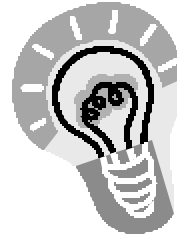




Council for Art Education, Inc.

Sponsor of Youth Art Month

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Recent Ideas That Have Worked

Through the years, state chairpersons, local art teachers and others have developed wonderfully creative ideas to celebrate Youth Art Month and promote quality art education. We share with you just a few of them.

Alabama celebrated with **Chalk It Up Days/Festivals**, with students reproducing famous artwork on their school sidewalks.

Georgia promoted **YAM Facts or Quotes every day in March** on several local television stations.

Indiana held a **“Beautiful Farms of Indiana” Art Contest using soybean crayons**, highlighting an art material made from crops grown in their state.

Louisiana celebrated YAM by **featuring a different artist of the day every day in March** and by having students **paint the great monuments of the world on their school windows**.

Maryland developed a **“Who Wants to be an Artist” contest** based on the theme of the millionaire show that was held each day during the month of March and at the end of the month students with the correct answers received prizes.

Minnesota worked with **Target Corporation to include an article on YAM in their March newsletter, a national publication that is sent to over 107,000 schools across the United States**. Target Corporation has a special **“Take Charge of Education” program**, through which customers with charge accounts can designate a school of their choice to receive a percentage of their purchases. The **article in Target’s March newsletter encouraged all schools to use their March checks to support the arts in their area**.

New Jersey held a **multicultural art night titled “Passport to Art from Around the World”** in which students and their parents took an imaginary tour to Japan, Holland and Mexico and at which **art therapy students performed a play featuring “ventriloquist puppets” they had made using paper mache**

Oklahoma produced and distributed an impressive **“ArtsPower” guide book**, a collaborative effort of the state art education organizations and the business circle of Oklahoma that is comprised of business leaders from small businesses to large corporations across Oklahoma. It features 10 key avenues to improve arts education in your local school. More details can be found at www.artspower.com.

Oregon created **shoebox trunks that students designed in the style of their favorite artist**, while the art educators statewide received a lesson plan incorporating objectives, materials list, procedures, and cross-curricular connections.

Tennessee participated in an **art exchange through Sister Cities International with student artists from Russia**. An art contest was held and winning student art was exchanged between the cities, along with student biographies, pictures and gifts, bringing awareness of the importance of art education to two very diverse areas.

Vermont students created **Temenos Books** (based on the ancient Greek thought, temenos is a magic circle, a sacred protected space where special rules apply and extraordinary events occur), **to express images for global healing, peace and gratitude.**

Washington held a **"eye wear" contest** and **decorated eye glasses and other related art items for display at Frye Art Museum**, a major Seattle-area Museum. The name of the YAM Exhibit was "The Art of Seeing."

Wisconsin students and professionals participated together in an **ice-carving event**, at which they **carved giant masks**.

YAM benefits all: A growing trend in state Youth Art Month programs has been to join with other worthwhile projects for the benefit of all. **Ohio** continues to combine their YAM events with local community assistance program, such as the "Harvest for Hunger" program. **Indiana** continues to combine some of their YAM events with the **"Very Special Arts"** program. A few ideas from previous years include students in **Maryland donating art to assisted living centers**, students in **Oklahoma** painting lunchroom walls with story scenes to encourage younger children to read, and students in **Arizona** beautifying their city during YAM by painting garbage dumpsters. Below are several other project ideas you might want to try:

- **Artists-in-Residence programs:** local artists explain their own artwork and to give lessons to students
- Hold a **bus poster contest** and display student artwork in buses throughout March
- **Student-run craft workshops** at a local shopping mall or library
- **Statewide postcard exchanges** and **Art exchanges** with foreign countries
- **Living art program:** students (or teachers) pose as famous pieces of artwork
- **"Edible Art" projects**, where the food item resembles a period of art, an artist, or a specific work of art
- **Student-designed coloring books**
- **Quilt projects** to benefit those who are less fortunate
- **Student-designed placemats and table tents** that can be used by local restaurants
- **T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, note pads, refrigerator magnets, computer mouse pads, calendars etc.**, decorated with student artwork
- **Honorary chairperson:** Appoint a local celebrity who is supportive of the arts and art education

DOES THE ART MATERIAL LABELING LAW AFFECT YOU?

By Deborah M. Fanning, CAE, Executive Vice President
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Under the Federal Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA), which went into effect on November 18, 1990, every manufacturer, distributor, retailer and some purchasers (schools and teachers) of art materials in the U.S. have a legal responsibility to comply with LHAMA's requirements. And, it affects every user of art materials in that it helps the art materials industry deliver safer products to their customers.....adult artists, hobbyists, and children alike.

What does this law require of manufacturers of art materials?

