

Hunterdon **Art** Museum

Educating, Challenging & Inspiring Community through the Arts

Hunterdon Art Museum Teen Art Advisory Council Handbook

Welcome to the Hunterdon Art Museum Teen Art Advisory Council!

The Teen Art Advisory Council is a group of creative, curious, and community-minded high school students who work alongside museum staff to help shape programs, exhibitions, and events for young people. Council members are ambassadors for the museum and advocates for making art accessible, engaging, and relevant for teens throughout our region.

Whether you are an artist, musician, photographer, writer, designer, performer, or simply someone who loves creativity, your perspective matters.

Mission Statement

The Teen Art Advisory Council empowers high school students to collaborate with museum staff in creating meaningful arts experiences for young people. Through leadership, creativity, and community engagement, council members help strengthen connections between the museum and the next generation of artists, thinkers, and cultural leaders.

Vision

We believe museums are places where everyone belongs. The Teen Art Advisory Council strives to inspire creativity and lifelong engagement with the arts while amplifying youth voices, fostering leadership and building community.

Council Goals

Throughout the year, council members will:

- Advise museum staff on teen interests and perspectives.
- Plan engaging programs and exhibitions for young audiences.
- Promote museum events in their schools and communities.

- Learn about museum careers.
 - Collaborate with artists and museum professionals.
 - Develop leadership and communication skills.
 - Create opportunities for teens to connect through art.
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Membership

Council members should:

- Be in grades 9–12.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm for the arts and community involvement.
- Attend meetings regularly, be willing to collaborate, and participate actively and respectfully.
- Serve on at least one committee.
- Complete assigned projects.
- Volunteer at museum events when possible, and represent the museum positively.

No prior artistic experience is required.

Code of Conduct

- Council members will treat everyone with kindness, respect, and professionalism. They will celebrate diverse perspectives, communicate honestly, and take initiative while respecting museum spaces, artwork, and visitors.
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Attendance

Meetings are held once each month from October through June. Members should attend at least 80% of scheduled meetings. If a member must miss a meeting, they should notify the museum in advance.

Signature Projects

Each year the council will complete one or more major initiatives.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Teen Takeover Night

- High School Art Showcase
 - Teen Choice Exhibition Guide
 - Community Art Project
 - Artist Interview Series
 - Youth Film Festival
 - Student Gallery Talks
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Learning & Leadership Opportunities

As members of the Teen Art Advisory Council, students will gain valuable experience through hands-on participation, collaboration with museum staff, and engagement with artists and community members.

Throughout the year, council members may have opportunities to:

- Learn about the process of planning exhibitions, public programs, and community engagement.
- Explore careers in museums and the arts through conversations and collaborations with staff and guest professionals.
- Develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.
- Share ideas for marketing and outreach to teen audiences.
- Practice presenting ideas and speaking in group settings.
- Build confidence through creative problem-solving and project leadership.
- Develop a deeper understanding of contemporary art and museum operations.

Members may serve as:

Chair: Leads meetings, works with museum staff, represents the council

Vice Chair/Treasurer: Assists Chair, oversees committees, facilitates projects, oversees program budgets

Communications Lead: Social media ideas, meeting reminders, newsletter contributions

Secretary: Meeting notes, attendance, project timelines

Leadership positions are elected annually.

Committees

Programming Committee

- Plans Teen Night and Open Studios, and other teen-focused events

Marketing Committee

- Develops social media campaigns and promotional materials, and outreaches to local schools

Community Engagement Committee

- Develops partnerships and fosters opportunities for community engagement at the museum

Exhibition Committee

- Develops Teen Exhibitions and encourages teen engagement with museum exhibitions
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Annual Calendar

Meetings are Once Monthly and last 2 hours

Sample Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Museum Updates (10 minutes)

Exhibition Discussion (20 minutes)

Committee Work (30 minutes)

Project Planning (30 minutes)

Reflection & Next Steps (20 minutes)

October – Welcome & Orientation

- **Meet fellow council members**
- **Tour the museum and learn about its mission**
- **Team-building activities**
- **Review council goals and expectations**

- **Brainstorm ideas for Teen Night and the Teen Exhibition**
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November – Planning & Vision

- **Form project committees and elect leadership**
 - **Begin planning Teen Night**
 - **Develop a theme for the Teen Exhibition**
 - **Learn about how exhibitions and museum programs are developed**
 - **Provide feedback on current museum exhibitions and programs**
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December – Project Development

- **Develop activities and experiences for Teen Night**
 - **Discuss exhibition concepts, artwork, and participant outreach**
 - **Meet with museum staff or an exhibiting artist**
 - **Begin promoting upcoming opportunities to peers**
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January – Exhibition & Event Planning

- **Finalize the Teen Exhibition theme and timeline**
 - **Assist with planning artwork submissions and exhibition logistics**
 - **Continue developing Teen Night activities**
 - **Explore ways to engage local schools and youth organizations**
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February – Marketing & Outreach

- **Help create promotional ideas for Teen Night and the Teen Exhibition**
 - **Plan social media and community outreach**
 - **Finalize event details and volunteer assignments**
 - **Participate in a behind-the-scenes museum experience**
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March – Teen Night Preparation

- **Complete planning for Teen Night**
 - **Prepare activities, signage, and event materials**
 - **Practice event roles and responsibilities**
 - **Invite friends, classmates, and community members**
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April – Teen Night

- **Host Teen Night**
 - **Welcome visitors and facilitate activities**
 - **Gather feedback from attendees**
 - **Reflect on the event and discuss what was learned**
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May/June – Teen Exhibition

- **Assist with exhibition preparation, as appropriate**
 - **Help write or review exhibition text and visitor materials**
 - **Welcome guests during the exhibition reception**
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June – Reflection & Celebration

- **Reflect on the year's accomplishments and share recommendations for future councils and teen programming**
 - **Recognize members' contributions**
 - **Celebrate with a year-end gathering**
 - **Recruit and mentor future council members**
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Application Process

Applicants must submit the application form, including short written responses, and one teacher or mentor letter of recommendation. Selected applicants will participate in a brief interview with museum staff.

Recognition

Council members who successfully complete the program will receive:

- Certificate of Leadership and recognition at the Annual Celebration
- Letter documenting volunteer hours
- Museum recommendation letter upon request

Looking Ahead

The Teen Art Advisory Council is more than a volunteer opportunity. It is a place where young people help shape the future of the museum.

By bringing together creativity, leadership, and community, council members become advocates for the arts and inspire others to see museums as places for learning, connection, and belonging.

Welcome to the team—we're excited to create with you!