

Teens get special summer job

Six to explore their interest in art

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The Courier-Journal

Sixteen-year-old Kate Eames was thrilled when she got a telephone call earlier this summer offering her \$5 an hour to work on her drawing and painting.

"I never had a job before," said Eames, a student at New Albany High School. All of a sudden, she added, "you're getting paid to do something you enjoy."

Eames is one of half a dozen teenagers this summer who will get paid for five weeks to work at their art under a new program funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Caesars Foundation of Floyd County.

The program will continue in the fall and beyond, depending upon funding, director Jenny Henneberger said.

It's intended to give 14- to 18-year-olds the chance to explore their interest in art under the tutelage of experienced artists while getting paid for their work.

The program is modeled on one that has operated in Louisville for several years, Mayor James Garner said at a press conference yesterday to introduce the program to the public

Louisville's program is called Studio2000; New Albany's is called Studio2000SI (the "SI" stands for "Southern Indiana").

After learning about the program in Louisville, Garner said he wanted to offer the same opportunity to New Albany's young people.

An organization was formed with Henneberger, an artist and social worker, as the staff, and with a board of directors that includes Garner. In addition to the \$20,000 grant from the Caesars Foundation, Henneberger said she also will be seeking additional funding.

This summer, she said, five students are part of Studio2000SI, and she expects to add one more. In the fall she intends to continue working with those students and may add two more. She wants to control enrollment initially so the students can get all the support they need.

In the next five weeks, she said, the teenagers will work in a studio in the White House Center on Pearl Street. They are working first on a picnic table, covering it with their drawings and paintings. And they also will work on at least two individual paintings on canvas, Henneberger said.

Randy Rayl, an art teacher at Hazelwood Middle School, is working with them, and the summer session will conclude with a display of their work, Henneberger said.

Cory Hodges, 16, a student at New Albany High School, said he has long had an interest in art and was thrilled to learn about Studio2000SI.

He has been thinking about attending an art school after he graduates from high school, and is considering a career in art. His interest is in design, Hodges said, and he's pleased to get a chance to work at his art this summer -- while getting paid for it.

Eames said she realized that she enjoyed art during an eighth grade art class, and she took a free art class at IUS in the spring offered by the Louisville Visual Art Association.

It was through that class that Henneberger learned of Eames' interest in art and contacted her about Studio2000SI.

On Monday, Eames said, she learned about the depth of her devotion to art.

"We sanded the picnic table for four hours" to prepare it for drawing and painting, she said.

"I enjoyed it," Eames said of Monday's labor, which was the first of many steps in turning the old wooden table into art.