

Have you done something creative today?

A number of organizations support the arts in our county. Of course, our public libraries, churches, and higher education institutions also strongly support the arts and make the arts accessible to us and the children of our community. Without these institutions, many communities never experience the joy of art exhibitions, theater or musical concerts. They cannot be overlooked in their contribution to the enrichment of our community through a myriad of public programs.

A handful of dedicated organizations conduct programs that directly support and advance the arts in our community. They include:

*** Gemini School of Visual Arts & Communication (www.geminischool.com), Cedar Park.**

For the post-secondary student, check out the Gemini School of Visual Arts & Communication in Cedar Park. It's the first college level institution in our area dedicated to the visual arts! With a motto of 'We Turn Talent into a Profession,' they prepare students for successful careers as commercial artists in advertising agencies, videogame development studios, publishing houses, film/special effects studios, corporations and as fine artists around the world. Local companies including Disney Interactive, Electronic Arts/BioWare, Edge of Reality and Midway Games hire Gemini School graduates.

The curriculum is based on the classic skills of drawing and painting. Once those skills are mastered, students move into an intense, industry driven digital media program. In classes taught by professional, working artists, students explore "real world" solutions to creative problems while mastering the latest software and techniques in digital painting, concept art, photography, 3D modeling and illustration.

Gemini School is hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 23rd. For information and directions, visit their website at www.geminischool.com or call 512-249-1237.

*** Georgetown Art Works (www.georgetownartworks.org), Georgetown.**

Georgetown Art Works brings you National Arts Month! Plan ahead for a month of arts events and activities courtesy of Georgetown Art Works, one of the area's newest and most dynamic organizations.

The Fall Art Hop is a juried art show--more than 80 artists from the region, the state, and nationwide will participate--between October 3 and 31 in Georgetown's historic district. On October 3, Georgetown Art Works will launch the Fall Art Hop with an opening reception open to the public, and a 'hop' from venue to venue (Georgetown Public Library, The Framers' Gallery, Annarella, and 8th Street Studio are the sites). Original works in painting, collage and photography will be on view in four locations downtown. Jurors are Jerry Seagle and Susan Kirchman.

On October 11, in the morning, at Georgetown Public Library, there will be a family and fun event--called 'Hopscotch'--artmaking for children, tours of the exhibition, and refreshments for all. Come join the GAWKers (Georgetown Art Works Kids!) for painting and creative fun. Free!

***Georgetown Symphony Society (<http://www.georgetowntexasymphony.org/>)**

In 1999 Gaz and Dee Green surveyed the musical landscape in Georgetown, Texas. They found:

- *A vibrant Fine Arts program at Southwestern University and many loyal patrons of the Austin Symphony Orchestra
- *A promising public school orchestra that was struggling financially;
- *A new 1,200 seat Performing Arts Center at Georgetown High School;
- *A growing population that wanted more access to classical music; and
- *A quality symphony orchestra thirty miles to the north in Temple.

The Greens gathered friends who loved classical music and wanted to make more of it available to the people of Georgetown. The group decided to commit the time, effort, and resources necessary to bring professional performances to the PAC and provide musical enrichment for local students.

2008-2009 is the ninth season of classical concerts in Georgetown.

Next concert: October 26, 200: the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Silver Medalist Joyce Yang, in recital

*Palace Theater (<http://www.georgetownpalace.com/>), Georgetown

In December of 1990, a group of concerned citizens formed Georgetown Palace Theatre, Inc., to save the historic theatre for Williamson County. In 1991, the group started work on preparing the theater for public performances. Now the premier site for community theater in the area, the company presents performances and, in addition, conducts workshops for youth in the dramatic arts.

Currently playing: The Producers.

*Round Rock Symphony (<http://www.roundrocksymphony.org>), Round Rock.

Founded recently, the Round Rock Symphony's mission is to musically enrich the greater Round Rock community by presenting affordable and accessible symphonic concerts of the highest artistic order, promoting the understanding and appreciation of symphonic music. The Round Rock Symphony will perform 4-6 programs per year of traditional orchestral repertoire, new music, pops repertoire, and concerts for schools and special occasions.

*San Gabriel Chorale (<http://www.sangabrielchorale.com>), Georgetown.

Since 1985, San Gabriel Chorale has performed in many important venues. In 2005, they sang at Bass Hall with the Austin Symphony. Thanksgiving, in 2004, they performed at Carnegie Hall. In 2006, San Gabriel Chorale had a performance of Bach's St Mark's Passion, with a 17 piece orchestra, and a performance of Haydn's "The Creation". In February 2007, they did a performance of Mozart, followed by a Mass of Lord Nelson in April. In 2007, they presented a new arrangement of Mendelssohn's St. Paul Oratorio! Over the years, the Chorale has performed a wide range of choral masterpieces, including Bach's B minor Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart's Grand Mass in C minor, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and Handel's Messiah among many others.

*Texas Academy of Ballet / Bluebonnet Ballet (www.texasacademyofballet.com), Hutto.

A dance studio for children, youth, and adults in classical ballet, founded by Royal Academy instructor Carolyn Bognar.

*Way Off Broadway Community Players (<http://www.wobcp.org/>), Leander.

WOBCP is an all-volunteer, nonprofit corporation, located in Leander, dedicated to the establishment of a living arts theatre. Through this theatre, we hope to promote the educational, cultural, and literary growth of the city, county, and state.

Currently playing: The Odd Couple.

As you, our gentle readers, know, there are some strong organizations that support the arts, but there are many gaps. Also, most of these organizations are 100% volunteer organizations. As we know, the arts contribute to a strong quality of life in a community. Contact us if you're thinking about a way to make a difference, either by volunteering, advocating, or giving, in the arts.

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### 3. Thought for the Moment...

The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.

Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, 2007.

Read the full article at the Wall Street Journal online: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/la/?id=110010352>

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6. Save the Date!

Look for your invitation this weekend--and let us know if you'd like one sent to you!

Future Trails 2008, our annual recognition dinner, will be November 18, 2008, with a keynote by Tracy Gary, author of [Inspired Philanthropy](#). This year's *Future Trails* awards will highlight the important work of the Caring Place as well as celebrate the leadership of Gary Nelson.

Gracious sponsors of this event, to date, include:

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Keep tuned for more details soon! Let us know if you'd like to learn more. Sponsorship opportunities are still available! You may reserve your ticket by calling our office, [emailing us](#), or book online at www.chisholm-trail.org.

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In closing...

Please contact us with questions, by phone at 512.863.2484, or email [friends@chisholm-trail.org](mailto:friends@chisholm-trail.org). Thank you!

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