



WHO WE ARE AND WHY *Unified Arts* MATTERS

Special Olympics Arizona is a **social change** organization that utilizes sports and Unified programs as a catalyst for social change. Our vision is to expand the opportunities for social change by increasing access to the arts, building new audiences, and showcasing the many talents of our Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners through Art. The goal of Unified Arts is to **empower people of all ages**, with and without intellectual disabilities, to develop their creative and artistic skills while forming lifelong friendships with their local community. Unified Arts with Special Olympics Arizona is different from every other free art program in the state as it is housed both within schools and in communities and is **open to all ages, all abilities, and all levels of art knowledge!**

COMMUNITY-BASED *Unified Arts* PROGRAMS

Did you know that 88% of people with intellectual disabilities stated they would be “very likely” or “likely” to be more involved in the arts if barriers like transportation, costs, and access were removed¹. Special Olympics Arizona sees the need and is focused



on **breaking down barriers** and maximizing opportunities for our Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners to join the art community. Through weekly, facilitated art classes, Special Olympics Arizona can encourage people of all ages, with and without intellectual disabilities, to flourish in their creative abilities by engaging in thoughtful, inventive and enjoyable projects. These **inclusive community-based art classes** will encourage teamwork and equal collaboration to make beautiful pieces of work for a nominal fee for an inclusive 6-week arts program!



SCHOOL-BASED *Unified Arts* PROGRAMS

Through Unified Clubs and inclusive youth leadership on campus, students with and without intellectual disabilities are encouraged to raise awareness on inclusion and respect while building new friendships through the arts! With **Unified Music**, you can get engaged with the launch of our **Ukulele Curriculum!** Your school can receive ukuleles, tuners, and a curriculum that incorporates learning for people of all abilities and is based on an adaptive approach with colored strings from KORGE! If music isn't your thing, your

school can also receive a **free Unified Club Kit** with tons of fun Unified Arts resources to help get your Unified Arts Program started! Unified Arts projects are youth-led and implemented through Unified Clubs on campus at **NO COST** to your students! We recommend that each participating school gets engaged with 8 to 10 activities and/or contests per school year – get inspired by reading some ideas below!

WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT *Unified Arts* ACTIVITIES

- Make a Unified Artwork using only recyclable materials found on campus
- Create a school chant/cheer unique to your school. See what Raymond S. Kellis did with their Cougarlude for inspiration! <https://youtu.be/fyyw4uKv6BE>
- Paint a mural displaying what Unified means on your campus (but get permission first!)
- Have students design a postcard and write to your representatives about the importance of art education
- Take over the snack bar during game day to fundraise for your Unified Club & Unified Arts projects!
- Have a Unified Hat Day – wear a #PlayUnified sticker (from your Unified Club Kit) on your hat and be able to wear your hat all day on campus!



SCHOOL-BASED *Unified Arts* CONTESTS

1. **September 2017** - #PlayUnified Artwork - Your opportunity to create any type of art project your group would like and stick around the theme of #PlayUnified (the campaign for Special Olympics Arizona) or #ChooseToInclude (the theme for the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics!)
2. **October 2017** - Health is important to our athletes and partners so create a piece of inclusive artwork that displays why #InclusiveHealth matters for athletes and partners to compete at the best of their ability. We just might display this artwork at a Healthy Athletes screening for thousands to see!!
3. **November 2017** - Share the Impact! [Email us \(UnifiedClubs@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org\)](mailto:UnifiedClubs@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org) your best story in 500 words or less (with a photo or video) that shows the impact Unified has on your school!
4. **December 2017** - Celebrate your COOL SCHOOL as it starts to cool off in AZ! Create a school-based Polar Plunge fundraiser with tons of inclusive activities and art projects for people to participate in as they jump into freezing cold water for inclusion!
5. **January 2018** - Unified Arts Summer Games Pin Challenge – Create the design for the first ever Unified Arts pin that everyone can collect and trade at Summer Games!
6. **February 2018** - R-Word Challenge – Help us Spread the Word to End the Word by creating a video to raise awareness for inclusion! You can use any of the cool items from the R-Word kits like the R-Word sticker or R-Word temporary tattoo to get your school involved in making this great pledge!
7. **March 2018** - Funds for Art! Create a school-based FUNdraiser that your Unified Club can host to raise awareness and funds for your Unified Arts initiatives on campus! Get creative with this because maybe you could paint the principal on lunch after receiving a donation for Unified Art!
8. **April 2018** - Create a 1-3 minute Public Service Announcement (PSA) to promote the need for arts education opportunities in schools for youth with and without intellectual disabilities. Share it on your school's website and social media (don't forget to share it with us at [UnifiedClubs@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org!](mailto:UnifiedClubs@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org))
9. **May 2018** - Celebrate the end of the year by holding an awesome Unified Dance Marathon and dancing the stress about finals and graduation away! Students can fundraise for each hour they dance and celebrate unified together and all the money raised can go back to your Unified Arts program for next year! Talk about an awesome way to bring everyone together one last time before summer begins!

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN *Unified Arts*?

- **Unified Music:** Unified Music encompasses multiple ways to be involved in the “music industry” as one can sing, play guitar, piano, recorder, drums, ukulele, and more! This is a great way to open up to learning a new skill and gaining many friends along the way. Anyone interested in a Battle of the Unified Bands next year? WE ARE!
- **Unified Dance:** Unified Dance offers an artistic fun way to exercise and meet new friends. Through the hard work and creative thinking that goes into dance, individuals are approached with a new kind of opportunity to get involved and have fun!
- **Unified Theatre:** Who doesn't love a good comedy or action show? Why not refabricate scenes or plays on a stage with close friends? Unified Theatre allows you to express yourself and participate in thrilling adventures together!
- **Unified Cooking:** Introduces a whole new level of teamwork by creating delicious recipes for all to share. Unified Cooking not only promotes inclusion by working together but also teaches individuals healthy eating habits, nutrition education, and different practical skills in the kitchen that we can all benefit from!
- **Unified Gardening:** All of us think about our health so why not educate each other on ways we can grow healthy foods and help the environment? This is an awesome opportunity for you to learn valuable life skills, learn new healthy recipes from the food you grow, and hear why healthy foods are so important to us!



I WANT TO PARTICIPATE, WHAT DO I DO NOW? Discuss the program with your local community or school, then contact the Special Olympics Arizona's Director of Support Programs to set up a meeting to help get you started!

CONTACT:

Brittany Meola, Director of Support Programs
[e] Brittany@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org
[p] 602.739.0539

Isaac Sanft, Senior Director of Support Programs
[e] Isaac@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org
[p] 602.324.5667