



ACCESSIBLE. RELIABLE. TRUSTFUL.

Through a consistent presence, ArtVan has built long-term, trust-based relationships, connecting directly with Youth, families and community members. With continued support from foundations, individual donors, and sponsorships, program costs are heavily subsidized or free-of-charge for core neighborhoods, so all have a chance to participate.

LEWISTON & AUBURN

LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
BROADVIEW ACRES

BATH

MARITIME APARTMENTS
HYDE PARK

BIDDEFORD

BACON STREET

BRUNSWICK

PERRYMAN VILLAGE

Our certified Art Therapists focus on personal growth, artistic exploration, and collaborative interactions during these 90-minute to two hour sessions. Each ArtVan session has a specific framework beginning with an explorative check-in such as “Who am I, What Brings Me Peace, What Are My Dreams, Who Do I Love”. Next we introduce the project theme and materials, we end with a closing share.

“One of our 8-year old artists said it best, **“Art gives people hope.”**”

Often we collaborate with local organizations and incorporate environmental, social justice and educational leaning within our programming. We also serve community partnership programming. These are programs that may be on a one-time or ongoing basis, depending on the hiring organization who pays a fee-for-service cost for the program services.

Youth are encouraged to be authentically themselves through modifying the project according to their unique creativity.





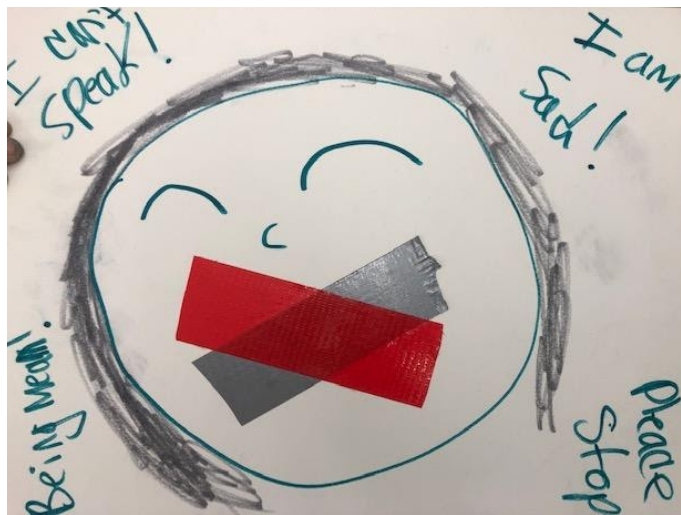
ART THERAPY IN ACTION

An 8-year-old girl arrived scowling, arms crossed, announcing, "I'm not doing anything!" ArtVan's facilitator approached her with blank paper, sat nearby, and invited her to scribble out her anger.

The Youth drew large, erratic scrawls of colors and shapes, and said, "It looks terrible." The facilitator said, "Sometimes our feelings can look terrible, too, and that's OK, because now it's no longer inside you." Together they found new images within the scribbles and added two large eyes. The child later wrote about her "artistic process," explaining, "I put my anger onto the paper."

Using art for emotional release, she turned potential destructiveness into a tangible, safe expression of anger. By providing opportunities for individuals to see themselves as healthy individuals, we are investing in long-term social impact of healthy communities.

ArtVan's creative engagement uses a holistic, Youth-centered approach, taking into account multiple mental, social, emotional, and physical factors and observations. Sometimes simple interventions have significant results.



If you're interested in learning more about therapeutic arts or ArtVan's approach, please visit our website at artvanprogram.org, or connect with Jamie Silvestri, Executive Director/Art Therapist, at jamie@artvanprogram.org or (207) 805-4323.