



**Council for Art  
Education, Inc.**

*Sponsor of Youth Art Month*

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Sponsor of Youth Art Month

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Start With Art

Learn for Life

TO: 2009 Youth Art Month State Chairpersons and  
State Art Education Association Presidents

FROM: Debbie Munroe, National Youth Art Month Coordinator

SUBJECT: Youth Art Month 2009

Enclosed is an information packet on organizing and implementing a successful Youth Art Month program. We hope this packet will be helpful to you as you plan your 2009 celebration. ***If you are a state art education association president or past YAM Chairperson, we ask that you forward this information to your state's current YAM Chairperson as soon as she or he has been selected.*** Also, please update us on the new chairperson by completing and returning the information slip in the enclosed packet. We appreciate your help with this, as we want to make sure to send information to your current chairperson(s). YAM 2008 was an exciting year for the Council, in which the YAM state flags were unveiled at the Youth Art Month Flag Event in Washington, DC. The flags were also displayed in the YAM booth and in the first ever Youth Art Month Museum during the 2008 National Art Education Association (NAEA) convention in New Orleans. We are pleased to announce that this year's Youth Art Month Museum will be held in the exhibit area during the entire 2009 NAEA trade show in Minneapolis. More information about the YAM Museum will follow at a later date. We hope to have every state participate in YAM 2009 celebrations and we encourage every state to submit their YAM flag to the Council office this year. Wouldn't it be great to have 50 flags in this expanded Museum! Activities and plans for YAM 2009 are outlined below and on the reverse side of this sheet.

**FUNDING:** As with most non-profit organizations, the Council strives to find greater funding resources. We hope to continue with our current level of funding and perhaps gain some new sources in 2009. Several new and longtime supporters already have promised to support the Council with funding and in-kind donations. The SHIP, has agreed to continue donating additional funds to help get our YAM Award Winners to NAEA. This past year's art material manufacturers in-kind donations were extremely generous. A special "goody bag" which included \$150 in donated art materials was sent to all YAM Award Winners, with the top award winners receiving "goody bags" worth \$250-\$400 in donated materials. All student flag designers from the 26 states who participated in the 2008 flag design contest also each received "goody bags" with art materials worth \$50 to \$100. We are always exploring ways to get non-participating states to become involved in YAM and provide more recognition to those of you who are already involved and work so hard to promote YAM. We have developed a special promotional brochure designed to encourage even more organizations to support YAM and the Council. A copy of this funding brochure is included in the enclosed packet, and we welcome you to adapt it for your own funding needs. These brochures will be distributed at the National Art Materials Trade Association (NAMTA) convention as well. Numerous manufacturers and distributors exhibit at this trade show each year.

**NATIONAL THEME:** 2009 will be the final year for the national YAM theme, "Start with Art, Learn for Life." Our theme celebrates the many rich facets of our global society and cultural diversity, as well as eludes to other forms of artistic expression beyond the visual arts. We realize that many states are more successful in gaining funding and cooperation to hold YAM events if they can include more than the visual arts in their YAM celebrations. It is not a requirement that your state use the national theme... some states develop their own theme. A new, five-year national YAM theme (for 2010-2014 YAM celebrations) will be selected during the upcoming NAEA convention. If you have an idea/suggestion for the new national YAM theme, please call or email your idea to [debbiem@acminet.org](mailto:debbiem@acminet.org).

**NATIONAL FLAG EVENT:** Support to keep the national flag event going and to hold an opening ceremony for the flags designers in Washington, DC continues. We were pleased that we were able to secure enough funding to hold a special ceremony in 2008. Eleven flag designers from the twenty-six states that participated in 2008 were able to attend the event. We hope to hold this wonderful ceremony again in 2009, funds permitting. **We plan to fly the 2009 YAM flags in Washington, DC during March and we will also display the flags in the Youth Art Month Museum during the NAEA Convention. Plans are also being made to have each state's flag open the convention's general session with special recognition for each state. It is our hope that your state will hold a student flag design program and that every state will be represented with a flag in 2009! Once planned, we will send details on the national flag event and we will notify you as to when and where in Washington, DC the flags will be flying.** Details on the flag design program are enclosed. As always, your flag can be professionally made or handmade. However, in order to be properly displayed, flags must meet the 3' x 5' size and other requirements outlined in the enclosed information. Color pictures of YAM flags taken at the 2008 Flag Event are enclosed to give you a sense of the diverse range of styles and methods used to design and create the flags. When the design is selected and made into a flag, you can have the designer's picture taken with his/her flag and the Governor, your state honorary chairperson, and/or other state dignitaries. Then, publicize, publicize, publicize! **We are asking that you send your flag to the Council Office by mid-February. We are also asking that a photograph of the student flag designer and a statement of what art means to them, also be submitted to the Council office for display in the Youth Art Month Museum. Please obtain and send to CFAE a release from the flag designer(s) or parents so that we may use their photo, statement and flag in the YAM Museum and in other YAM promotional activities.** Please keep in mind that in order to send a "goody bag" of donated art materials to every student flag design winner, the number of designers per flag should be kept to a minimum whenever possible.

**STATE REPORT:** The Council will once again provide every state with a binder and preprinted pages to document your 2009 YAM observance for the state report/scrapbook. You will receive more detailed information on submitting your state report in the spring. The scrapbook pages will also be made available electronically, for those of you who are interested in getting a head start. Although the date of the national review has not yet been set, we suggest you plan for your report to be completed and sent to the Council Office sometime in July, depending on when the YAM Review and Judging will be held. We will do our best to give you as much time as possible to complete your report. We were pleased with the number of states who submitted their 2008 reports for national review and we hope to see the numbers continue to go up! Submitting a state report gives you and your state important and well-deserved national recognition. Your report also leaves a legacy for future state chairpersons so all your hard work will serve as a building block for your state. **Please be sure to document your Youth Art Month activities! We want to let everyone know about the exceptional and creative work you're doing!**

**INFORMATION PACKET:** We are enclosing an informational packet which we hope will be of value to you and your Youth Art Month observances. Please feel free to copy this packet and send to other art educators in your state, or adapt it to suit your own needs. We welcome your ideas for making this packet even more helpful to YAM Chairpersons. The first piece in the right pocket of this folder is a memo describing the pieces contained in the information packet.

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact me at the Council Office. **Thanks to your wonderful efforts and hard work, we know that Youth Art Month will be a great success in 2009!**

09/22/08