
Community Archives - Turner Center for the Arts Collection

CA/007-02-bx001-f001

1963

Turner Center Box 1, Folder 1 1963

Turner Center for the Arts

For this and additional works see: [Vtext - Scholarly Texts and Research at Valdosta State University](#)

UUID: 9CFC1FF7-7773-4899-81B5-6172221C79F9

Recommended Citation:

Turner Center for the Arts. "Turner Center Box 1, Folder 1 1963." *Turner Center for the Arts Scrapbook Collection*, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Valdosta, Georgia. <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7116>

This item is part of the *Community Archives: Turner Center for the Arts Scrapbook Collection* at Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Physical and intellectual rights are reserved by the Turner Center. Physical materials were loaned to Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections for the purposes of digital preservation. The digital items here are part of an online collection only. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu

6 The Bascom
323 Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741

1165
1165
Promotional Publication

Priority
ComBa
02 1P \$0
0003124210 MA
MAILED FROM ZIP C

Betsy and Wright Turner
2408 South forty Road
Valdosta, GA
31602





Arts Inc. Presents

A PIONEER PUBLIC SCHOOL OF THE FINE ARTS

In the American Tradition

Presently housed, through the cooperation of the Valdosta Board of Education, at 412 West Central Avenue in a building originally constructed by the government as U.S.O. headquarters during World War II; then used as a school until September 1963.





"If we are dull towards all the riches life offers, it is education which did not develop in us the sensitivity and responsiveness which is essential for its appreciation."*

For the last three years Arts, Inc. has been laying the foundation for a pioneer public school of the Fine Arts, to be open every week-day afternoon and all day Saturday for eleven months of the year.* The plan centers around the idea of supplementing the Arts training in the public schools and an affiliation with the school system.

Instructors in the various areas of learning offered under the program are doctoral students from Florida State University (the only Fine Arts graduate school in the area), and assistants, where possible, from Valdosta State College. This will assure Valdosta of a program on the highest possible teaching level at a minimum of cost, and will give financial assistance to the student instructors.

Arts, Inc. is a non-profit organization created to develop an Arts program in Valdosta. It is empowered to receive funds from all possible sources to achieve its purpose.

The support which Arts, Inc. seeks should be given as a matter of personal and community pride.

ALSTON GLENN

President

* Creative and Mental Growth: Lowenfield

* There are part time instructors, two days a week, at present.



Quarter - Size Musicians
Play Quarter - Size Violins

MUSIC

STRINGS

One of the greatest musical needs in our country today is for string players which form the backbone of our country's orchestras. There are not enough string programs in schools and communities to fill this need.

This program is our answer to this need. It began in September of 1960 when a doctoral student from Florida State University's School of Music was asked to teach, one day a week, eight students who had beginning string scholarships. Because it was possible to teach in groups, the number was increased. In 1961, the city and county agreed to pay \$8,000* for four instructors (doctoral students from F.S.U.) and the string program then increased to sixty-five students. Money for the purchase of violins, violas, cellos, and bass violins was collected privately and the instruments loaned to the students. The quartets, ensembles, and string orchestra which have been developed from this teaching program are outstanding musical groups, and there are many very promising young students. They have a chance to play regularly in public.

This string program is unique. The latest and most efficient teaching methods are utilized, resulting in time saved by the student in learning. Students proceed at their own level of speed, advancing according to their individual capacity.

Students and interested people of the community have an opportunity to hear chamber music artists from the nearby School of Music which adds to their learning experience and listening pleasure.

One of our highest aims is to place beautiful music where it belongs—in the American home.

*\$4,500 from the city is the present allocation. A controversy over the sum provided by the county resulted in its withdrawal.



