

FIRST NIGHT[®] Fayetteville

2010 Education Program Outline

Education programming for First Night Fayetteville 2010 ***Dancing into the Decade*** is one of community participation, exploration, accomplishment, and delight. First Night is pleased to present regional schools and children's service organizations with an option to participate in education outreach programs. Each program will include objectives, assessments, and meet grade appropriate **Arkansas State Frameworks:**

- The Community Dance Stage – Heritage & History
- Kids Dance Film Project – Literacy & Social Studies
- Visual Dancing – Cognitive & Analytical

In addition to accomplishing education standards, First Night envisions enhancing and nurturing self-esteem and awareness of the arts in Northwest Arkansas. We will highlight diversity by including schools and organizations throughout the region including the Marshallese, Latino, African American, Jewish, and special needs communities.

The programs developed in schools and organization in the region throughout the year will culminate into performing and visual arts exhibits during the First Night New Year's Eve celebration held at the Northwest Arkansas Mall on December 31st. The impact of the experience on the children's lives will last far beyond.

Education Director, Jules Taylor (Jules), will be individually developing, coordinating, and executing the programs with the help and support of other local community artists, educators, and organizations.

COMMUNITY DANCE Stage

The Community Dance Stage provides **heritage and history** education opportunities. Schools and organizations participating will be given teacher's guide materials to assist classes in researching music and dance by **decade, genre, or culture**. Students will research and report on their area of interest. Jules will support the classes and organizations in developing a group dance project based on the research.

All classes and groups will be invited to participate at the New Year's Eve event, and the Community Dance Stage will feature each group in teaching and performing their dance.

Afterward, the stage will continue the learning experience for all by hosting other diverse styles of dance and music possibly including:

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- Anoush Dance Troupe (Eastern European folk dance)
- Shout Lulu (traditional Ozark folk music and dancing)
- Desert Fire Belly Dance
- North Arkansas Argentine Tango Society
- Snake Eyes and the Bug Band
- Bakstage Dance Hip Hop
- Disco w/ djGroovyTunes
- Swing Dancing
- Ballroom Dancing

Educational Benefits

Researching history and heritage covers multiple areas in social studies and enhances writing and literacy skills. Children being the experts and teaching the selected dances increases comprehension as well as promoting service, self-esteem, and leadership.

Dancing improves lives by facilitating fitness and health, as well as stimulating the analytical and mathematical functions of the brain that deal with patterns and sequence. Dancing together provides great opportunities toward community inclusion and fosters an environment of teamwork.

KIDS DANCE Film Project

Inspired by the public art installation, *Slow Dancing* that came to the Walton Arts Center in 2008, the *KIDS DANCE Film Project* is a unique education opportunity. Each school and organization will be visited and provided teacher's guide materials based on age/grade. Children will be asked to write and illustrate a story or journal entry about an experience or memory of dance (i.e. an impressive theatre production, daddy's silly dance, ballet lessons as a child). These will be collected for display at the First Night New Year's Eve event.

Jules will also work with the kids to research and identify music and a dance or style of dance they want to create that expresses something unique about that group. Examples include a public school group doing a dance from the Marshallese or Latino heritage, Elizabeth Richardson Elementary students doing a dance to express their potentials, and Ozark Guidance Center students doing musical theatre that represents common emotional challenges in teens. Each group will have an initial meeting to brain storm possibilities, a mid-project meeting to review progress, provide support, and film some interviews to be used in the final project, and a final filming date.

The KIDS DANCE film will be edited into a total package of about 30 to 45 minutes, including dances interspersed with the individual stories and interviews. The film will be looped (continual play) and displayed as a public art piece, shown on a big screen set up in a central location at the Northwest Arkansas Mall or outdoors, where the public can stop and view this at their leisure. The

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completed DVD may also be sold and/or given to participating groups as memorabilia from FIRST NIGHT 2010. Education or project specific Sponsors will be recognized and included in the recorded and displayed final product.

Educational Benefits

Creative writing, language, visual arts, oral and written communication and story telling are some of the educational benefits of this experience. Older students that can participate in conducting interviews will also attain experience in oral history.

VISUAL DANCING Art Show

This is a visual art display of paintings, sculpture, film, and mechanics created by area school students. Jules will work with each school or organization to help each student or child develop individual or group pieces of art that express something about their visual idea of dance. For example, a sculpture demonstrating the flowing movement of arms and legs or a painting of a little girl's favorite dance recital costume.

A written description of the piece will accompany each art ensemble and a gallery-style art show will be featured at the First Night New Year's Eve event. First Night will partner and work with other area art venues, education groups, and supporters to give the art an after life with continued displays in the region through 2010.

Educational Benefit

Looking at visual art such as painting, sculpture, etc., stimulates the cognitive functions of the brain that interpret symbols and images. The students that create the art express an idea in a non-literal way and the process encourages individual perception while respecting differing perspectives. This builds self-esteem and community awareness.

This method allows free-form thought in creating the art *before* analyzing and literal translation through writing.

Schools & Organizations

First Night looks forward to bringing education, art, and the community together through our education outreach efforts. We feel these programs are made more valuable by incorporating them into the New Year's Eve celebration where families and the community come together to enjoy what the students and groups have been working hard to create throughout the year! We also look forward to keeping these art projects in the community in the months following as a display of individual, group, and community talent and effort.

We are offering these education options to the following schools, organizations and potential community partners:

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Community Group

Boys & Girl's Clubs

Youth Bridge

Children's House

Temple Shalom

Ozark Guidance Center

Elizabeth Richardson Center

Jones Center

Yvonne Richardson Center

K-12 School

Fayetteville

Springdale

Rogers

Bentonville

Greenland

Prairie Grove

Farmington

Elkins

Siloam Springs

West Fork

Lincoln

Pre-K Schools

Community Partners

Northwest Arkansas Mall

Walton Arts Center

Shiloh Museum

NWA Community Creative Center

Crystal Bridges

University of Arkansas

Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks

Jones Center

Downtown Bentonville

Trike Theatre

Fayetteville Town Center

TheatreSquared

Regional Libraries

Senior Centers

Northwest Arkansas Community College

We are very excited about providing these education programs and enhancing the FIRST NIGHT experience for our Northwest Arkansas community and look forward to your participation and support!