

KIDS AS CURATORS:

Erie Art Museum Seeking Middle School Partners for 2017/18 School Year



Each year the Erie Art Museum forges a unique partnership with local schools culminating in an exhibit curated by, designed by, and featuring the collections of middle school students.

"The idea for the project came from two simple facts," states Kelly Armor, the Museum's Education Director. "A museum is basically a place that presents interesting stuff in an educational context. Middle school students are voracious collectors. Most of us know a twelve-year old whose bedroom is a stockpile of American cultural artifacts. If we can get them to think about their stuff from an intellectual perspective, we can spark a lifelong interest in learning and museum-going!"

"It left my heartbeat pounding...I thought it was really neat to see how regular kids like myself would be able to make something so professional."

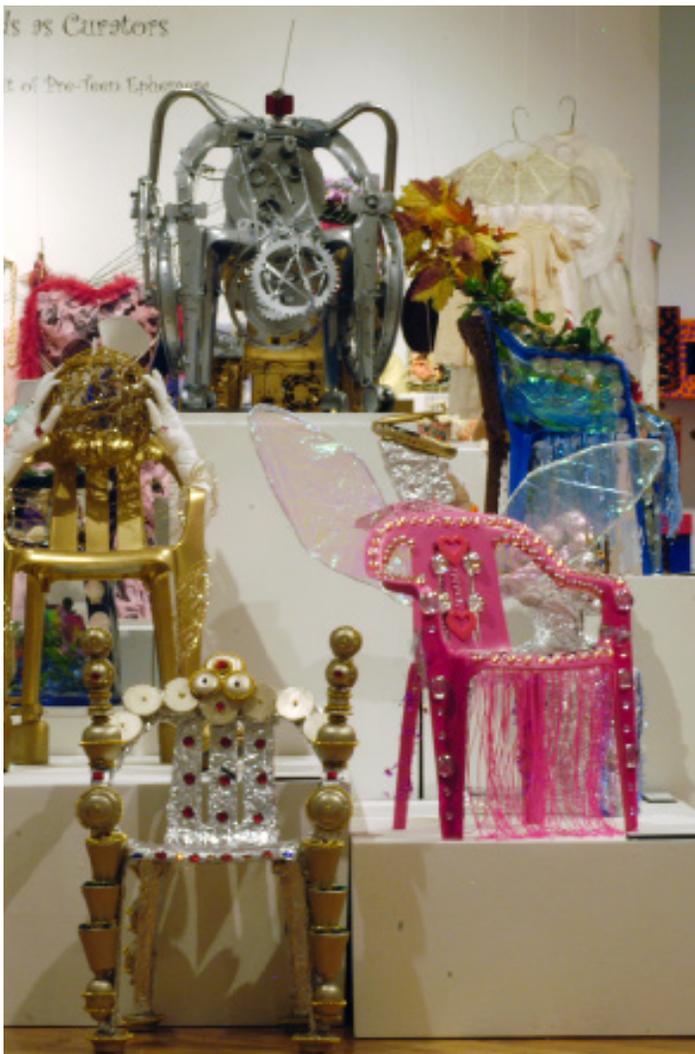
-6th Grade Student from Emerson Gridley

"The most positive elements for my students' project were learning to collaborate and cooperate; not just with each other but with the teaching artist and teachers and community through the collecting and organizing a show at the museum."

-Cambridge Springs Elementary Art Teacher

This year teachers from Holy Family School, Erie Day School, and Wayne School worked intensely with students on how to apply the museum process—selecting, evaluating, interpreting, and presenting objects in exhibitions—to engage students in the basic concepts of their curriculum. With support from museum staff and a dedicated artist-in-residence, each school created an exhibit that will be mounted at the Museum for the public to enjoy. Past Kids as Curators exhibit themes about time, games, recycling, and mascots featured clocks, clothing, toys, tools, photography, and other pre-teen relics.

For more information contact Kelly Armor • Erie Art Museum • 814.459.5477 • folkart@erieartmuseum.org



WHAT PARTNER SCHOOLS RECEIVE:

- In-depth free training and materials on how to use any museum exhibit as a teaching tool
- Act 48 Credit for teacher training
- Museum staff support for duration of project
- Artist-in-Residence at your school for 20 days
- Free admission to the museum
- Assistance for bus transportation costs for field trips
- A chance for your students to create an exhibit that is featured in the Art Museum
- Hands-on learning that supports the curriculum
- Great publicity for your school

WHAT PARTNER SCHOOLS PROVIDE:

- Two–five teachers who work with the same students on the project
- Approximately 50–120 participating middle school aged students (grades 5–9)
- At least two teachers to attend Teacher Week at the Museum July 18–22, 2017
- One day release time in August or September for lead teachers to attend planning session
- Commit to send students to the Museum once in the fall (to learn about exhibit-making) and once in the spring (to see their exhibit installed)

PAST KIDS AS CURATORS PARTICIPANTS

Holy Family School • Wayne School • Erie Day School • Erie School District Gifted Program • Charter School of Excellence Skills Center • Parker Middle School • St. Gregory School • Lincoln Elementary • Villa Maria Elementary • Cambridge Springs Elementary • St. George School • West End Elementary • Emerson Gridley Elementary • Montessori Regional Charter School • Northwestern High School • Roosevelt Middle School