VOICE: Group and private lessons: primarily for teen-agers

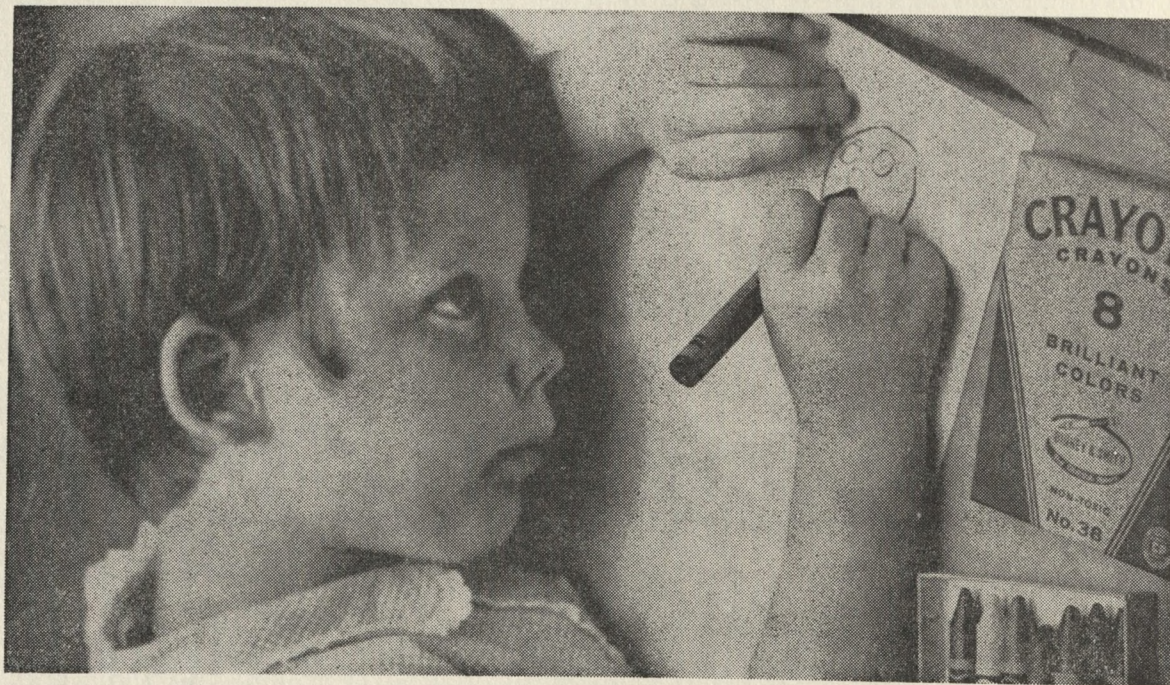
To enrich this program The Valdosta Opera Guild, Inc. (which is now a member of the National Opera Association), was formed in 1963 with a four-fold purpose:

1. to promote instruction in voice
2. to sponsor an opera workshop and one opera a year, using local singers.
3. to sponsor an opera a year presented by the Florida State Opera Company.
4. a scholarship award.

Plans for Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" are under way for the local production in the fall, with many talented local singers taking part.

The following operas were presented here by the Florida State Opera Company during the past years: Verdi's "La Traviata," Puccini's "Tosca," Puccini's "Madame Butterfly, and Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," Carlisle Floyd's "Susannah". The opera for the coming season will be Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci."

PIANO: The Valdosta Youth Center piano scholarship program, developed in 1959, and taught by a graduate student majoring in piano from the Florida State University School of Music, is now a part of the music program, but financed independently. Both group and private lessons are taught.





