

NON-PROFIT Spotlight

Up North Arts helping foster a healthy, thriving community

CADILLAC — Up North Arts, Inc. is located at 601 Chestnut St. on the scenic shore of Lake Cadillac in the old naval reserve building where they operate as the community art center in our area.

Founded in 2016 by a core group of former public art educators, their mission is to provide art and art education to the Greater Cadillac area while advocating for the arts and artists across Northern Michigan.

The nonprofit organization strongly believes that art and artistic expression are needed to foster a healthy and thriving community.

The center offers a variety of adult classes including fused glass, fiber arts, pottery, ceramics, painting, and even basket making with a pottery and fused glass studio located in the building. There is beginner, intermediate, and advanced level programming which invites artists of any caliber, or aspiring artists, a welcoming and friendly

environment to further or learn a new form of artistic expression. Additionally there is a regularly occurring art club for students grades 1 to 12 that meet four times per month during the regular school year by Gabreilla Hanson.

Classes are structured around all types of arts and crafts with older age groups moving toward the development of finer art skills. Previous classes have included screen printing, stamps, splatter art, sculpting, beading, collaging, self portraits, painting and gardening. Follow Art by Gooby Hanswoon on Facebook for weekly posts including pictures of the students' work.

This summer they will also be hosting the annual Phyllis Olsen Juried Art Fair which brings over 50 unique and talented artists to the park downtown and coincides with the Cadillac Festival of The Arts. In June the center will be hosting their latest Summer Art Camp for grades one to 12 in partnership

with the Northwest Michigan Arts and Culture Network. Activities will include storytelling, painting, creating, tie-dye, crochet, and 3D printing, all being taught by local artists and crafters.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending classes, registration is currently open on their website www.upnorthartsinc.com where you can also make financial donations and subscribe to their monthly newsletter that includes new events, classes and pictures from the entire Cadillac Arts Council.

Their board is made up of Amy Gonzalez (President), Jim Meister (Treasurer), Rosemary Rokita (Secretary), Gabriella Hanson (Board Member, Children's Programming), Chris Fisher (Board Member/ Art Fair Coordinator), and Sue Mellema (Board Member).

Recently they were able to hire Heath Urbaniak as their part-time Executive Director who had previously been volunteering his time as a grant writer for the organization which has helped bring new funding to the center through Cadillac Rotary Charities, The Cadillac Area Community Foundation, The Northwest Michigan Arts and Culture Center, The Michigan Non-profit Relief Fund and The Cadillac Rotary Foundation.

At this time Up North Arts, Inc. is currently recruiting new board and executive board members, volunteers for programming and events, as well as new artists and artisans who are interested in teaching their craft to our community. If you are interested in helping further the arts and culture in our area, please send an email to info@upnorthartsinc.com or call the center at (231) 468-3040 to let them know you are interested.

They are also currently taking donations of any gently used or new art and crafting materials for their YArt Sale on June 22. If you happen to find anything gathering dust on your shelves, drop off times are 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Check out their Facebook page www.facebook.com/upnorthartsinc for more updates.

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