



ARTS AND CULTURE

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

"BEFORE A CHILD TALKS, THEY SING. BEFORE THEY WRITE, THEY DRAW. AS SOON AS THEY STAND, THEY DANCE. ART IS FUNDAMENTAL TO HUMAN EXPRESSION." **PHYLICIA RASHAD**

The current edition of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word "ART" as follows:

"art" (noun) 1. "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power..."

The same learned tome defines the word "culture" in this manner:

"cul-ture" (noun) 2. "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people or other social group..."

However, one chooses to define the words; collectively, those two small words speak volumes as they define us, who we are, what we believe and strive to accomplish today, and what we leave for future generations. Combined, the two are subjects of study primarily concerned with the processes and products of human creativity and social life, such as languages, literature, imagination, developing the technical ability to create something from nothing, and the capacity to bridge the things that separate us from one another; age, education, location, religion, or economic disparity. Arts and Culture create common ground on which to build a mutual understanding and respect of one for the other.

Art and culture combine to define our basic humanness and can be found in every location around the planet as we work to make our lives better and to find things that we enjoy, either as a group socially or as an individual. In the study, development, and love of the arts and culture, there truly is... "SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!"

Another quote from Ms. Rashad, "Where the Women go, the Culture goes!" should be the rallying cry for all clubs, Districts, and State Federations within GFWC. Our members should represent the vanguard in leading the development of projects and programs to highlight and focus support for all aspects of human expression. From local activities like awarding art scholarships, sponsoring local and school art contests, participating in community beautification projects, assisting little theater activities, sustaining library growth and expansion, developing photography contests, backing



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Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Arts and Culture Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.