

## Brushing up on art at center

**Arts center workshop offers ideas, instruction for area art educators**

**Tuscarawas Center for the Arts**

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The Center for the Arts has a lot going on.

There is so much more going on at the Tuscarawas Center for the Arts than people strolling through the facility's gallery and admiring the many art pieces exhibited there.

The center is bustling with a wide variety of educational workshops among the many activities.

Area visual arts teachers recently attended a professional development workshop at the arts center. The workshop was established by the Fine Arts Network, conceived during conversations while teachers were hanging student works for the 2004 Fall Arts Festival.

The "shop talk" among the teachers present caused arts center Director Jeannine Kennedy and others to realize this was the perfect opportunity for professional development. They first took the idea to the arts center's Education Committee and shortly after pulled together music and art educators from each district to design the professional day which was launched in October 2005.

"It is great to have the chance to collaborate with other art teachers" said Gene Troyer of Tuscarawas Central Catholic High.

Participating teachers can earn up to three hours of graduate credit through Ashland University. The Ashland credit began at a clay workshop this past June.

"The center has a broad vision of its purpose in our community," Kennedy said. "It serves education and community organizations as well as cultural enrichment. The Fine Arts Network is a great example of the center's outreach to our community."

This year's workshop brought together 18 teachers and included artist David Sickinger, who provided a demonstration on clay slip mono-printing among other topics.

In addition, teachers joined roundtable discussions to exchange lesson plans, a session considered to be one of the more valuable activities at the workshop.

The Tuscarawas Center for the Arts is at 461 Robinson Dr. SE, New Philadelphia.

For further information regarding membership or program activities, call Kennedy at (330) 339-2787.