

20 COMMUNITY SERVICE ART IDEAS

Below are some ideas for community service art projects your NAHS/NJAHS chapter can organize! Check out the recent issues of [NAHS News](#) for more ideas and inspiration. Submit reports and pictures throughout the year to share what your chapter has accomplished! Remember to consider the needs and preferences of your local community when choosing which projects to pursue. Also, make sure to obtain any necessary permissions and collaborate with relevant community stakeholders to ensure the success of your projects.

CONNECTING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- 1. Art for Animal Shelters:** Create portraits of animals at your local animal shelter. Share the images to spread awareness and promote adoption. Consider creating animal toys and collecting necessary items to donate.
- 2. Art for Health Care Facilities:** Create cheerful artwork for hospitals, clinics, or hospice centers to comfort patients and their families. Look at [Youth Art for Healing](#) for ideas, resources, and inspiration.
- 3. Art for Senior Centers:** Interview and create personalized artwork for residents of local senior centers to brighten their living spaces and share their stories.
- 4. Community Storytelling:** Illustrate stories from local history and display them at your community library. Consider highlighting the lesser-known stories and heroes from your community that deserve more attention and recognition.



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:

- 5. Art Buddies:** Partner with elementary schools to provide young students one-on-one art lessons, mentoring, and guidance.
- 6. Art Workshops:** Organize workshops or camps at local community centers that encourage creativity and promote the value of the arts. Use this as an opportunity to practice and develop member skills as an art educator by creating lesson plans.
- 7. Capture Memorable Events:** Volunteer to craft photo backdrops for school dances or events. By doing so, you enhance the event experience, promote the arts, and create lasting shared memories, all while showcasing your chapter's creativity.
- 8. Free Face Painting:** Offer complimentary face painting services at local community events, charities, or fund-raisers. Celebrate creativity while building connections, spreading joy, and cultivating a shared experience with attendees.
- 9. Public Art Tours:** Create a map featuring art installations and points of interest in the local area. Organize guided public art tours in the community, educating participants about local artworks and the importance of public art.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

10. **Art Supplies Drive:** Organize a drive to collect art supplies for underserved schools or community centers. Consider hosting an art supply swap where students and community members exchange materials.
11. **Blanket Making:** Create and donate blankets to hospitals, shelters, or disaster relief organizations. Look into [Project Linus](#) for ideas, resources, and inspiration.
12. **Cards for Children's Hospital:** Create personalized cards, stuffed animals, or other art to donate to children at your local hospital. Look into [Arts for Little Hearts](#) for ideas, resources, and inspiration.
13. **Community Cookbook:** Illustrate a community cookbook featuring family recipes and stories from your NAHS/NJHS members. Host a potluck with items featured in the cookbook or give away copies of the cookbook in exchange for donations to your local food bank.
14. **Chairs for Charity:** Restore and paint old wooden chairs and other furniture. Organize a silent art auction where proceeds go to a chosen local charity. Collect and donate gently used furniture and other household items to local organizations providing shelter to refugees and asylum seekers. Look into [Homes Not Borders](#) for ideas, resources, and inspiration.
15. **Empty Bowls:** Organize an [Empty Bowls](#) event in your community. This concept originated with art teacher John Hartom and his high school students, who created handcrafted ceramic bowls symbolizing the empty bowls in need of food. These unique bowls are showcased at a fund-raising event, where attendees buy tickets for a meal of soup and bread served in these bowls. Donate the proceeds from the event to local food banks and hunger-relief organizations.



PUBLIC ART AND SPACES:

16. **Beautify Spaces:** Coordinate efforts to clean up and beautify public spaces in the community. Organize a project to clean up and refresh existing street art or murals in collaboration with local authorities.
17. **Community Garden Art:** Design and create art installations within community gardens to beautify the space. Consider glazing outdoor tiles, painting a rock garden, or constructing benches and signs.
18. **Mural Painting:** Collaborate on creating colorful murals in public spaces like schools, community centers, or parks.
19. **Environmental Awareness:** Use recyclable materials to create art installations or projects that raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainability. Look into the [Washed Ashore project](#) for resources, ideas, and inspiration.
20. **Spreading Positivity:** Create a culture of positivity by painting uplifting messages and quotes throughout your school. Consider painting beyond walls and writing these positive messages on bathroom stalls, mirrors, trash cans, and more.