ARTS
For all of Northern Michigan
INSPIRING ALL ABILITIES
OUR STORY

Arts for All of Northern MI (A4A) has been providing accessible art since 1997 for Grand Traverse County and the surrounding areas.

Today, we serve over 2,500 individuals with disabilities in the Grand Traverse area by providing 5 different programs.

And we’re just getting started...
OUR MISSION

"to empower people with disabilities from Northern Michigan with interactive experiences, both artistic and cultural, while providing opportunities for personal growth and learning"

We strive to be inclusive, adaptive, and we are always working to expand our reach. We provide art opportunities in fine arts, performing arts, physical arts, cultural events, and more.
OUR PROGRAMS

ART ESCAPES
Artist Residencies & Art Experiences in Educational Settings, culminating in a Spring Celebration workshop day at the Dennos Museum

ACCESS
Monthly art and cultural outings for individuals with disabilities and their families and peers.

PUPPET OUTREACH
Kid’s on the Block Puppet Program teaches students about disability awareness, bullying, and more. A FREE educational resource for area educational institutions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Accessible Community Art Projects & Experiences

ART ESCAPES EXPANSION
Thanks to support from YAC, we’ve expanded our Art Escapes programs to after school and extra offerings during normal class times for students of all abilities. We’ve just moved into our own large studio and plan to begin hosting classes onsite this winter!
ART MATTERS.

1. Over 40% of MI students with disabilities don’t graduate high school.

2. Dropouts face a 40% higher unemployment rate and less than 40% of young adults with disabilities are employed.

3. Dropouts face an 80% higher incarceration rate, and are 3X more likely to live in poverty.

Art OPENS doors. It leads to:

- alternative communication
- self-expression
- improved interpersonal relationships

- obtaining new skills
- improved graduation rates
- opportunities to be positive community contributors
WHERE DO WE START?

In pre-evaluations, nearly 90% of students had not experienced this particular workshop prior to the program. Most students thought it would be valuable, and the graph above shows the things they thought they may learn, prior to the program.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

- **100%** of students enjoyed the workshop, found it accessible, and liked the time and location of the program.
- **99%** of students said they learned a new skill, a new way to communicate, or made new friends in the program.
- **100%** of students said their instructor was knowledgable in their craft.

Students shared these skills as being new and learned during the workshop!
THE PROPOSED PROGRAM
Ongoing Adaptive Art Experience

Bi-Weekly or Monthly
Art Experience Determined By YOU!
Certified instructor

Locations including our Grand Traverse studio and ADA accessible and central locations in surrounding counties.

All funds received from individual counties will be used to provide a class located in that county, to serve the youth of that county.

Grant Funds would be used to provide instructor stipends and room rental.
IMPACTING

MENTAL HEALTH
- SELF CONTROL
- FOCUS -
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- DEPRESSION MANAGEMENT
- ANXIETY MANAGEMENT
- LEARNING DISABILITY/ADHD/ADD MANAGEMENT
- EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL TRAUMA MANAGEMENT
- FUN, RECREATIONAL OFFERING IN A SAFE PLACE
- NO SUBSTANCE ABUSE PRESSURE
- SAFE ZONE - NO JUDGEMENT ZONE SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY
- PHYSICAL WELLNESS
- MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS
- COMPLETELY ADAPTIVE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

"I FEEL SUCCESSFUL!"
- HS STUDENT AFTER MARTIAL ARTS WORKSHOP

THE WHOLE PERSON.
IDENTIFYING THE NEED
for the Art Escapes Program & Expansion

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY & ALL YOUTH

Prior to our program, no accessible art opportunities were easily available in Grand Traverse County, and special education classrooms didn’t have access to adaptive art.

Today more than ever, youth of all abilities are seeking safe places to make friends and care for their mental health.

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES & ALTERNATIVE ED FAMILIES

Adaptive and accessible art opportunities are not guaranteed to be provided in special education or inclusive classrooms in surrounding counties, and are often not included for families homeschooling students with special needs, leaving many individuals without access to our programs.

Youth don’t have enough opportunities for art as expression and a processing tool.

STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Students and teachers are asking for MORE opportunities and LONGER experiences that lead to mastery of a skill, and a chance to share it or perform for their peers. They are also both asking for help incorporating ways to teach healthy self-expression and mindfulness!
ART ESCAPES ACTIVITIES

CURRENT

• Artist-In-Residency Classroom Visits/Workshops in 3 counties, and at least 25 classrooms.
• Art Opportunities including storytelling, drama, dance, martial arts, pottery, painting, music, and puppetry.
• 35-50 minute visits, depending the age and ability of the students.
• 8-15 students per classroom.

EXPANDED - YOUTH DIRECTED

• Quarterly Professional Development for Teaching Artists, as opposed to infrequent educational offerings.
• Ongoing Adaptive Art Experience for each county determined by YAC students.
• New art offerings: varying types of dance, martial arts, and music; video production, and yoga.
• Visiting Art Therapist to work with students, teachers, and instructors.
• Help funding a dedicated program director to oversee all programs.
OUTCOMES

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- are more likely to finish school.
- gain self confidence, varying degrees of self-sufficiency, and improved quality of life.
- have increased job opportunities, and are positive community contributors.
- improve interpersonal relationships.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS & GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENTS
- have increased opportunities to connect, learn, play, and work together, and see the value of individuals with disabilities.
- have new opportunities for healthy self-expression.

LOCAL ECONOMY
- improved by the hiring of local artists and art organizations.

TEACHING ARTISTS
- gain more tools and continued encouragement to continually better their workshops.

BECOME CONTINUAL POSITIVE RESULTS
BE INSPIRED TOGETHER.

ARTS For all of Northern Michigan
THANK YOU
ARTS FOR ALL OF NORTHERN MI