The law amends the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) to require art and craft materials manufacturers to evaluate their products for their ability to cause chronic illness and to place labels on those that do. FHSA already required manufacturers to evaluate and label for acute hazards. The law enacts ASTM D-4236, a standard for evaluating chronic hazards already in use by 85-90% of the art and craft materials manufacturers before the law went into effect, and provides for enacting any future revisions to the standard. The law requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to develop guidelines for evaluation criteria for toxicologists to use under ASTM D-4236 and to develop and distribute educational information about art materials. The law requires a statement on the label of a product with a chronic hazard potential that the product is inappropriate for use by children and permits CPSC to enjoin the purchase of such an art material for use in grades pre-K through 6. Additionally, CPSC has required that an appropriate telephone number (in most cases, that of the manufacturer) be printed on all products that have a chronic hazard warning and a conformance statement to ASTM D-4236 on all products - non-toxic or toxic. CPSC also requires that products with a chronic hazard meet the same typeface size and placement requirements under FHSA as those required for acute hazard warnings.

What are my liabilities as a distributor or retailer?

Aside from the existing potential liability under the "common law," LHAMA adds specific responsibilities and liabilities under FHSA. If an art or craft material is one that could cause chronic health effects and is not labeled in accordance with LHAMA, the product is a misbranded hazardous substance and, technically, could be seized. In addition, any person, including a retailer, may be charged with a criminal violation, fines and imprisonment for distributing a mislabeled product. Bills have been introduced in Congress to increase these existing penalties and to provide for civil penalties as well as fines. A retailer can be held liable if that retailer sells a product that is not labeled properly by the manufacturer, although the most likely scenario would be enforcement against a non-complying manufacturer first. Every distributor or retailer should buy and sell only product evaluated and labeled as conforming to ASTM D-4236.

What are my responsibilities as a teacher or a purchaser for schools?

LHAMA permits CPSC to enjoin the purchase of any art or craft material with a chronic hazard warning label for use in grades pre-K through 6. These products can be purchased for use in grades 7-12. It may amount to professional malpractice for a teacher or school to ignore these requirements, aside from any civil or other liability concerns. Although the law does not specifically address this point, if an elementary grade teacher purchases such a product for his or her own use on student artwork, the teacher should use the product only after classes are over, should follow the safe use instructions on the label for his or her own safety, and should store the product outside of the classroom.

When did LHAMA take effect?

As of November 18, 1990, all art materials that were entered into commerce were required to be evaluated and labeled according to the law. CPSC then developed toxicological criteria by which products should be evaluated. Currently, all manufacturers are required to have their products evaluated according to these criteria or other criteria, such as those used by ACMI's toxicologist, that have been accepted by CPSC.

Over, please.....

What is required to meet the law?

All art and craft materials must be evaluated by a qualified toxicologist under the provisions of ASTM D-4236. If a product is determined to present no acute or chronic health hazard, there need only be a conformance statement to ASTM D 4236 on the package. If a product is determined to have a hazard associated with its misuse, the package must bear a health warning and safe use instructions and a statement that the product is not appropriate for use by children. The product must also have a conformance statement to D-4236 and an appropriate U.S. telephone number. (This number does not have to be a 24-hour toll-free number and can be the number of the manufacturer or U.S. importer.) The label must also conform to the same typeface size and placement requirements under FHSA as those for acute hazards. CPSC is enforcing LHAMA and is contacting manufacturers, checking product labels in stores and at industry trade shows, and is checking labels of products imported to the U.S.

How can I tell if a product has been evaluated?

Look for the conformance statement to ASTM D-4236, as well as the ACMI Seals. Products in the ACMI certification program bear the CP, AP, CL or HL certification marks as indicated below:



All of these Seals indicate that the product has been evaluated in compliance to ASTM D-4236 and LHAMA. The CP, AP and HL Seals are being phased out with just the new AP and the CL Seals remaining on products produced after 2009.

What is the ACMI Certification Program?

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) conducts a broad-based certification program to evaluate art and craft materials to determine whether they can be certified as non-toxic or must bear appropriate cautionary health and safe use labeling. The CP, AP, and HL (Non-Toxic) Seals identify art materials that are certified in a program of toxicological evaluation by a medical expert to contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans or to cause acute or chronic health hazards. All children's art materials in the ACMI program and 85% of the adult art materials evaluated by ACMI bear these non-toxic Seals. Additionally, products with the CP Seal are certified to meet specific requirements of material, workmanship, working qualities, and color of appropriate quality standards. (ACMI's AP and HL (Non-Toxic) Seals assure safety only.)

The CL and HL (Cautions Required) Seals identify products that are certified to be properly labeled in a program of toxicological evaluation by a medical expert for any known health risks and with information on the safe and proper use of these materials. These Seals appear on only 15% of the adult art materials in the ACMI program and on none of the children's materials.

More than 60,000 art material formulations have currently been evaluated in the ACMI program, and more than 200 manufacturers of art and craft materials participate in ACMI's program.

ACMI publishes a free list of certified products. For further information and a copy of the current list, visit ACMI's website or contact:

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