

ArtReach School Student Art Projects use Tennessee State Academic Standards K-12 as the operational mode and basics. The programs are geared to different ages using appropriate grade level standards. We teach critical-thinking, problem-solving, design concepts. Signatures by participants on all finished work enhance self-worth and appreciation.

Multiple funders include but are not limited to Tennessee Arts Commission; East Tennessee Foundation; Arts & Culture Alliance; National Endowment for the Arts; Humanities Tennessee; Appalachian Community Fund; Campbell County Commission; Town of Caryville; City of LaFollette and a host of local businesses.

2023

ArtReach Celestial Skies Four groups of youth artists, ages 3 to 18, created the constellations in the night sky above Campbell County then reproduced their favorite as an art form in one of four mediums which were then framed for display. Each is an original interpretation of the constellations on the four astrological 'quarter dates' of our Earth calendar. The four framed pieces are on permanent display at the Justice Center, Jacksboro following a reception for students, teachers, family and friends and Campbell County Commissioners and Mayor.

Elk Valley School Straw Bale Gardening Students from grades K through 8th grade were given instruction and materials to plant and grow vegetable and flower seeds and seedlings of their choice in straw bales, a low cost method of producing food in small spaces and low budget. Marigolds were grown as a method of insect repellent for the vegetables.

Sixteenth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2022

ArtReach Gnome Doors Two outdoor walking trails of artfully decorated gnome doors created by Campbell County Comprehensive and Jellico High School youth who also wrote a story about each gnome "living behind the door" were assigned a QR code that through cell phone use displays a gnome biography and field guide description of the tree to which they are attached. A GPS map of the locations was also developed.

This project is designed to offer children, their families and friends an exciting outdoor adventure in a safe and natural environment with a twist of fun, art, and technology. Children who have daily exposure to woodland have better cognitive development and a lower risk of emotional and behavioral problems, according to a new study published in Nature Sustainability.

Seeding for Food Security Five Hundred Thirty Two (532) fifth grade students across county schools were given a variety of seed packets, soil, grow bags with instruction (using video and brochures) on how to grow food for their families, organized and presented by local organic farmer, Jennifer Hoffman.

"Strung Together" Cigar Box Musical Instruments Approximately 75 students in three schools participated in this uplifting and educational program that featured found items used to create a single-string musical instrument. Programs at Wynn, Elk Valley and Valley View were led by local artisan, Charlotte Underwood, and culminated in a mini Blues concert. Three instruments are exhibited at the Justice Center, Jacksboro.

Friday Night Before Festival Remote School Performances - Obayana Ajanaku performed and taught at rural Campbell County mountain schools. Ajanaku is the artistic director of Kuumba Watoto Drum and Dance Company and Kuumba Kan which has performed throughout the Southeast. Since the age of six, Ajanaku has been studying the Djembe orchestra, a series of rope-tuned, skin-covered goblet drums played with bare hands, originally from West Africa. Following tragic events that ended the lives of five Austin-East High School students in 2021, Ajanaku, a teacher at Austin-East High and Vine Middle School, started **Drums Up Guns Down (the latter performed the next day at the Festival)** to combat gun violence and promote self-expression. Kids in the group not

only have the opportunity to learn the technical aspects of drumming, but they also foster close relationships and learn valuable life skills. Drums Up Guns Down also incorporates a dancing component as another avenue for the kids to express themselves.

(Headliners for the Festival performing at isolated schools meets Festival planners mission of Education and gives young children facing transportation difficulties a chance to share performances on the Festival stages.)

Fifteenth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2021

ArtReach Building Beyond Blocks Through funding provided by the Tennessee Arts Commission Covid-19 Resilience Arts Grant and support of **Campbell County Public Schools** and the **Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park**, Campbell Culture Coalition created "Building Beyond Blocks", two short videos of music and stories of local music legend, Howard "Louie Bluie" Armstrong, geared towards middle school and high school-age students. This project was promoted to all schools in Tennessee using Tennessee State School Standards as the guiding benchmarks for production, and viewed in different states such as Texas, Missouri, Utah, Florida and California. Building off the online success of the 2020 Virtual Louie Bluie Music and Arts Festival, our goal was (and is) to provide an online viewing experience for local students regarding the life of Howard "Louie Bluie" Armstrong & how his life relates to theirs.

