

ART OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

IVET FERGUSON

Art is very important for the growth of a society even though it is considered by some people to be worthless. The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands was established in 1996, and is in charge of educating the public for a better understanding and knowledge of the arts.

“The National Gallery offers a wide range of Education Programs to the different generations.” said Mona Lisa Tatum who is the Marketing and Communication Manager of the gallery.

The School Program, which offers primary and secondary schools an opportunity to obtain access to exhibitions, is one of the Educational programs available this year. The tours teach students and adults how to interpret art and unite them with the Caymanian Cultural heritage.

Work experience opportunities are offered to over 15 local high school students each year, where they can gain valuable experience in this art organization. Family, Adult Learning and Community Outreach programs are also opened to the public.



The courses offered to disabled citizens, prisoners and patients from rehabilitation centers are essential, and are opportunities where the individuals are able to develop skills and learn about art's different disciplines.

“These courses allow them to express their feelings in a passive way and allow them to take the negative from the inside as well as to develop and recognize their skills in arts,” Mrs. Tatum added.

All these courses play an important role in the education of the Caymanian society because they give kids, teenagers, adults, elders, the disabled and even

convicts a chance to explore and immerse themselves in a new world.

The community can help the National Gallery to meet its goals by supporting and helping the different projects held. People can donate to programs, and support the artists' work exhibited. They can also sign up for membership and participate and/or volunteer in the events. One of these events where community can support is the Chalk Fest, which is usually hosted in Camana Bay every year and opened to children, teenagers and adults.

Mrs. Tatum adds, “Art is all around us, we cannot ignore it; instead we should embrace it.”

The national gallery is as well inviting the public to come and enjoy the exhibition ‘A Day in the Life IV’, presented by the artists: Wray Banker, Kerri-Anne Chisholm and Nasaria Suckoo-Chollette. The community can keep up to date with the gallery by visiting the National Gallery webpage, nationalgallery.org.ky.