Arts Council Would Serve Whole Community

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of articles concerned with the formation of an arts council here. Information was supplied by members of the committee for the organization of culture and leisure.)

By SALLY HEPKEN

At a recent meeting of community arts councils, which I had the pleasure to attend, representatives from councils in more than 50 southern and southwestern states met and exchanged ideas. These are as different in design as there are communities, but they all have one thing in common: to serve and strengthen the existing cultural organizations in their areas. Yet, by serving these organizations they are in turn serving all members of the community.

Community Involvement

Councils are serving to bring visual and performing artists into contact with everyone in the community and also trying to involve community members in the arts. Councils are sponsoring art exhibits which offer to the public free of charge performances by local theatrical groups and musicians and exhibits by local artists and craftsmen. These exhibits often offer a wide range of art, from the traditional to the experimental, including folk music, dance, drama, opera, puppetry, stained glass, paintings, jazz, rock, classical music, poetry, photography, sculpture, weaving. Many councils have community centers, jazz clubs, and craft studios where local artists and performers can come together and produce monthly or yearly exhibits and performances. Many of these events are attended by local artists and performers who have never before participated in a live performance on a creative project.

For example, the arts council in Lafayette is helping to organize a creative project in which local artists are working together to produce a series of performances. The performances will be held in various locations around the city, and they will feature local musicians and performers. The aim of this project is to bring the arts to the people, and to encourage the participation of local artists and performers.

In addition, the arts council is working to establish a community arts center, which will serve as a hub for arts-related activities in the city. The center will provide space for local artists and performers to create and showcase their work, and it will serve as a gathering place for community members to come together and engage with the arts.

Councils are also working to promote the arts by providing funding for local arts organizations, and by helping to develop arts-related programs and initiatives. This is done through a variety of means, including the provision of grants and other forms of financial assistance, as well as through the development of partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

In conclusion, the arts council is an important organization in the community, and it is working hard to promote the arts and to serve the needs of the community. The council is truly a community arts organization, and it is serving the needs of all community members.

LOCAL ARTIST: MRS. BORIS HUGHES

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