View the videos and study materials here: <https://arcg.is/qTe8z0>

Video 1 "This Little Light": <https://youtu.be/mZc-MX38ZDg>

Video 2 "Self-Made: In Sunny Tennessee": <https://youtu.be/c-cAqZ9RUts>

Homeschool FiberArts Homeschool students created a variety of crafts using yarn. (Explanation of Homeschool art programs can be found in year 2019.)

Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival suspended due to Covid pandemic

2020

ArtReach Bring a Book-Take a Book Three small public library boxes were designed and painted by middle school-age children at Jacksboro and LaFollette Middle Schools and one at Campbell County Comprehensive High School. They were then placed in county locations and stocked by a variety of free books.

Face Masks & More Homeschool students decorated masks in original artistic approaches, used clay to create miniature dioramas inside tins. Elementary age children learned basic shapes that they then turned into landscapes. (Explanation of Homeschool art programs can be found in year 2019.)

Fourteenth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival (Virtual, due to Covid pandemic)

2019

ArtReach (Youth Arts Outreach was re-named **ArtReach**)

Nature Lab/Outdoor Classroom, Jacksboro Elementary School An old maintenance area was transformed into a thriving, active "Outdoor Classroom", featuring an organic garden, pond, native plant pollinator area, composting and chicken coop. These elements were installed by JES staff and students. All grades participated. These areas provide daily hands-on learning about growing usable and sustainable food.

“Waltz With Me” High school students were taught social dance styles with emphasis on the waltz – specifically the history of the state song, 'Tennessee Waltz'. Etiquette, manners and social decorum were discussed. The project ended by participants dancing eight different dances at two separate performances at local venue PostMark LaFollette. Classes were led by master dancers, **Ray and Linda Poland**.

Freestanding Sculpture Jellico High School students created an artistic form worked into three-dimensional art, decided on the theme (a large seated woman) and materials. **William Sarno**, a renowned sculptor, provided in-depth instruction on the basics of sculpture construction.

Faces Around the World Jellico High School students researched the 'look' (appearance) and customs of people around the world, then each created three separate but interchangeable panels depicting 'eye' 'nose' and 'mouth'. Different facial constructs bring attention to the similarities of all ethnicities of the human race. This project was led by **Dee Day** (Art instructor) and artist, **William Sarno**. This project is on display at **Woodson Mall**, LaFollette.

Homeschool Theater Sets & Costuming Homeschool high school and middle school students produced a play, and one class was responsible for building and painting sets and assembling costumes. They also made masks for the play's super heroes.

(Homeschool programs and mentorships – The Campbell Culture Coalition coordinates with homeschool instructors to produce a wide range of art instruction covering design basics, color context, blending, drawing principles, basic shapes of character drawing, three-dimensional art, costumes, set design and fiber crafts. Two original students are now art class instructors, with one aiming to establish a full time art career.)

Friday Night Before Festival Remote School Performances - Kelle Jolly and husband, **Will Boyd** performed at rural Campbell County mountain schools. Kelle Jolly of Knoxville is “The Tennessee Ukulele Lady”. She was the 2011 Mountain Soul Vocal Competition winner, the 2013 Community Shares Artist of the Year, and the 2015 MLK Art Award recipient. She is an accomplished professional vocalist, songwriter, and music educator. Multi-reed instrumentalist, composer, educator Will Boyd hails from soul sax tradition like artists Eddie Harris, Hank Crawford, David "Fat Head" Newman, King Curtis and Yusef Lateef. He is a member of the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and has 2 solo albums “Live at the Red Piano Lounge” and “Freedom Soul Jazz”. Will also co-leads a group with wife, jazz radio host, and founder of the Knoxville Women in Jazz Jam Festival, Kelle Jolly.

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Thirteenth Louie Bluié Music & Arts Festival

2018

Youth Arts Outreach Wynn-Habersham Elementary school mural entitled “Today’s Learners are Tomorrow’s Leaders” was created from conceptual drawings of what the students aspire to become through education. Lead instructor was **William Sarno**. The mural was completed May 10, 2018 with a school wide and public unveiling.

Painted Cityscape Garbage Cans Two cans were designed and painted by local artist **Jacob Riggs**, featuring local scenes and presented to the City of LaFollette.

