

THE ALABAMIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2019



Arts in the Parks

Arts Unleashed: Creating Successful, Lasting Arts Programs





WIN WITHOUT LOSSES



Coach Safety Act Is Law

About the Law:

Proposed in conjunction with the CoachSafely Foundation, the law is the first of its kind to address public concerns about sports injuries for a youth athlete population that is estimated to be **seven times larger than all athletes above 14 years of age**. The implementing, enforcing and administering of the Coach Safety Act is the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health.



- The 2017-18 Alabama Legislative session enacted HB9, called the Coach Safety Act.
- The law brings coaching standards to all the 14 and under aged athletes in Alabama.
- All community or association athletic personnel will now be required to take an annual injury prevention course.
- The law is expected to go into effect November 4, 2018.

Advocated by:

The Coach Safety Act was advocated by Coach Bill Clark of UAB, Coach Nick Saban at the University of Alabama, Coach Willie Slater at Tuskegee University and Dr. Mike Goodlet, team physician to Auburn University.

About the Coach Safely Course:

Led by:

The CoachSafely Foundation in partnership with Children's of Alabama, Encore Rehabilitation and ThreatAdvice.

Developed by:

The course was developed by the Andrews Research and Education Foundation, led by renowned sports medicine pioneer and surgeon Dr. James R. Andrews.

As per the law, the Coach Safely course covers prevention and injury recognition of:



- **Concussions**
- **Heat and Exertion Illnesses**
- **Trauma and Overuse**
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
- **Emergency Action Plan**
- **Physical Conditioning**
- **Equipment Usage**

The course will also cover the physical and emotional characteristics of the youth athlete, information regarding physical and mental abuse awareness, and age appropriate training and tips for communicating with children and parents.



✉ info@coachsafely.org

www coachsafely.org





Laura Leigh Chesser
2018 Publications/Marketing Chair

Natalie Norman
Executive Director
Alabama Recreation and
Parks Association

2018 Board of Directors

- Summer Ammons – President
- Drew Peterson – Past President
- Billy Powell – President Elect
- Katrina Frazier – Secretary
- Sandi Wilson – Treasurer
- Gina Bryant – District 1 Chair
- Eric Scott – District 2 Chair
- David Primus, Jr – District 3 Chair
- Ed Canady – District 4 Chair
- Laura Leigh Chesser – District 5 Chair
- Deirdre Womack – District 6 Chair
- Ella Austin-Mooney – District 7 Chair
- Luci Ray – Corporate Representative
- Willie Moore III – CDS Chair

2018 Committee Chairs

- Alabama Five-O – Sandi Wilson
- Awards – Mandy Johnson
- Conference Site – Natalie Norman
- Conference Education – Gary Minor
- COPP – Drew Peterson
- Finance – Sandi Wilson
- Long Range Planning – Billy Powell
- Marketing/Publications – Laura Leigh Chesser
- Membership – Gayle Milam
- Nominating – Drew Peterson
- Professional Development – Robin Brothers
- Recreational Sports – Kenny Thompson
- Therapeutic Recreation – Carla Wilson

Published by: B Creative Designs, LLC
bmac585@gmail.com

Published April 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

From the President 4

From the Executive Director 5

Arts in the Parks 6

Arts Unleashed: Creating Successful, Lasting Arts Programs 16

In Memory of Nicki Penn 19

2019 Calendar Back Cover

The Alabamian is the official publication of the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association. The magazine is published by the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. as a service to its membership. Submissions of parks and recreation-related articles are welcomed. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ARPA. Comments/responses should be sent to:

Alabama Recreation and Parks Association
P.O. Box 230579
Montgomery, AL 36123-0579
334-279-9160
334-279-9161 fax



Cover Image: Garden in the Park from Opelika

2019 B Creative Designs, LLC. All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the publisher.



From the
President
Billy Powell

ARPA Friends and Family, You all are the reason why we have an Association! I want to express a heartfelt thank you to you all for being part of a great organization! It's rewarding EXPERIENCE to get involved with ARPA and the different Affiliates and Professionals that you will get to know.

When we think of Parks and Recreation, we think primarily of fund and games. And it is about that. But Parks and Recreation is also a big business and is a vitally important aspect of our community. Our mission as recreation service professionals is to serve individuals and the community, take care of the environment and help grow the economy. What we all do improves the quality of life for the people in our communities, state, nation who benefit from our training, knowledge, planning, organizational skills, and our dedication and ability to bring quality programs and operate quality facilities for their good.

The experiences people have in our programs can be positive or negative. We want to focus on the positive. My hope is that we continue to cultivate the development of self-worth, a sense of pride and good citizenship in the young people and adults alike who participate in our programs. Whether we realize it or not, recreation professionals have a huge influence on the lives of the people we serve, especially young lives who are being shaped during those all-important years when we encounter them.

Besides the education system, we are probably the next largest organization that touches lives across the board. Most of us who participated in sports or some other activity growing up probably has some adult leader who they admired and who influenced them to be a good responsible person.

