



What's Happen'N Art Movement

**Welcome to the August 2024 Newsletter**

**Current Gallery Exhibit  
August 2 - August 30**



## **THE ART OF HEALING**

*An uplifting exhibit that delves into the healing connections  
between mental health and creativity.*

**Open to the Public • Free Admission • Tues - Sat • Hours 10am - 4pm**

**The exhibit opens on August 2nd and on Saturday, August 3rd,  
the Artists reception and awards will take place from 4 to 6pm**



## Open Mic

In alignment with the Main Galley's theme, there will be a special Open Mic featuring Artist and Poet Sharee Sheets. All poets, artists, friends and members are welcome as we celebrate how art, in any form, is a conduit to connection. The special Open Mic on Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:00 p.m. As always, chocolate will be involved.

## AUGUST CLASSES AT A GLANCE

**Upcoming Classes You Want to Make Sure You Let Your Family and Friends Know are Available. There's even more information on [www.WHAM-art-org](http://www.WHAM-art-org)**



WVAC's Creative Aging Program in Partnership with

WHAM presents:

**CREATE & RELATE  
FREE ART CLASSES  
FOR SENIORS**



Learn A Variety of Art Techniques

August 6, 7, 13, 14, 23, 24, 27, 28

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Limited Space for 12 Students

First Come, First Serve

Call 623-584-8311 to reserve a seat  
in this series of 8 classes.



16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ 85378



**TeenWHAM Art Class**

**August 7th**

**4:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Finding the Artist Within**

**August 29th**

**10:00am-11:30am**



## Beginners Fused Glass Wreaths

August 10th  
1:00pm-4:00pm



## Open Mic at WHAM Poetry, Stories, Songs & Community

August 16th  
6:30-8:00pm



## Beginning Wheel Throwing - Cylinders

August 20th  
6:00pm-8:30pm



## Vets Program "A Path to Healing"

Surprise Vets - August 12th  
Peoria Vets - August 22nd  
10:00am-2:00pm







## Acrylic Painting - How To Paint a Beach Scene by Tami Sausser

August 29th  
6:00pm-8:00pm

# Look at What WHAM Did with Teens this Summer

## Teen Summer Camp-Oil Pastel Resist Water Lilies

On July 23rd, five teens attended and used oil pastels under watercolor for a resist method. The theme was Monet's Water Lilies. They learned about Impressionism and composition while they used Monet's style as inspiration for the piece. We also used a splatter method with toothbrushes to add the indication of sparkling highlights on the water. One student did decide to do the extra step in gluing on glitter foam pieces to create a 3D element to the piece.











## **IN HONOR of VICKI HUNT, A GREAT FRIEND OF WHAM**

Vicki Hunt, a prominent Peoria figure and a member of the WHAM Board of Directors, passed away on July 25th.

A native Arizonan, Vicki contributed to the public good for over four decades. A High School English Teacher, a business owner, sixteen years as a Peoria city council member and more recently creating "Story Bridges" an oral history project interviewing longtime residents and preserving stories of Peoria's unique past.

This past Spring, Vicki was awarded the Peoria Independent Hometown Hero for lifetime achievement. In her comments to the attendees at the award ceremony, Vicki conveyed the belief that in our limited time on this earth, we must strive to live this precious life in the best way possible. Vicki told us "Make the place, large or small, around you, better because you were here."

Vicki proudly served on the WHAM Art Association's Board of Directors. Her unique perspective and connections have helped the organization grow. As a member of WHAM, Vick often entered her artwork in the gallery exhibits. She was a strong advocate of the arts, often helping out with various projects. She lit the room up with her smile and willingness to help. Her light will continue to shine for us as we are all better people for having had this wonderful lady in our circle of friends.





# Celebrating

## THE LIFE OF **Vicki Hunt**



*Thursday, August 22nd @ 2pm*

**Worship & Word Church**

8175 W. Grand Avenue

Peoria, AZ. 85374



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### **WHAM in the NEWS!**

WHAM Continues to Get the Attention of the Press. Here's an article that features Connie Whitlock. It's worth a read to know the history of WHAM and why Connie appreciates you so much. Hidden Gems: Meet Connie Whitlock of WHAM Art Association.