Small Wonders Under the instruction of local artist **William Sarno**, homeschool, elementary and middle school students; seniors from the Campbell County Senior Center; and residents at LaFollette Courts Assisted Living painted an identical scene in separate workshops. At a reception at the Assisted Living Center, students and seniors together celebrated and viewed all the art on display. Four pieces of art were chosen to be displayed at the Justice Center, Jacksboro – one from each age group.

Friday Night Before Festival Remote School Performances - Christian Kofi Mawuko performed for students at rural Campbell County mountain schools. **Mawuko**, as he prefers to be called, is a native of Ghana, West Africa, where he began learning traditional rhythms of Ga, Ashanti, Dagati, Ewe, Dagomba, Fanti and Ga-abmbge drums at the age of 10. He possesses a natural talent for singing, dancing and playing various musical instruments. He has traveled extensively throughout the world as the lead dancer and master drummer with the Ghanaian performing company, Kyiem Troupe. Mawuko shares African cultures and customs through Ghanaian traditional and African contemporary dance, song and percussion music, multi-cultural arts and crafts, storytelling, theatrical production, and stage presentation. In addition to teaching, Mawuko also works extensively to promote the arts. Headliners for the Festival performing at isolated schools meets Festival planners mission of Education and gives young children facing transportation difficulties a chance to share performances on the Festival stages.

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Twelfth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2017

Youth Arts Outreach "Bridging Generations", a literary arts project organized by **Linda Poland** and author **Gail Polly** was written by students from **Lisa Copeland's** Honor English Class at **Campbell County Comprehensive High School**. Eleven stories and photos were published as a U. S. Library of Congress copyright book. The students also read their stories to an audience at a local venue, Postmark LaFollette. Free copies of the book were distributed to all county schools and four county public libraries.

Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Summit Culture Coalition Executive Director, **Manuel Mesa** and Board President, **Peter Koczera** attended their summit with acclaimed artists and national presenters on Captiva Island, Florida, which was a gathering of the 12 national SEED grant awardees.

Reading Brings Dreams to Life A mural at **Valley View Elementary School** was developed by students, who then painted the 9 ft x 7 ft mural during school hours under the guidance of local artist **Lance Albright**.

Together We are Campbell County Middle school age children in an after-school program researched and depicted their country of origin(s), and using the flag colors of that country and a symbol representing the country, drew and artistically displayed on a 6 ft x 5 ft board in the shape of Campbell County. This project completed March, 2018 is exhibited in the **Justice Center, Jacksboro**. Instructors were **Lance Albright** and **Brandy Wilson**.

Friday Night Before Festival Remote School Performances - Dom Flemons, accompanied by a member of his band, performed for students at rural Campbell County mountain schools. **Dominique Flemons** is an American old-time music, Piedmont blues, and neotraditional country multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter. He is a proficient player of the banjo, fife, guitar, harmonica, percussion, quills, and rhythm bones. Flemons won a Grammy Award as part of the Carolina Chocolate Drops for their album, *Genuine Negro Jig*. His solo album, *Black Cowboys* (2018), was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Folk Album and for a 2019 Blues Music Award in the 'Acoustic Album' category.

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Eleventh Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2016

Youth Arts Outreach "Birds and Flowers of Campbell County" Student ages four to eight in two separate workshops focused on discovering local flowers and birds and then create visual art of a flower or bird of their

choice, guided by local artist, **Terri Chaniott**. Several of these pieces are on display at the Justice Center, Jacksboro.

Youth Arts Outreach Pattern and design quilting for middle school age children, organized by **Leah Kitts**, were taught by quilters, **Sally Newhall and Terri Chaniott**. Two quilts were then made by students from the Wynn and Jacksboro Middle Schools and are on permanent display on walls in the lobby of the **Justice Center, Jacksboro**. All **Youth Art Outreach** projects feature the signature of every participating youngster.

Friday Night Before Festival Remote School Performances - Carpetbag Theatre, Inc., a Knoxville-based professional multi-generational company dedicated to giving artistic voice to dreams of peoples silenced by racism and other forms of oppression, presented storytelling, music and history of native born son, Howard "Louie Bluie" Armstrong to the three rural mountain school locations of **Wynn Habersham Elementary School, White Oak Elementary and Elk Valley Elementary School** on Friday before the Festival. **Peggy Mathews, Peter Koczera and Manuel Mesa** facilitated the program.