What an IMPACT! We can be proud of that. And we can have that influence not only in our own affiliate, but as an Association. So, I ask you to keep being involved, continue to work hard and continue to educate yourself, so that we can provide the best opportunities to our own community members.

We need to continue showcasing our departments and taking advantage of the networking opportunities to keep everyone informed of trends in our state.

Since January ARPA Conference the association has hit the floor running full speed and I want to thank the following:

Our Executive Director, Natalie Norman for the leadership she is presenting and the forward thinking for this Association.

Our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, it is not just that you are members of the board but you are advocates and very instrumental to the association.

Our ARPA State Conference in Birmingham, Thank you all for making it one of the best conference and help leading the way for 2020 ARPA Conference in Mobile, AL

Our 2019 ARPA State Basketball Tournament, I want to thank David Vinson, Drew Peterson and Trussville Parks and Recreation for hosting a successful tournament for our ARPA teams. Well Job Done!

Again, Thank you all members for being involved and part of this Association!

Sincerely,
Billy Powell, 2019 ARPA President

From the
Executive Director
Natalie Norman



Greetings ARPA Members,
I hope this finds everyone having a great start to 2019. It is hard to believe that we are four months into the year! Thank you to all that attended our state conference in Birmingham. Also, thanks to the City of Birmingham, Birmingham Parks and Recreation Department, Conference Education Committee, sponsors, speakers, and exhibitors. Without all of you being present, it would not be possible!

We also had an outstanding State Basketball Championship in March! Thanks to the City of Trussville and their entire staff for being such a wonderful host and providing our kids with an awesome state tournament experience!

We have some new things happening as we move forward into 2019. Beginning May 1st Coach Safety issues dealing with ARPA Affiliates and your coaches training may be handled through the state office. We are also increasing our engagement and

visibility in state governmental issues and policy. We will certainly keep the membership informed, as well as seeking input regarding both ventures, as we promote growth, advocacy, and education. We continue to strive to raise our voice as a Profession.

ARPA continues to have outstanding leadership through the newly installed Board of Directors and State Committee Chairs. We are looking forward to a great 2019! As always, it is a privilege to serve such a fabulous Association! Thank you all for what you do each and every day for your communities.

Please take note of some great educational opportunities throughout the year. Check out events on the state website @ www.arpaonline.org. Have a great Spring!

Growing together,
Natalie Norman, CPRP
ARPA Executive Director

Arts in the Parks



Boaz - Sidewalk Chalk Contest

On March 5, the City of Boaz had local teens gathered at the Boaz Public Library for Teen Tuesday. A sidewalk chalk contest was scheduled, but cold weather brought us inside. The teens created their masterpieces on black poster board instead of the sidewalk and the library staff judged the competition. The winner, Haley Helms, won \$10.00 for her portrait of a girl.

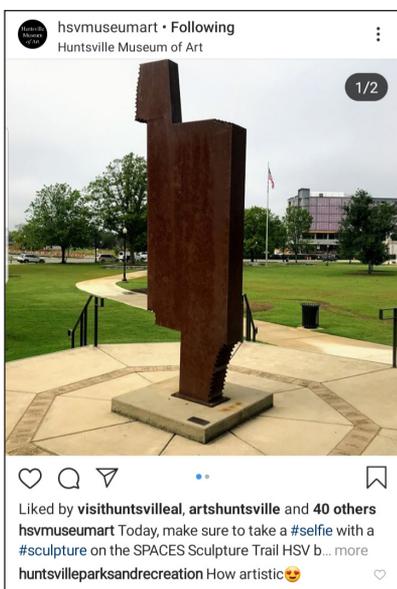


Huntsville - SPACES

SPACES is a collaborative project developed in 2010 by Arts Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, Huntsville Museum of Art, Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment Center and UAH. Originally designed as a biennial sculpture installation, the founding institutions welcomed the Madison Arts Council to the SPACES Sculpture Trail project in 2012 and Ditto Landing in 2017. Now featuring 39 total sculptures, SPACES is designed to engage and enliven the Huntsville/Madison County community through a large-scale public art installation.

SPACES Sculpture Trail features the work of 22 artists from 12 states across the United States including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Virginia as well as Toronto, Canada.

Many of the sculptures are located in and around Downtown Huntsville's Big Spring Park and add character to the area. This past July, Huntsville Parks & Recreation used the park sculptures as a photo challenge to citizens. Citizens were encouraged to take a picture with their favorite park sculpture, post on social media and use the Huntsville Parks & Recreation specific hashtag #GoPlayHsv.



Tuscaloosa - Public Art Installations Continue with Snow Hinton Kaleidoscope

The introduction of public art to the West Alabama community continues to emerge with the installation of “Kaleidoscope” by artist and UA Alumnus Eric Nubbe. Located in the northwest corner of Hinton Park on McFarland Blvd., the piece was commissioned by the Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority and installed by the UA Art Foundry. It represents the community’s commitment to bring stimulating and thought provoking art to local citizens in public areas.

