

101 Things You Can Do to Celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month



1. **Hold an open house** on Saturday, October 5th.
2. Hang a banner.
3. Send a press release to your local paper.
4. Hand out buttons with the National Arts and Humanities Month logo.
5. Coordinate a series of thirty-one, 10-second radio public service announcements to run each day of the month.
6. Customize your computer screen-saver to remind you that it's National Arts and Humanities Month.
7. Provide a flier to all local hotels to place in guest rooms and/or at the concierge stations.
8. Compile a list of area artists willing to perform throughout October; make it available to schools, libraries, etc.
9. Read a book aloud.
10. Dedicate every local art opening during October to National Arts and Humanities Month.
11. Ask local clergy to celebrate with a sermon or a bell ringing.
12. Organize "brown bag" lunchtime concerts in the town square: invite local musicians to participate.
13. Write an op-ed on the value of the arts to your community.
14. Suggest to local teachers that they engage students in a National Arts and Humanities Month project, like a play or mural.
15. Arrange a student art exhibition to be displayed at the school, a local business, the public library or city hall.
16. Obtain an official proclamation from your mayor or city council.
17. Ask your local cinema to show a slide that says, "October is National Arts and Humanities Month" before each movie begins.
18. Plan a reception at your local arts agency and invite the community to learn what you do.
19. Encourage local performers to hold an open rehearsal.
20. At the dinner table, take turns sharing one creative thing you each did that day.
21. Ask local museums to give a behind-the-scenes tour of how exhibits are put together.
22. Organize a Children-Go-Free Day, to the theater, a museum, a concert or a puppet show.
23. Suggest local businesses "adopt" an artist for the month, providing space for the artist to demonstrate or exhibit work.
24. Host a dinner for your board of directors to celebrate the work your agency does to bring the arts to the community.
25. Work with local detention centers and prisons to hold art classes for inmates.
26. At a public event, distribute balloons with the National Arts and Humanities Month logo.
27. Schedule performances at senior centers, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices.
28. Design posters for your local transportation authority to display in buses and subways.
29. Ask your local weatherperson to mention National Arts and Humanities Month, a la Willard Scott.
30. Ask the local airport to hang a banner for National Arts and Humanities Month with a number to call for information.
31. Put together an October calendar of events for display in a public place, such as town hall.
32. Organize a parade, inviting all artists and arts organizations to march and perform.

33. Produce a public service announcement for your local radio and/or TV stations.
34. Sponsor a seminar for local arts and government leaders on the important role of public support for the arts and culture.
35. Create a bumper sticker for National Arts and Humanities Month. (If you don't specify a year, it can be used again.)
36. Take out a full-page ad in your local paper (or get one donated) listing all local arts events happening throughout October.
37. Ask community arts leaders to schedule tours of their facilities, or . . .
38. . . . develop a walking tour of cultural organizations and let them be the guides.
39. Donate used books to local schools and libraries, and encourage others in the community to do the same.
40. Hold a community sing-a-long every Sunday (or Monday, Tuesday, etc.) on the city hall steps.
41. Notify all local cultural groups that October is National Arts and Humanities Month; encourage collaborations.
42. Recommend to local businesses that they mention National Arts and Humanities Month on receipts or automated mailings.
43. Display information about a different artist/arts organization in your agency every week during the month.
44. Encourage public performances in the square, on the sidewalk, pier, etc.
45. Wear a National Arts and Humanities Month lapel pin.
46. Organize a storytelling session at a bookstore, library or school for people of all ages to share personal tales of life in the community.
47. Ask local writers to submit articles to a publication to be put together in honor of National Arts and Humanities Month . . .
48. . . and sell it as a memento of cultural life in your community.
49. Hold a benefit auction with local crafts—a great way for the community to see the array of talent in your area.
50. Hold a one -day (or longer) festival.
51. Take pictures of arts events and local artists throughout October for a community slide show at the end of the month.
52. Ask the local convention and visitors bureau to include a National Arts and Humanities Month flier in all October mailings.
53. Does your city have its own magazine? Make sure they know it's National Arts and Humanities Month.
54. Invite professional musicians and actors to hold a master class for students or members of the community at large.
55. Arrange field trips to National Arts and Humanities Month events.
56. Ask local reporters and newscasters to mention National Arts and Humanities Month in stories on local cultural events.
57. Organize a community talent show.
58. Conduct a series of practical workshops for local artists: marketing your work, portfolio development, getting publicity, etc.
59. Include the National Arts and Humanities Month logo in your newsletter.
60. Make a self-guided walking tour map of local cultural sites; give to local businesses, arts groups and libraries for distribution.
61. Go to a matinee performance with your children (or borrow someone else's!).
62. Present an award to someone in your community who has contributed a lot to the arts or humanities.
63. Take a class in paper making . . .
64. . . . or painting . . .
65. . . . or modern dance . . .
66. . . . or creative writing.
67. Create a community photo album: invite local residents to donate old photographs and take new ones throughout the month.

68. Suggest that local theaters organize post-performance discussions once a week.
69. Advertise a cultural event in the personals: "In search of art lover. Meet at [place] at [time] for an evening sure to excite you."
70. Write a letter to your member of Congress listing events in the district during the month. Invite him or her to participate.
71. With the department of public works, create street banners for National Arts and Humanities Month (designed by local artists.).
72. Read the arts section of the newspaper first.
73. Take up an instrument (or rekindle your interest in an old one).
74. Suggest to your local public television station a panel on local cultural life; offer to coordinate a panel of speakers.
75. Invite a college art, music or English student to spend an hour at the high school to talk about their course of study.
76. Alert your newspaper's calendar section that October is National Arts and Humanities Month.
77. E-mail everyone you know and encourage them to participate in the month-long celebration.
78. Provide taxicab companies with fliers about local cultural activities to distribute to their fares.
79. Encourage presenters to add a National Arts and Humanities Month imprint on all tickets for performances during October.
80. Send notes to your donors saying thanks for all they do to help the arts and humanities thrive in your community.
81. Commission a local artist or student to design a poster for National Arts and Humanities Month, and post it around town.
82. Ask a local coffeehouse to host a poetry reading.
83. Print bookmarks (cheap!) for distribution at bookstores and libraries during October.
84. Publish a calendar of events and post it in restaurants, stores, schools, etc.
85. Ask local banks to enclose a card about National Arts and Humanities Month, with the logo, in their October bank statements.
86. Ask galleries to stay open one evening a week during October for those unable to visit during regular weekday hours.
87. Create inserts for performance centers to be included in their programs.
88. Arrange for movie theaters to display "October is National Arts and Humanities Month" on their marquis.
89. Unveil a new project, product or service.
90. Print up temporary tattoos with the National Arts and Humanities Month logo to distribute at events throughout October.
91. Sponsor a Halloween story competition for children
92. . . . and arrange for the local newspaper to run the winning entry on October 31st.
93. Visit a museum you haven't been to in a while.
94. Raffle off a donation of art or literature by someone in the community, with proceeds going to a local art program.
95. Fax this list to all the arts organizations in your community.
96. Organize a local Battle of the Bands.
97. Include a flier about National Arts and Humanities Month with Sunday paper deliveries during the month.
98. Ask the supermarket to print paper bags with the National Arts and Humanities Month logo and list of local cultural organizations.
99. Invite local government officials to participate in events throughout October.
100. Organize a bake sale fundraiser for your agency (and print napkins with the National Arts and Humanities Month logo).
101. Don't forget to complete the form about the events and activities you have planned.