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Tenth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2015

Youth Arts Outreach "Name The Elk", produced in conjunction with the **Campbell County Mayor's Office, Campbell County Chamber of Commerce, and the Campbell County Board of Education**, and spearheaded by **Peter Koczera and Manuel Mesa**, gave the elk depicted on the recently adopted County logo a lasting name. Working in conjunction with school administrators, ballots and ballot boxes were placed in all 13 county schools, plus the four countywide libraries. Only school aged children were to submit names. Over 1,100 ballots were submitted and the top three names were then put to a countywide vote using public forums and Survey Monkey. The winning name is **Spirit** which was subsequently announced at the annual Christmas parade in December.

Ninth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2014

Youth Arts Outreach "Roots & Wings", a historical re-enactment festival, was organized by **Jo Anne Myers** for downtown LaFollette. Local citizens dressed in period costumes participated in many activities, including a play presented by the the Campbell Culture Coalition's workshop, **Little Community Theater**. "**Dynamite**" was based on a true incident in the 1930s when a downtown building was dynamited resulting in a death and subsequent trial. A script was written and produced by Campbell County Junior Leadership students. **Gina Adrian** directed the performance; **Sue Vernick** was instrumental in costumes and design. The event included **Tennessee Jamboree**, an historic multi-media documentary of Campbell County's long running radio barn dance music broadcast on local station, **WLAJ**, written and produced by **Bradley Hanson**.

Eighth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2013

Youth Arts Outreach The Elk, and The Owl Hand-made Italian tiles, donated by Mercury Mosaics of Minneapolis, Minnesota, made possible two mosaic tile youth art projects for elementary school age children, organized by **Manuel Mesa**, and taught by local husband and wife artists **Curtis & Brandy Wilson**. The first project produced an oversized table top **owl mural** now permanently placed in the children's section of the **LaFollette Public Library**. The second project produced a 6 ft by 6 ft wall mural featuring Campbell County' symbol, **The Elk**. This large mural consists of 100 tiles, is mounted on the wall in the lobby of the **Justice Center, Jacksboro**, and features the signature of every participating child.

Seventh Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2012

Youth Arts Outreach Little Community Theater, with a very small budget, guided the **Junior Chamber of Commerce high school students'** production, "*A Wish For Campbell County*" directed by Campbell County Comprehensive High School drama/music instructor, **John Edwards**, with support by **Gina Adrian**. A standing-ovation performance was attended by about 300 persons in March.

Youth Art Classes Two 2-dimensional art instruction classes for youth were held in Jellico, and two in LaFollette, free to any child whose parents registered them. *Flowers/Birds of Campbell County* was taught by art teacher **Terri Chaniott** to elementary-middle school age youth. Various media was taught by school instructor **Dee Day** to Jellico high school students. Multiple exhibits were arranged for the art produced by these youths, most of whom had never had art classes.

Sixth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2011

Youth Arts Outreach Little Community Theater, was designed to offer an opportunity for young people to participate in writing, performing, production, marketing, planning, and engaging the public. Organization began by constructing a **float** for the City of LaFollette Christmas parade under guidance of **Gina Adrian**, who mentored the **Junior Chamber of Commerce** high school students. It was awarded winning float, a \$700 prize, which the students contributed toward expenses of their inaugural performance.

Youth Art Classes A service project for children's art instruction was launched based on a concept suggested by **Billie Russell** (then administrative assistant to the County Mayor), in which middle school age students made fabric street flags that were subsequently hung on street lamps in downtown LaFollette. This was an after-school project at LaFollette Middle School coordinated by **Manuel Mesa** and **Joyce Soltesz**, 21st Century Grant Program Assistant, UT Extension Service.

This sequed into a second pilot art project introducing basic drawing and painting as an after school program, also at LaFollette Middle School and again coordinated by Mesa and Soltesz. Members of **Campbell County Artists Association** volunteered to instruct/assist.

Fifth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2010

Sounds Like Home - A Night of Music From the Cumberlands This pre-festival performance was produced as the first Friday night bluegrass concert starring six- time IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year **Dale Ann Bradley with Steve Gulley**. Additionally, the evening featured a reunion of the **Pinnacle Mountain Boys**, a group founded in the 1930s by Steve's father, **Don Gulley**, who resides in Tazewell and still performs, and **Charlie Collins** and **Larry McNeely**, both nationally recognized musicians from Campbell County. This was coordinated by **Bradley Hanson** and **Jo Anne Myers** with support of the Louie Bluie Festival volunteers.