Today, we'd like to introduce you to Connie Whitlock.

Hi Connie, we'd love for you to start by introducing yourself.

I am an artist with a passion for clay. Inspiration for my work comes from an inner philosophy that 'Life is good—be happy!' I am a Surprise, AZ, clay and mural artist with 21 years of experience creating, teaching, and promoting art.

Being raised on a farm in the Midwest gave me the basic love of working with my hands and creating something from the earth, which later became a source for my work in both content and subject. Natural forms of nature often become the "voices" and emotions of essential events and have become part of a personal visual dialogue expressing pleasure, peace, love, nature's simplicity, and joy in my work.

I've been an entrepreneur most of my life, owning a bar/restaurant, a cheese distributor, a sporting goods store, and an aerospace General Manager. Over the past 19 years, I grew our company's revenues from 350K to 18M, then moved to Arizona with my husband to retire. Retirement was in the cards.

In 2006, I founded the WHAM Art Association, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 art organization dedicated to promoting art through art shows, exhibits, classes, events, and public art. My vision was to create a place for everyone to engage in the arts throughout the West Valley.

WHAM opened an 8,500 sq. ft. community art center in January 2012, located in Surprise. It has since grown to 250 members with talents in all visual art mediums. My long-standing passion is to create opportunities to support, educate, and enrich communities through the arts in a forward-moving, diverse, yet inclusive manner.

Beyond creating and selling artworks, my passion for advocating the arts is evident in my participation in city government and community meetings, collaboration with private businesses and events, and shaping ways to evaluate the impact of the arts on our community's economic progress and individual character/happiness.

I firmly believe in the transformative power of art to inspire, heal, and bring hope to our communities.

WHAM provides art experiences to 11 of the West Valley Cities to supplement their arts departments.

We all face challenges, but looking back, would you describe it as a relatively smooth road?

One of the biggest challenges in running a non-profit is keeping the revenues coming in and balancing the expenses. Some of those challenges deal with the flow of volunteers and a proportionate paid employee basis.



WHAM has 14 managers of different programs that we provide to the communities. The other Challenge is growing and having enough space for our current classes and events. We are in an 8500 square foot building and busing at the seams. The Obstacle is money to afford more space by building on.

As you know, we're big fans of the WHAM Art Association. What can you tell our readers who might not be as familiar with the brand?

As the executive director, I manage the company overall.

WHAM has 14 managers of different programs that we provide to the public. I network with City Governments, explaining the benefits of our services in the ARTS. With the input of my managers, I determine our current and future needs.

Let's talk about our city – what do you love? What do you not love? I love working with the staff who provide the inner workings of WHAM, such as classes, programs, events, and individual needs of the community.

Seeing people smile and enjoy learning and engaging in the art techniques they have understood is what we are all about. ART is for ALL, and WHAM is Inclusive, not Exclusive.

My Dislikes are all the paperwork to keep our business updated and legal.



Image Credits:  
Connie Whitlock, Executive Director Image of WHAM Building Image of Cindy Chamber, Adaptive Program Manager

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## Want to become a WHAM member?

**Here are the amazing benefits!**

- **Discount on Art Classes**
- **Classroom Rental Discount (art instruction/class use)**
- **Art Clubs & Special Events (art collaboration)**
- **Member Meetings Quarterly**



• Ability to hang your artwork at no cost to you unless it sells then you pay 25% fee

• Usage of WHAM building during open hours with approval

• Access to an Artist community to share ideas

• Ability to sell artwork in the Gift Shop at no cost to you unless it sells, then you donate 25% back to WHAM

• Ability to Enter into WHAM Exhibits, Events and Art Fairs

• Opportunities to give back to the community with your volunteer hours for classes and events!

• More fun than a barrel of monkeys!

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ARTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY

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**WHAM** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing art education for the local community with the intent of enhancing artistic talents.

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