



“Our lives are better with the arts in them.”

— Gioia Keeney,
Arts advocate



INSIDE:

Year in Review
TYC Programming
2008-2009 Programming
Art Exhibits

Dear Friends of the Arts:

The Navarro Council of the Arts once again was busy as ever showcasing Professional Performing and Visual Arts to the children and citizens of our great county. From art exhibits, to world wide performing artists, to therapeutic arts at TYC, the arts were alive in our community.

In our 29th season in Navarro County schools, the Arts Council presented more than \$100,000 worth of high quality performing and visual arts in the schools. Every single student in Navarro County was given the opportunity to see at least two programs during the school year. Through these programs, we reach many students who may never have the chance to experience the arts in this capacity.

In addition to our Arts in Education program, we also programmed three artist residencies at the Texas Youth Commission. These troubled youth were given the chance to experience therapeutic arts. From visual art to theatrical and musical interpretation, students learned self expression through art.

The Arts Council once again worked with the City of Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department to give this town Summer Camps and Concerts. Each January our offices join forces to program camps such as Play in the Palace, Fishing Camp, Fiesta Camp, Music Camp and more.

As you can see, the Navarro Council of the Arts remains involved in all the art activities taking place in this community. Keep an eye out for our programs; you won't be disappointed!



Year in Review Arts in Education 2007-2008

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2008, the Navarro Council of the Arts continues to be the driving force for the arts in Navarro County. Founded to promote and educate this community in the visual and performing arts, the Arts Council is the backbone of the arts for our citizens.

“93% of all Americans think the arts are vital to providing a well rounded education.”

Each year, the Navarro Council of the Arts brings a variety of professional artists to educate our 10,000 students. From dance to live music to paintings, our children have been able to experience the full spectrum of the arts free of charge for thirty years. Each school year, the 10,000 students in our community, including all public, private, and home schools, are treated to more than \$100,000 worth of high-quality arts.

Because of the vision of this community and the generosity of so many past and present citizens, we continue to grow and enlighten the children of this county.

At a recent National Arts Conference, Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, reiterated how important art education is in this country. He gave the staggering statistic: “93% of all Americans think the arts are vital to providing a well rounded education.” We, at the Navarro Council of the Arts, could not agree more!

Since our inception, the people of Navarro County have been able to see groups such as the Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats, The Harlem Boys Choir, The Ahn Trio, The Nutcracker, Vienna Boys Choir, The Glen Miller Orchestra, Ballet Folklorico, African American Dance Ensemble, and many, many more.

This community is a better place to live because of the Navarro Council of the Arts.

The Navarro Council of the Arts proudly sponsored its 29th season in Navarro County schools this past year. During the 2007-2008 school year, the Arts Council presented more than \$90,000 worth of high quality performing and visual arts in the schools.



In September, we welcomed Laura Freeman, vocalist to Navarro County to present the wonderful puppet show, “Iris Visits The Land of Black and White”. This show featured a full set and many colorful songs. Children were encouraged to sing along and help Iris deliver color to the land of black and white.

In October, the 3rd and 4th graders in Navarro County were given an opportunity to experience wonderful art projects while focusing on Math with the 29th Annual October Arts Festival: Art + Music = Math. This hands-on children’s festival integrated the visual arts

and performing arts in examining the relationships between the arts and the study of mathematics!



Julio Suarez, a professional visual artist, art educator and festival director, taught the students to create colorful “Number Art” designs with stylized numerical shapes and mathematical symbols associated with math operations.

VET, a professional mixed media artist and art educator, taught the students the art of quilt-making using construction paper cut-out shapes that participants could manipulate into original patterns to create small paper quilts. Using color, geometric repetition, composition and organization, students created unique quilt collages.

Michael Kenny, a board certified musical therapist and percussionist, shared his knowledge of music and a variety of musical styles and lead festival goes through math-like exercises in repetition, rhythm, individual and group participation and harmony.

November welcomed Canadian artists, ScrapArtsMusic. ScrapArtsMusic is an Internationally known group that combines scrap metal and junk into musical instruments. These instruments together create interesting and eclectic music.