Fourth Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2009

Youth Arts Outreach Paint the Town was an outdoor arts project on a downtown LaFollette street in which multiple art mediums were introduced to youngsters. Free sidewalk chalk art was made available to any artist or youngster. Two professional chalk artists and local artists demonstrated their skills and produced designs of their choice. This event was organized by **Manuel Mesa** and **Jo Anne Myers** with the help of many volunteers.

Third Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2008

“New Harmonies - Roots Music in America”, A Smithsonian Institute Main Street America Traveling Exhibit Selected as the first to host the Smithsonian exhibit, the **Campbell Culture Coalition** met several Smithsonian criteria for featuring the four-weeks long exhibit at the **LaFollette Community Center**. Several local citizens were trained as docents to guide visitors through a colorful and educational exhibit featuring musical instruments, and related depictions of famous musicians representing every genre of America's roots music.

In compliance with the Smithsonian Institute, the **Campbell Culture Coalition** also created a companion exhibit titled **Brighten the Corner Where You Are**, which showcased outstanding musicians who were natives of Campbell County. Major artists featured were **Grace Moore**, **Homer Rodeheaver**, and **William Howard Taft Armstrong (stage name "Louie Bluie")**. There was also a revival of the **LaFollette Fiddlers Convention** history, and early radio shows. Weekly live stage performances were scheduled showcasing regional musicians. A "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" video was created by **Christie Burns**, Roots Music Scholar.

Grace Moore, born and reared in Jellico, rose to fame as one of high opera's most famous divas, but always credited her inspiration to the gospel singing she heard as a child in African-American churches near her home, and to the sacred music sung in Baptist and Methodist churches. **Homer Rodeheaver** of Newcomb/Jellico was a long time music director for evangelist Billy Sunday, and first director for evangelist Billy Graham. Rodeheaver is credited with preserving countless gospel/Christian songs (examples: "In the Garden"; "Old Rugged Cross"); as publisher of thousands of songbooks used in church services; and as a philanthropist for orphan boys. **Howard (Louie Bluie) Armstrong** became arguably the most famous black string musician in America. Recounts of numerous other Campbell County natives whose roots music careers took them to the Grand Ole Opry, and gospel or country music fame were exhibited. Weekly live stage performances were scheduled with regional artists. The combined project was open for a full month. Organization was led by **Jo Anne Myers**; the program was implemented with assistance of **Jocelyn Woods Griffo**; Board of Education school tours were organized by **Shirley Davis**; and the entire program was made possible by a large corps of volunteers.

Second Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

2007

Youth Arts Outreach “Storytelling, Art & Music” This project included sharing storytelling, art, and roots music heritage based on the example of Howard Armstrong with emphasis on his roots in Campbell County. Local graphic art business owner and artist **John Pierre LeMaire** presented a slide show and commentary on how Howard learned to paint; musicians & storytellers **Sparky & Rhonda Rucker** shared Armstrong’s skills as a great storyteller; musicians **Don Cassell** and **Nancy Brennan Strange** took Howard Armstrong’s musical story to Jacksboro Middle, LaFollette Middle and Jellico Middle Schools. Students from White Oak school were bussed in for the program.

The three disciplines of music, storytelling, and art were demonstrated to students by presenting examples and sharing stories of Howard's life with them. The students were then asked to write a story, and create a piece of art about themselves or their families. The intention of the project was to illustrate Armstrong’s ability to overcome poverty and rise to fame and become a role model for children from a rural, impoverished location. The participants’ art and stories were exhibited at the inaugural [Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival](#).

Concepts for the logos for the Campbell Culture Coalition and The Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival were originated by **William F. Claiborne**; artwork executed by graphic artist, **John Pierre LeMaire**. LeMaire’s profile of Howard Armstrong has become iconic in identifying the Festival.

First Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

Held June 6 at Cove Lake State Park, **The Louie Bluie Music and Arts Festival** featured two stages, one inside the Pavilion, starring **Carpetbag Theater, Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Barbara Armstrong, Maggie Longmire and Free Soil Farm, Nancy B. Strange & Tennessee Sheiks, Charlie Collins, Larry McNeely, Ken Blanton, Mike Webb, Guy and Candie Carawan.** Storytellers and a special “Fun Zone” for children were included. The Festival was organized by a leadership team headed by **Peggy Mathews**, who was the principal fundraiser, and more than 100 community volunteers.