

Reimagining art opens career opportunities

Center for the Arts summer camps include animation, sculpting

By Kelly Dickey | The Herald Bulletin

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John P. Cleary

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ANDERSON — Scrolling through her slideshow of ideas, Stephanie Cochran can't contain her excitement for the possibilities.

She wants to help kids discover art in a new way, and maybe even find a new career.

"What it is now is we're having arts that are trending in professions," the Anderson Center for the Arts program coordinator said.

So branching away from the usual craft approach, the Center for the Arts is introducing four specialized youth art camps this summer.

Each weekly camp will focus on a particular medium with classes divided into four age groups: grades 1 through 3, grades 4 through 6, junior high and high school. Class times will depend on the age group.

Classes June 19 through 23 will focus on 3D sculpture; June 26 through 30 will be a stop-motion animation camp; July 10 through 14 will focus on drawing, painting and printmaking; and July 17 through 21 will be a ceramics camp.

The cost for each camp is \$75 for Center for the Arts members and \$85 for nonmembers.

“It’s a huge step up from what we’ve offered in the past,” Executive Director Deborah Stapleton said. “... I think we’re going to see the kids walking away with a greater understanding of a particular medium.”

Two of the biggest changes include the students’ work being on display in and on the lawn of the downtown arts center, and the addition of animation.

Throughout the first week, practicing sculptors will teach and help students work on large-scale individual and group projects that will be on display outside the arts center, 32 W. 10th St.

Stop-motion animators from Ball State University will help students explore character development, backdrops, scenery, storyboards and stop-motion film techniques as students create their own clips.

Cochran wants students to learn a specialized skill, something they may not be able to do in their school art classes with 30 fellow pupils. One of the animation instructors told

her that art saved her life, so Cochran wants to help bring some of that positive impact to Anderson's youth.

"My objective here is to build on the programs that schools already have in place and send back students that are excited in specific areas," Cochran said. "I think it energizes the classroom, too."

Students who study art are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, and three times more likely to be awarded for school attendance, according to a 2014 report by the National Endowment for the Arts.

But the Center for the Arts also wants to expand its reach to adults. It's looking into expanding its adult programming, but Stapleton also hopes displaying the student work outside will entice people to walk through the doors.

"I think some people are aware of (our programming) and other people are not," Stapleton said. "I think it's a way of taking art outside so people are touched by it, whether it means there's a conscious effort of walking through the door or driving by it."

The Anderson Center for the Arts is accepting registration for its youth art camps until June 12. There's a 15-student limit per age group, so early registration is encouraged.

More details are available at 765-649-1248 or andersonart.org.

Like Kelly Dickey on Facebook and follow her on Twitter @KellyD_THB, or call 765-640-4805.

Summer art camps

Age groups

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