Much like Stomp, this group is high energy, fast paced, and left students drumming in their heads. This experience was one of a kind and will be remembered for years. For this program, the Navarro Council of the Arts received a prestigious Mid America Arts Alliance grant.

February brought an amazing Theatre that is Texas based. Teatro de la Rosa from Fort Worth presented to all Pre K – 5th graders The Green Rabbit. The Green Rabbit was done entirely in both English and Spanish where our growing population was able to experience this play fully.

This program is highly accredited and we received a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts to help present this to rural communities in East Texas. This experience was most appropriate and was very well received.



Just in time for TAKS season, we welcomed Troup D'Jour. This group is based out of Texas, yet better known world wide for their innovation in the theater and making all their programs directly relate to the standardize state tests.

Troup d'Jour entertained all 6th – 12th graders in our county. The group is made up of 3 teachers and actors, who taught students about the works of Shakespeare. The theory behind Troup d' Jour is simple; make kids realize that theatre is cool through their versions of great literature.

Teachers in the higher levels wanted to see them explain the famous works of Macbeth, Julius Caesar, and Hamlet and they did just that in May.

“To sing well and to dance well is to be well-educated.”

— Plato

TYC Programming

It is always a great privilege to present high quality therapeutic arts in the wall of the Texas Youth Commission. TYC is a special place and many don't understand the situations. The Arts Council feels like these children, no matter how their lives have turned out, deserve the chance to express themselves and enjoy the world of the arts. Each year, the Arts Council presents more than \$10,000 worth of therapeutic arts in the walls of the school.

Presented out at TYC this year was Texas based visual artist, Julio Suarez. This Cuban born artist allowed the children to express themselves through drawing cartoons. Also artists Troup d'Jour introduced the young adults to Shakespeare through their English classes. TYC favorite, Monica Gomez, writer and songwriter, helped students express themselves through songs.

We appreciate the Texas Youth Commission for allowing us to bring our programming to the home. We know that these programs are valuable to the kids and we look forward to giving them the opportunity to communicate through the arts.

2008-2009 Programming

The Arts Council takes great pride each year in presenting a diverse, well rounded, yet educational, program for the students of Navarro County. With all the research in place, we know that what we are doing is making a vast difference in the success of our community for the future. Take time to see what we are doing; come to the schools and experience these amazing arts programs!

- October** 30th Annual October Arts Festival
- November** Barrage
- February** Non-Toxic Band
- April** Spencer's Theatre of Illusion
- May** Mark Shelton, Percussionist



Art Exhibits

For all 29 years of our existence, we have presented high quality art exhibits in the Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery space. Each year we work hard to bring in different artists from not only our county, but across the nation. Some work may be traditional, while other exhibits show the modern side of art.

This year was no exception with our art exhibits. We presented the favorites like the Navarro County local artists and the Annual Quilt Show. The local artist show gives us a chance to highlight our local talent and the Corsicana Art League.

October is the annual Quilt Show. These masterpieces fill the walls of the gallery. Look for the 30th Annual show this October. Another favorite is the Youth Art Show. This annual exhibit gives our children the chance to feature their artwork in a real gallery. This year's theme, "A View of Navarro County" gave students a chance to express themselves in an artistic way.

As always, the Arts Council gives large savings bonds to the winners in each division. Elementary, Junior High, and High School each receive more than \$200 in bonds to be used in the future.



One particular exhibit grabbed our hearts again this year. We were greatly privileged to be apart of the North Texas Heart Gallery. Together with the Navarro County Child Advocates, we were pleased to bring the community this heart touching exhibit. The walls of the Gallery were filled with large pictures of beautiful children that were up for adoption in our area.

2008 Art Exhibits

July	Rhonda Lawson
September	6th Annual Local Artist Exhibit
October	Annual Quilt Show
November	National Juried Art Show
December	Star Harbor Watercolor Society
January – February	Margie Taylor
March	Stephen Farris
April	“Those Who Host” Art Competition
April	Heart Gallery
May	11th Annual youth Art Show

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