SHARE WALKS
ART GUIDE

INTRO

The Shared Walls™ Program is a multifaceted art program that provides an art exhibition for your space, an Art Guide which includes curriculum supplements and additional arts resources & tools to further engage your community, and the possibility of an Artist Workshop to bring process and skills into focus.

There are two main sections below, the first explains our Artist Workshops and the second provides an Art Curriculum Supplement, group activities, and additional resources like free art experiences online and around Chicago.

Please refer to the plaque hung in your space for the link to the artist featured in your temporary art exhibition.

For more info on that particular artist, you can always email us at ideas@ipaintmymind.org.

ARTIST WORKSHOPS

In addition to providing you with an art exhibition for your school, library, or youth center, we want to help your community connect with the art, learn how it was made, analyze it more, and create their own art too!

To help foster that connection, we select a few partners each Spring to host an Artist Workshop.

We bring in the artist(s) who are part of the exhibition in your space so the students/community have an opportunity to discuss the art and the artistic process with the artist(s) directly! If the opportunity is permitted, a demonstration of screen printing or other art technique could be shown to the students to get a hands on experience.

These visits can take place at your school, park, library, or community centers but might also be done virtually via Facetime, Skype, and other webcam services, directly from the artists’ studios.
THE SHARED WALLS ART CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENT

This is a resource (curriculum supplement) which lays out a series of artistic exercises as well as additional resources for educators & community leaders including digital platforms and free art experiences. This is a tool to connect your students/community with the exhibition in a more informed, comprehensive, and engaged way.

CREATING CONTEXT

Consider some of these questions before you focus on the physical traits of the exhibition and each of the artworks included.
[Note: This step is recommended for everyone age 11 & up]

What is art to you?
Where have you seen art?
Where do you think artists find inspiration?
What do you love about art?
What do you think art should be about?

REFLECTIONS, THOUGHTS & CRITIQUES

Ask students or community members to observe, interpret and think about the art.

[Note: Art teachers may choose to expand this set of prompts so as to incorporate themes, concepts, and learnings covered in your curriculum.]

Observe & describe what you see:
What shapes do you see?
What colors make an impression on you?
Are there lines or angles?
How about textures?
How else might you describe what you see?
Interpret the artwork:

What do you think the artist is trying to express?
What might the artist's intentions/inspirations be?
What do you think the message (if any) is?

Analyze the artwork:

How do your observations about the artwork make you feel?
What traits (colors, shapes, imagery) give the artwork a specific feeling or mood?

Evaluate/critique the artwork:

Do you like or dislike the artwork, and why?
Who would expect the audience for this work typically is?
How does the art tie into your life, experiences, or community?

ARTISTIC RESPONSES

Take students/community members on a tour of the artwork installed in your school, park, library, or community center and get ideas for new artwork they can create inspired by IPMM's exhibition. Themes, topics and other aspects to consider while viewing the exhibition are:

Color theory:

What colors/hues are used?
Are the colors warm or cool?
What feelings do they transmit?

An example of an artistic response might be creating a new piece of art in keeping with the color scheme of a particular piece of artwork, or incorporating some other aspect or element.
Content:

What do you think this piece is about?
What story can students/communities imagine as a result of the content?
How does the content in the piece relate directly to aspects of students/communities lives?

An example of an artistic response might be taking the content/story of a piece and creating a new image for it.

Style:

What is the artist’s style?
Do you think the artist’s style is well-suited to the content?

An example of an artistic response might be trying to emulate the artist’s style in a new and original way.

**STUDENT/COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITIONS**

Through IPaintMyMind’s Shared Walls™ Program, your space hosts our art for about a year. After that, we hope to bring more art back in following years! If that’s not possible, we encourage you to use the nails/screws on the wall to display student/community art in years to come or even expand the gallery area.

This way our exhibition not only presents finished works of art, it also gives your community the chance to display an art gallery continuously.

After the students/community members familiarize themselves with the installation and have created an artistic response, you can exhibit a student/community art installation with their pieces.

Celebrate the student/community artwork and validate their creativity!
INSTRUCTION-BASED ART GROUP ACTIVITIES

Artists like Sol LeWitt, and George Hart believed that art should be available to the masses, just like IPaintMyMind does. They also wanted everyone to be able to produce art, in a true spirit of democracy and equal access.

This inspired them to create instruction-based art for others to create works of art! Here are some examples:

Sol LeWitt, whose instructions for several series of geometric shapes or detailed line drawings, made directly on the wall surface, sometimes took teams of people days or weeks to execute!

Read LeWitt’s instructions (below) to your students, they’ll each need a black crayon, a ruler, and paper.

