

Art and Culture: Definitions and Key Questions

Look up the meaning of these words and write your own definitions. Follow your interests and reputable sources to learn more about a variety of arts in your community.

art: a form of communication shaped by the materials and presentation as well as the viewers' perceptions

artist: a person who practices the arts; someone who uses skill to create meaning through a craft such as painting, performing (song, dance, theater), writing, and sculpting

culture: the customs, art, food, and practices of a specific people, social group, or nation; the collective arts and intellectual achievements of a people or time period

funding: money provided for a purpose, which may come from philanthropy, government, or private persons; funding for arts programs allows people to develop their craft and build important life skills

Expression is an attempt to translate ideas through a means of communication, which may be verbal or nonverbal.

Public art is art that is in a public space, which may include historic statues, murals, memorials, artistic performances, community art, and landscape architecture.

Key Questions

1. What is one form of art you have participated in? How would you describe it to other people to encourage them to either view or participate in the art? Maybe your words could invite someone to donate to an organization so youth can participate in the art form.
2. How can art play a role in social change? When did a poem, image, or artistic experience cause you to think differently? Describe how you might use an art form to persuade.
3. Tell a story about a time a piece of artwork impacted you. What emotions did you feel? Why did this piece of artwork have an impact on you?
4. In what area do you see a need for growth related to arts in your community?
5. Why is publicly available art important to American society? Who should pay for public statues, museums, and instructional programs? Why?
6. How do people celebrate and express their heritage and family culture through the arts? Where and in what format have you learned about others through art?

