

How to Organise a Successful Art Show and Auction

What is an Art Show and Auction?

An Art Show and Auction is an event where children, teachers, and even local artists create and display their artwork. Attendees can admire the pieces and place bids in an auction, with all proceeds going to support the school. This event not only raises funds but also celebrates creativity and fosters a sense of community.

Step-by-Step Guide to Organising an Art Show and Auction

1. Plan the Event

Start by setting the basic details for your Art Show and Auction:

- **Date and Time:** Choose a date that allows enough time for participants to create their artwork. Evenings or weekends are ideal to encourage family attendance.
- **Venue:** The school hall or a local gallery can serve as a great venue. Ensure there's enough space to display the artwork and accommodate attendees.
- **Theme (Optional):** Consider choosing a theme for the artwork, such as "Nature," "Community," or "Dreams," to inspire creativity.



2. Recruit Artists

Invite children, teachers, and local artists to contribute artwork:

- **Children:** Encourage all children to participate by creating pieces during art class or at home.
- **Teachers:** Ask teachers with artistic skills to contribute a piece or collaborate with their classes.
- **Local Artists:** Reach out to local artists to donate a piece or even hold a workshop with the children to create art specifically for the event.

3. Organise Art Collection

Set a deadline for submitting artwork and organise the collection process:

- **Submission Guidelines:** Provide clear instructions on the size, medium, and theme (if applicable) for the artwork. Specify a deadline for submissions to allow time for display setup.
- **Labelling:** Ensure each piece is clearly labelled with the artist's name, title of the work, and a short description or artist's statement.

4. Promote the Event

Spread the word to ensure a good turnout:

- **School Newsletters:** Announce the event in the school newsletter, highlighting the auction and the types of artwork that will be featured.
- **Social Media:** Create an event page and share teasers of some of the artwork to generate interest.
- **Posters and Invitations:** Display posters around the school and send invitations home with children to inform parents and the community.

5. Set Up the Auction

Decide how the auction will be conducted:

- **Silent Auction:** Attendees write their bids on a sheet next to each piece of art. The highest bid at the end of the event wins.
- **Live Auction:** A live auctioneer (this could be a teacher or a volunteer) takes bids on the most popular pieces, adding excitement to the event.
- **Online Auction (Optional):** For broader participation, consider hosting an online auction for those who cannot attend in person.



6. Prepare the Venue

On the day of the event:

- **Display the Artwork:** Arrange the artwork in an aesthetically pleasing way, using easels, tables, or wall space. Ensure each piece is clearly labelled and well-lit.
- **Auction Setup:** Prepare the auction area with bid sheets for a silent auction or a podium and microphone for a live auction.
- **Refreshments:** Consider offering refreshments like snacks, drinks, or even a bake sale to make the event more enjoyable and raise additional funds.

7. Host the Art Show and Auction

During the event:

- **Welcome Attendees:** Greet guests as they arrive and explain how the auction process will work.
- **Encourage Bidding:** Walk around and engage with attendees, encouraging them to place bids and highlighting the stories behind some of the pieces.
- **Run the Auction:** If hosting a live auction, keep the atmosphere lively and entertaining, encouraging friendly competition among bidders.

8. Announce Winners and Distribute Artwork

At the end of the auction:

- **Tally the Bids:** For a silent auction, collect the bid sheets and announce the winners. For a live auction, distribute the artwork immediately after each winning bid.
- **Thank Participants:** Recognise the artists, bidders, and volunteers for their contributions. Thank everyone for attending and supporting the school.

9. Reflect and Plan for the Future

After the event:

- **Review Feedback:** Gather feedback from attendees, artists, and volunteers on what went well and what could be improved.
- **Plan for Next Time:** Use the insights gained to plan future Art Shows and Auctions that are even more successful.

Tips for Success

- **Involve the Community:** Engage local artists and businesses to donate artwork or sponsor the event, increasing its visibility and appeal.
- **Create a Catalogue:** Consider producing a simple catalogue of the artwork available, with images and descriptions, to help attendees choose which pieces to bid on.
- **Make It Interactive:** Offer activities like live art demonstrations or “create-your-own” art stations for children to keep everyone engaged.

Final Thoughts

An Art Show and Auction is a wonderful way to showcase the creativity within your school while raising funds. By combining art, community, and a bit of friendly competition, you can create a memorable event that supports the school and brings people together.



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