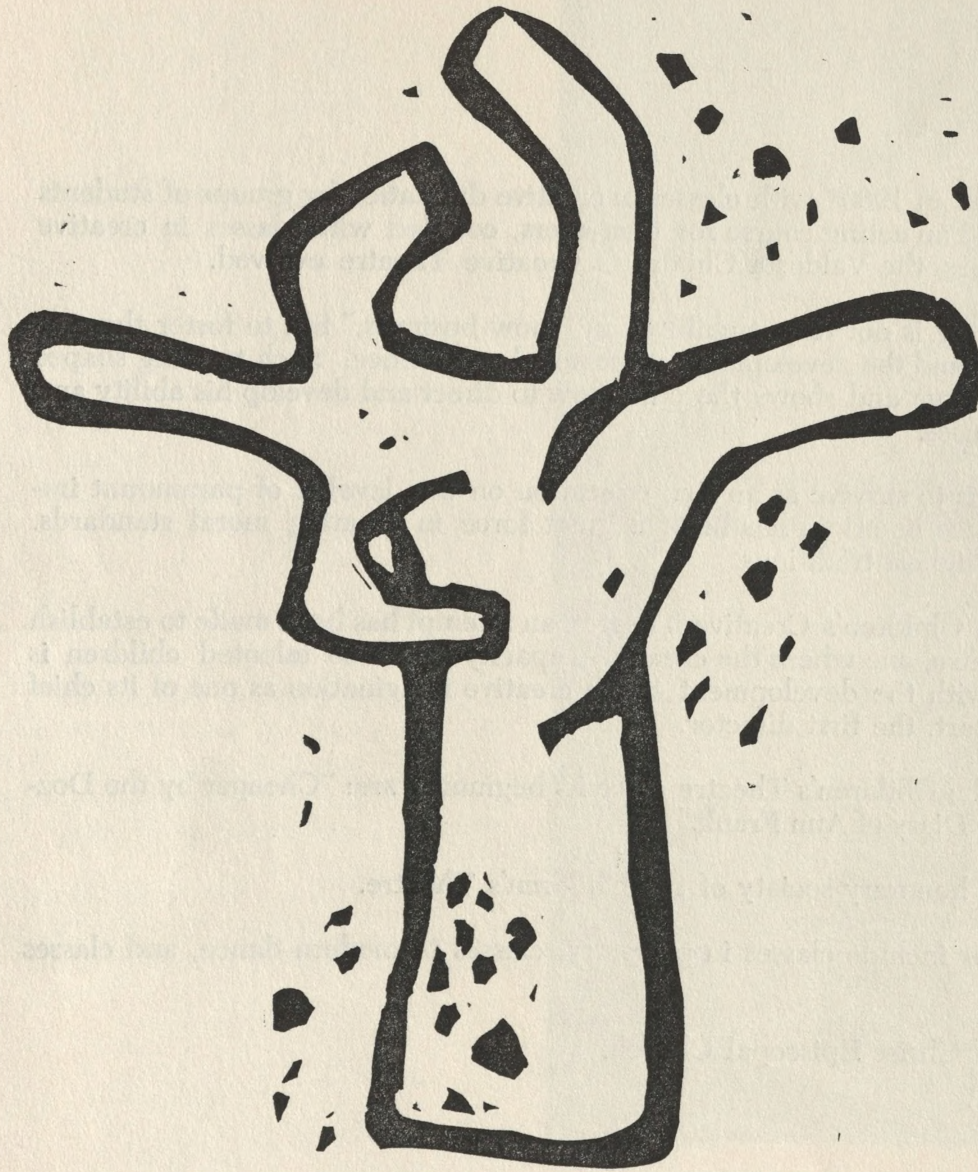
ART

Group instruction in drawing, painting, sculpture, as well as in the fundamentals of art (color, composition, and design), and the use of the various media (oils, watercolors, charcoal), is available to an unlimited number of children. Advanced work is determined by the skills of the students.

The philosophic cornerstone of Art Education is the belief in education "through" art, rather than merely education in art. This idea has been so thoroughly absorbed into the elementary school programs that its fundamental validity has long since ceased to be questioned and the basic tenets of art education have been fulfilled in elementary schools as nowhere else in the entire educational system. However, the status of the arts seems to be deteriorating under outside pressures, and the future offers no guarantee of immanent improvement unless preventive measures are undertaken without delay.

Our objective is the promotion of education through the arts. We wish to strengthen the child's perceptual acuity, his aesthetic sensibilities, his creative energies, and his expressive capacities through their unique merger in that which we call the art experience. The art experience can be assumed to have importance and value beyond that of the production of an art product; these qualities are the primary, but not the exclusive, concern of our school.

It is our responsibility to promote excellence in art activity by whatever means are available or appropriate, to encourage the broadest possible utilization of education through the arts, and to defend the integrity of art against encroachment from whatever source.



For one reason or another many gifted children with high creative potential are not receiving training. One of the greatest men of the past, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, tells us that a man should study to develop all that is in him, and should spare no pains to discover his true vocation.

It is our responsibility to provide the educational background necessary for the children of our community to find themselves, and to assure their mental and emotional growth. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in an article in the October, 1962 issue of *Opera News*, entitled "Financing the Arts," says: "The American artistic scene has lately come alive and today is as vital and vibrant as our nation itself. The people want art, and are seeking it in a characteristically American way. They are taking such facilities as exist, working hard to improve them, and meanwhile enjoying themselves enormously. Today creative fulfillment is as important to man's well-being and happiness as his need for better physical health was fifty years ago. The Arts should be a new community responsibility. They should be placed alongside our already accepted responsibilities for health, welfare, and education. This new responsibility should be accepted as a responsibility by the whole community and all its elements—the individual citizen, business, foundations, and government—and one that is properly to be shared by all of them."

Valdosta is the metropolis of this area and it is to this city that the small, surrounding communities look for leadership. It is our duty as patriots to uphold the highest standards in our culture.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of ARTS, INC.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1963

Dear Mrs. Mixson:

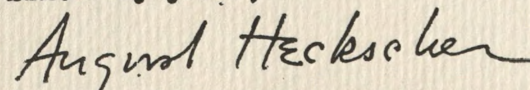
Miss Baldrige has passed on to me your very interesting letter to Mrs. Kennedy describing the program of Arts Incorporated to develop greater opportunities in the creative arts in Valdosta.

Your basic concept seems to me both realistic and imaginative, and could serve as a pioneering model for communities throughout the country. The importance of providing opportunities for appreciation and training in the creative arts to school children as part of their educational background should be given much more attention. The cultivation of cultural values and individual creative talent is an area we cannot afford to neglect.

I was interested also to note your appreciation of the essential importance of active local leadership and support. The role of the Federal and State Governments can only be indirect and marginal at best. The character of the cultural life of a community will be in direct proportion to the active response and initiative of its citizens. It seems to me that the most constructive and fruitful approach is some form of collaboration on the part of both private and public groups along the lines you envisage. I do hope your program obtains the full support its purposes so well deserve.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



August Heckscher
Special Consultant on the Arts

Mrs. Katherine O. Mixson
Valdosta-Lowndes County Planning Commission
Post Office Box 102
Valdosta, Georgia

Brochure designed by Cleon Phillips

Photographs by Robert Winter, III

