



Beginning an Arts Program

1. **Disciple the Representatives** We are building an army to reach a sphere of culture. View the artists in the church as representatives in and through that culture, which means discipleship to reflect the integrity of Deacons and Elders in the Pastoral Epistles. 2 Corinthians 5 passages say we no longer live for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf, that we are ambassadors. Train the ambassadors.
2. **Start with a point person.** Find a mature believer who has a heart for the arts, who will help implement your church's policy: nothing suggestive, etc.
3. **Use Color to teach.** The historic church used colors in specific seasons, purple during the 40 days leading to Good Friday and Easter, also the days leading to Christmas. Gold and white on Easter and Christmas. The rhythm of this can help teach even the little ones in the church to keep their eyes on a Christian rather than secular calendar in very subtle ways.
4. **Use Art Images on Church Bulletins and Projection** behind song lyrics
We collected a database of historic art you can download at no charge which will be available soon.
5. **Add Spotlights faced at the Church Walls.** Add a hanging system if you don't want to use nails, and you can be ready to hang art, and/or host a first exhibit.
6. **Keep Biblical Art on the Walls** Arts for Relief and Missions (arminc.org) has an inventory of large canvas reproductions. Other artists and websites also have biblical imagery available.
7. **Host Exhibits: Get to know the neighbors.** These exhibits can be quarterly, monthly, even yearly. Schedule an opening reception and invite the public to come with posters in local shops, postcards sent by mail or added to the bulletin for people to hand out. A non-threatening event provides an excellent way to meet the neighbors.
8. **Marketplace Gallery Space** A gallery space out in the marketplace can be an exciting project for any church. You can build relationships with unchurched and de-churched people to invite to your worship service or invite people to attend worship services in the gallery itself. Examples of use may also include hosting mural parties for the youth group where they can invite friends, or teaching art or music classes.