Hosting Your Own Fundraiser:
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a fundraiser?

It is a special event that is organized and hosted by an individual or group to support Free Arts Minnesota. The supporter generously offers time and resources to hold the event while Free Arts MN staff provides guidance and assistance.

What do I need to do to have a fundraiser?

- Consult with Free Arts MN staff
- Plan the event, including finding the venue
- Set goals for results
- Establish a budget for expenses
- Provide payment for expenses and/or find event sponsors
- Invite people and introduce them to Free Arts MN
- Raise money to provide art supplies
- Promote the child sponsorship program

What will Free Arts MN provide?

- Staff support to help you organize the event
- Promotional assistance, including posting on our Web site, Facebook page, and Twitter
- A registration and/or donation form on our Web site
- A keynote speaker*
- Informational materials to distribute at the event
- Child sponsorship materials
- Day of event volunteers*

**Depends on availability*

Unfortunately, Free Arts MN cannot do the following for you:

- Find event sponsors for your event
- Organize an online auction
- Pay for event expenses

What expenses should I expect?

An event will typically have expenses, such as printing and mailing invitations, purchasing refreshments, and renting a facility or audio/visual equipment. We suggest that your fundraising/expense ratio be 80/20 or better. For example, if your goal is to raise $1,000, you should have no more than $200 in expenses.

Why will Free Arts MN not pay for my event expenses?

Free Arts MN budgets for only specific events organized by our office. We do not budget for other fundraiser expenses and are therefore unable to contribute to or pay for those. We encourage you to try to find event sponsors and in-kind donors for your fundraiser.

What is an event sponsor?

An individual or organization who makes a monetary donation to pay for event expenses. Before you seek an event sponsor, you will first need to set a budget so that you know how much funding you need.

What is an in-kind donor?

An individual or organization who will donate or offer a discount on the supplies and/or services you need for your event. This can include performances, food and beverages, and facility rental fees.

Finding event sponsors and in-kind donors for your event will result in even more financial support for Free Arts MN and the children we serve!

Contributions of money, goods, and services for fundraisers to benefit Free Arts MN are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Free Arts MN will provide a written acknowledgment of any gift for tax reporting purposes.

What kind of event should I have?

That is entirely up to you! Do you have to have a formal or informal event? Will you invite only people you know, or will it be open to the public? The following pages contain examples of events, and the Questions to Consider section of this Guide can help you plan your event. In addition, you may contact the Free Arts MN office to discuss your ideas.

My child is interested in raising funds for Free Arts MN. Can he/she do that?

Yes! Supporters of all ages have had successful fundraisers.

Ideas for Fundraisers

Host a Party with a Purpose

Gather your friends and family for a party like you might normally do – the only difference is that it benefits Free Arts MN! Let your guests know that you will provide the refreshments and you only ask that they consider donating to Free Arts MN.

Host a Cocktail Reception

This is much like the Party with a Purpose, but a shorter event with a brief presentation about Free Arts MN. The event can be private/by invitation only or open to the public, and at a home or a restaurant, etc.

Host an Event at Your Place of Worship

Arrange for your faith community to invite a Free Arts MN representative to speak at services and/or host a "Sponsorship Sunday" to connect community members to the children of Free Arts MN through a sponsorship drive. Sponsoring a child is a powerful way for families and individuals to make a lasting impact on the children's lives.

Host a Benefit Concert

Do you know a musician or band? Ask that he/she/they give a performance to benefit Free Arts MN. Besides selling tickets and seeking event sponsors, sell ad space in a printed program.

Host an Active Event

Do you like to exercise? Put together a fun walk, bike race, basketball tournament, triathlon, golf event, or any other active event. Besides charging an entry fee and seeking event sponsors, sell ad space along the course and/or in a printed program.

Host Your Own Online Donation Page

You can start your own fundraising page through the online site, Razoo. All it takes is the name of our nonprofit and a title for your fundraising page. You can add a personal story and photographs, track donations raised, share out through social media and fundraise with a team. Visit, https://www.givemn.org/organization/Free-Arts to get started.

Ideas for Kids' Fundraisers

Children may find it very rewarding to help other children who are less fortunate. By having a fundraiser, they can raise money for monthly child sponsorship contributions, general donations, and/or special projects. The following are ideas of fundraisers that can be both fun and successful:

Art Show

Encourage children/students to submit works of art and host an art show to sell the art to benefit Free Arts MN. Invite parents and friends to come to the show.

Bake Sale

Sell donated cookies, cakes, etc. at a special event, or coffee, juice, donuts, and/or bagels at a school meeting or following a church service.

Car Wash/Dog Wash

Charge a fee or request a donation.

Chores

Do chores, such as mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, or walking a dog, with the fees collected going to Free Arts MN.

Cookbook Sale

Collect favorite family recipes to produce and sell a cookbook.

Craft Sale

Make/decorate gifts, cards, holiday wreaths, etc. to sell.

Garage/Yard Sale

Do one on your own, or organize a multiple family sale.

Honor Gifts

Ask for monetary donations to Free Arts MN instead of birthday, graduation, or other special events gifts for yourself.

Music Recital

Charge admission and/or use a jar or bowl for donations.