WORK FROM INSTRUCTIONS (1971):

USING A BLACK, HARD CRAYON DRAW A TWENTY INCH SQUARE. DIVIDE THIS SQUARE INTO ONE INCH SQUARES. WITHIN EACH ONE INCH SQUARE, DRAW NOTHING, OR DRAW A DIAGONAL STRAIGHT LINE FROM CORNER TO CORNER OR TWO CROSSING STRAIGHT LINES DIAGONALLY FROM CORNER TO CORNER.

Are there differences between the drawings made? Is it because the drawer did not correctly follow the instructions or is it because LeWitt’s written instructions can be interpreted in different ways? You can find more of LeWitt’s instructions here!

George Hart instruction-based art combines math and art! By working together to build beautiful mathematical objects, students engage directly in mathematical thinking while creating an art piece. Look here for the instructions!
ADDITIONAL ART RESOURCES

This guide gives the opportunity for you, the educator, to explore contemporary art by considering subject matter that can be political, addressing social issues that your own community may be experiencing.

All these resources are FREE for you to use!

Some IPaintMyMind Featured Artists to consider:

Ethan D’Ercole is a Chicago based-based artist whose style is playful, unassuming, colorful, and fun. There’s an accessibility about his use of color, and his background in architecture is evidenced in nearly every gig poster or print he produces.

Justin Van Genderen’s world of science and nature. His art prints are so specifically inspired, giving a platform to subjects many of us are astounded by and infinitely interested in. Whether physics, nature, or space, he’s tapping into an insatiable social appetite, and quite frankly, one of the more focused design sensibilities you’ll find.

Sam Kirk a multidisciplinary artist, explores culture, identity and urban politics through her art.

Quibe proves you don’t need much more than a single line and a vision. He’s nailed a style that you don’t need pretense to enjoy. He makes his art prints available on sites like Society6.com, making his work something anyone can own.

For more artists check out our website.

Art21 is dedicated to engaging audiences with contemporary visual art, to inspire creative thinking, and to educating a new generation about artists working today. They have great tools for teaching!

Contemporary Art Ideas for The Classroom is a website an art teacher created that is devoted to the integration of contemporary art in the classroom!
Check out MCA, where you can find workshops, educator tips, lesson plans and ways to work with their collection.

National Museums:

**National Gallery of Art** - Borrow free teaching packets, DVDs & access online lessons, activities, and interactives to bring art to your classroom, home, or other learning setting. All materials are free.

**Walker Art Center** - This blog was created by their Education & Public Programs department. Short articles and videos that discuss community, art and civic engagement, raising creative kids, and many other topics.

**The Getty Museum** - The materials in this curriculum are designed for elementary and secondary teachers to prompt classroom discussion and learning centered on contemporary art.

Online Platforms:

**The Art Project** - Features interior tours of seventeen world famous art museums. Create your own art gallery while visiting each museum. You can see works of art in greater detail, add to your collection, and open background information about each piece.

**The Art of Education** - An innovative higher-learning institution serving art teachers. Lesson plans, resources and videos.

**Art Babble** - A website that showcases high quality art-related video content from more than 50 cultural institutions from around the world. Educators can use it as a way to support their classroom activities.

**Arts Integration** - Dance in science, pop art in Spanish, or photography in math -- there’s no end to the ways arts can be integrated into other curricula. Here you’ll find arts-integrated lessons and resources that you can use in your school.
FREE Art Experiences in Chicago (Field Trip Sites):

All Star Press Gallery (Logan Square) - gallery that specializes in gig posters, art prints, and street art.

Miles of Murals (Rogers Park) - stretch of murals along Red Line in Rogers Park.

National Museum of Mexican Art (Pilsen) - where you can immerse yourself in the richness of Mexican art and culture right here in Chicago. Whatever your background, you’ll connect to this museum on a very personal level.

Museum of Contemporary Photography (South Loop) - presents projects and exhibitions and acquiring works that embrace a wide range of contemporary aesthetics and technologies.

Chicago Cultural Center (Loop) - The stunning landmark building is home to two magnificent stained-glass domes, as well as free music, dance and theater events, films, lectures, art exhibitions and family events.

Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park (Northside) - combines original contemporary sculpture and two miles of walkways—all for free.

Smart Museum of Art (Hyde Park) - fine arts museum of the University of Chicago, the Smart is home to thought-provoking exhibitions and an exquisite collection of more than 15,000 objects.

Arts Incubator (Southside) - Envisioned by artist Theaster Gates, the Arts Incubator is a space for artist residencies, arts education, community-based arts projects, as well as exhibitions, performances, and talks.