Organization**

The Alliance is a very vibrant organization. Since it does not have a home base or its own gallery space, the Alliance is constantly searching for new venues to show the art work of our members and to expose the public to art. We also work in conjunction with other 501c3 organizations and provide art and a commission to these organizations. Some of the organizations the Alliance works with are:

- The Arlington Free Clinic
- The Alzheimer's Family Day Care Center
- Arlington Food Assistance Center

Other venues where the Alliance shows work include:

- Arlington Judicial Chambers
- Arlington Technology Department
- Arlington Treasurer's Office
- Cassatt's Café
- Cosi at Courthouse
- Scoops Beauregard
- Little Falls Presbyterian Church

The Alliance also sponsors the following annual off-site shows:

- Fort C.F. Smith (an April show and a December show)
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (a spring show)
- Overlee Club House (a fall show)

The Alliance sponsors a Mentor Program. Artists are paired up with a high school student that has been identified by the high school art teacher. The artists work with the students to show them all aspects of being an artist. This includes shopping for quality art supplies, matting, framing and preparing for an art show. The culmination of the mentorship program is a student art show.

This year, the Alliance worked with Argus House, a county run facility for boys. The boys who have been removed from their homes and live at Argus House for a year. Alliance members have worked with these boys on several projects. One project was a mural that the boys painted on an outside wall of the facility.

## **Facilities Used**

The Alliance holds meetings at Little Falls Presbyterian Church. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month at 3:30 pm. Approximately, 40-50 members attend each meeting. Little Falls Presbyterian Church does not charge for the use of the facility.

Fort Smith is an off-site venue for our annual April and December shows. We usually have 250-300 people attend these shows and the different functions that are offered. There is a Friday night reception where guests may meet the artists. At the spring show,

we have a week-long Art Fest with classes and demonstrations available to the public. Fort Smith does not charge for the use of their facility.

St. Andrew's Art Show is held annually in the spring. It is a 2-day event on a Saturday and a Sunday. Attendance has varied over the years, and weather seems to be the deciding factor. We have had as few as 150 and as many as 500 attendees depending on the year. St. Andrew's charges \$200 for the use of their facility.

The Overlee Fall Show is a new project; Fall of 2006 will be the first time we have arranged this show. It will be a 2-day event. A reception will be held Friday night where guests may meet the artists, and the show will continue on Saturday. The Overlee Association charges \$300 for the use of their facility.

Cassatt's Café rents the basement for Academy Classes. The Alliance pays Cassatt's 7% of the class tuitions. This comes to approximately \$3000 per year.

## **Budget**

The Arlington Artists Alliance operates on a budget of approximately \$100,000. Most of the money is generated from tuition for the Academy classes and is dispersed for teachers' salaries and to Cassatt's for rent. Our organization is basically a volunteer organization with the exception of the Academy.

Money for the Alliance comes from annual membership fees, tuition, grants, and commissions collected through the sale of paintings at the various venues.

The Alliance does receive money annually from Kiwanas. They provide \$2,000 yearly for the support of 5 or 6 scholarships. These scholarships are offered to high school students through the recommendations of art teachers. We offer need-based scholarships as well as scholarships for the gifted.

The Fay Hill Parker Scholarship was established by Tom Parker whose wife was a member of the Alliance and who died in a tragic car accident. The scholarship money is used for high school students to take art classes. They can be need-based as well as merit based.

## **Needs of the Organization**

The Arlington Artists Alliance is in desperate need of gallery and classroom space. The Academy is limited on the number of classes we can offer due to lack of space. We also are in need of a permanent gallery where our members could show art work in a more professional atmosphere. If we had a permanent art space, we could have monthly juried art shows that would encourage growth in the artists' development.

Another area the Alliance needs help is with financial assistance for operating costs. Everything in the organization is run by volunteers including the web site. If we had a paid administrator, a gallery and classroom space, we could make the Arlington Artists Alliance a vital part of the community as the Torpedo Factory is to Alexandria.