



We're getting loud and proud with a National Art Show! This initiative is a great way to engage your community, highlight how your little ones are learning and growing, and join the birthday fun.

This toolkit has materials to help you create fantastic art projects with your little artists, secure a venue to display the art pieces, and engage your community to give their support.

Who can use this toolkit?

- [Head Start's 60th birthday](#) ambassadors. If you don't have one, nominate one [here](#).
- Site supervisors
- Program directors
- Classroom leaders

Why should you participate in Head Start's National Art Show?

Head Start's National Art Show is a great opportunity to:

- Showcase the presence of Head Start across the country and its importance to communities big and small
- Demonstrate what little artists are learning and how they're growing through standard-based art activities
- Deepen local connections and build new community relationships
- Foster program and community pride

What's the timing for Head Start's National Art Show?

We encourage art show exhibits to be held in Fall 2025 in alignment with [Head Start Awareness Month](#).

Let's create!



This [presentation](#) and this [intro video](#) provides step-by-step instructions with pictures to help you and your little artists create fantastic works of art. The required materials are easily accessible, such as cardboard, paint, collage materials, and every day early education art materials.

Let's showcase!

Connecting with local agencies, businesses, and politicians to showcase artwork made by Head Start preschoolers is a wonderful way to highlight the creativity and voices of young children while fostering community engagement.

Here's a step-by-step plan:

1. Identify Partners

- **Local Agencies:** Research organizations that support children, families, or education, such as libraries, community centers, and nonprofits.
- **Businesses:** Target those with a family-friendly reputation, such as coffee shops, bookstores, or local banks, where art can be displayed prominently.
- **Politicians:** Focus on city council members, state representatives, or other decision makers with an interest in education, early childhood development, or community initiatives.

2. Develop a Clear Pitch

- **Message:** Highlight the purpose of sharing the art (e.g., showcasing children's creativity, celebrating the local Head Start program, or raising awareness about accessible early education).
- **Impact:** Emphasize how the collaboration benefits the community (e.g., fostering civic pride, supporting early education programs, or creating child-friendly public spaces).
- **Ask:** Be specific about what you're requesting (e.g., hosting an exhibit, sponsoring an event, or attending a showcase).

3. Create a Showcase Plan

- Organize an **exhibit** in a central, high-traffic location such as a community hall, library, or local business lobby.
- Arrange for **temporary displays** in partner locations (e.g., rotating exhibits in local cafes).
- Consider hosting an **event**, like a reception or open house, where children and families can meet community leaders and celebrate their work.

4. Use Multiple Outreach Methods

- **Letters and Emails:** Send personalized invitations explaining the project, including pictures or examples of the artwork. See sample letters below.
- **In-Person Visits:** Arrange meetings with local officials, business owners, policymakers, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary and Kiwanis groups, and agency leaders to discuss the project.
- **Social Media** Share information, photos, and videos about the art show on your social media channels with a hashtag.
- **News Outlets:** Reach out to local producers and writers as well as news or weather anchors, as they might be willing to do a quick soundbite. Equip them with pre-written content and visuals.

5. Engage the Community

- **Invite Politicians:** Ask them to attend the exhibit or event as guest speakers to show their support for early childhood education and the community.
- **Business Partnerships:** Offer businesses the chance to sponsor the display or event in exchange for recognition.
- **Agency Collaboration:** Partner with local and/or county partner agencies to create educational materials or community discussions inspired by the artwork.

6. Follow up and Sustain Relationships

- Send **thank-you notes** to participants and partners. See sample letters below.
- Share outcomes with stakeholders, such as photos, testimonials, or press coverage, to show the project's impact. Don't forget to [let NHSA know](#) how your event went!
- Build on the success by planning similar initiatives, making it an annual event or ongoing partnership.

Sample Letters

Event Space Request

Subject: Venue Request for 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show – [Date]

Dear [Name of Contact Person/Community Center],

I hope you're doing well! My name is [Your Name], and I'm reaching out on behalf of [Your Organization] to request the use of [Community Space] from [Start date] to [End date]. Depending on the [Community Space]'s availability, we would like to have an opening reception on [Date] at [Time].

Event Details:

Title: 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show

Type: Head Start Children's Art Exhibit

Description: This exhibit is part of the nationwide celebration of [Head Start's 60th anniversary](#), highlighting its lasting impact on our community through creativity and expression.

Expected Attendance: [Number]

Venue Needs: [List any specific needs, e.g., tables, chairs, a projector, and access to the kitchen for refreshments.]

This event will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the impact of Head Start in [Town/City/State] while bringing our community together through art and creativity. We believe [Community Space] would be a perfect setting for this special occasion.

Please let us know if the space is available or if you need any additional information. We truly appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your response.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Organization Name]

[Contact Information]

Event Invitation

Subject: You're Invited! 🎨 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show

Dear **[Recipient's Name]**,

We're thrilled to invite you to the 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show, a special community children's art exhibit in **[Town/City Name]**! Join us as we celebrate Head Start's lasting impact on our community through creativity and expression.



Date: **[Date]**



Time: **[Start Time]** – **[End Time]**



Location: **[Location]**

[Optional: Enjoy live music, a special raffle, and more!]

We'd love for you to be part of this inspiring event! Please RSVP by **[RSVP Date]** at **[RSVP Method]**.
Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Organization]

[Contact Information]

Media Invitation

Subject: Invitation to Cover 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show on [Date]

Dear [Journalist's Name],

We are pleased to invite you to attend and cover 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show, a special community children's art exhibit by [Your Program] on [Date] at [Venue name and address]. Join us as we celebrate Head Start's lasting impact on our community through creativity and expression. In [Insert name of community], Head Start provides [List Head Start's value and contribution to the community].

This event will bring together [mention key speakers, notable guests, and/or key community partners], offering an excellent opportunity for media coverage.

Date: [Date]

Time: [Start Time] – [End Time]

Location: [Venue name and address]

Speakers/Guests: [List key participants]

Media representatives will have access to:

- Exclusive interviews with [Your organization's leaders and/or additional notable guests]
- Photo and video opportunities

Please RSVP by [RSVP Date] at [RSVP Method].

For further details or special interview requests, please contact:

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Organization Name]

Thank You Letter

Subject: Thank You for Celebrating With Us!

Dear [Recipient's Name],

We are truly grateful for your presence at the 60 Years of Results: A National Head Start Art Show on [Date]. Your participation made the event even more special, and we appreciate you taking the time to celebrate with us. We hope you enjoyed witnessing the incredible talent and creativity of our children, as well as the lasting impact Head Start has had on generations of families. Your support means the world to us!

With heartfelt thanks,

[Name]

[Organization]