Eric Nubbe is an emerging Alabama artist whose work primarily focuses on fabricating metal sculptures with a grounding in representation. The foundation of his work is craftsmanship, often employing 3D software to create innovative designs with simple plans. Nubbe believes the time spent on craftsmanship allows the materials of an artwork to transcend their physical properties, imbuing them with a piece of the artist’s humanity. His newest public sculpture, “Kaleidoscope,” exemplifies these characteristics.

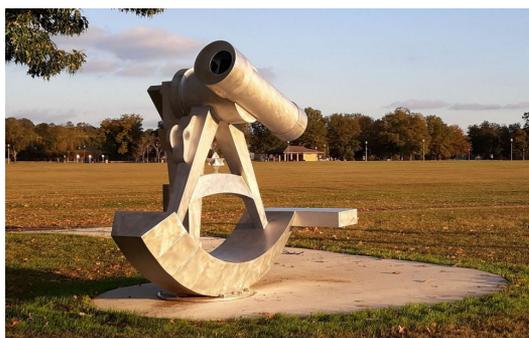
According to the artist, “Kaleidoscope” is a colossal nonfunctional sextant, a traditional navigation instrument, housing a functional kaleidoscope. The viewer is invited to peer through a telescope-like view port housing the kaleidoscope into a refracted view of the atmosphere. Next to the view port is a dial allowing the viewer to manipulate a series of translucent blue gears that distort and augment their vision of the sky.

The sculpture thematically originates in Nubbe’s interest in navigation, specifically

how each person navigates their life in a changing world. “This constant change can manifest into feeling adrift in life. “Kaleidoscope” is a direct response and push against this disorientation. Its purpose, as a represented sextant, is making each viewer a little less lost,” said the artist.

“Kaleidoscope” is the second public art piece presented to the community in local parks by PARA following the giant steel flowers created by student artists Ringo Lisko and Amber Daum in Monnish Park.

For more information about the project, visit art.ua.edu/category/news/.



Gadsden - Brian Clowdus Returns Home to Bring the Falls to life with *The Noccalula Experience*



This summer, Brian Clowdus Experiences breathes new life into the thrilling story of love and adventure with *The Noccalula Experience* - a legendary tale of undying love. Experience the spectacular tale in its storied home of Noccalula Falls Park as you take in

the site's breathtaking natural views of its legendary, cascading falls. *Noccalula* is the saga of a young woman torn between a powerful love and her sense of duty to her people. Infused with authentic elements of Native American culture, this original telling creates a brand new significance and brings more power and excitement than ever before. Join us for a journey steeped in romance and exhilaration as Noccalula rules her own fate in the face of her beckoning future. Join Brian Clowdus as he returns home to Gadsden amidst a national career in theatre, returning to his roots in the most immersive and groundbreaking experience you have ever witnessed.... will you take the leap with him this summer?

"I am over the moon to be returning home to tell a story near and dear to my heart in a place that is part of the very fiber of my growing up," said Brian Clowdus, director of the production and founder of Brian Clowdus Experiences. "For as long as I can remember I always wondered about this mysterious and strong Cherokee woman who took her fate in her own hands, now immortalized in statue form on the side of a cliff with a park named after her. How insanely lucky I am to be returning home, bringing new life to this legend, this location, and the soil I grew up running on as a child."

"Gadsden Parks and Recreation Department is excited having the opportunity to host Brian Clowdus Experiences at Noccalula Falls Park and Campground. Having the opportunity for Brian to come back to his hometown to produce an original piece on the

Legend of Noccalula is amazing. I grew up watching plays at the park of Noccalula Falls, I even watched Brian perform here. To have the theatrical arts back at Noccalula Falls Park and for Brian to be the producer is beyond anything I can imagine. Envision a setting along the creekbank of Black Creek and the 90' waterfall of Noccalula Falls being the backdrop for the story of undying love. This gives me chills. I cannot wait to see what Brian and his team have in store for us all," said Jennifer Weathington, director of Gadsden Parks & Recreation.

The Noccalula Experience is a new work, written by playwright Kara Morrison, with original score by Dennis Yerry, and costumes by Asa Benally. Starring in the title role will be Sarah Elaine. Film and TV star Irene Bedard, the voice of Disney's *Pocahontas*, plays the voice of Noccalula's mother.



The Noccalula Experience opens on May 31st and runs throughout the summer at the Falls until July 7th. Performances are Friday through Saturday with multiple chances to see the show each day - 2pm, 4pm and 6pm. Tickets can be purchased at the Noccalula Falls Entry Pavilion each day and are also available to purchase at www.noccalulafallspark.com. Tickets for children start at \$17.50 and tickets for adults start at \$22.50.

Lincoln - 5th Annual Blue Eye Creek Festival

Lincoln Parks and Recreation and the City of Lincoln will be hosting the *5th Annual Blue Eye Creek Festival*, Saturday, May 4th 9:00am – 2:00pm. This festival will be filled with events for people of all ages from the youth fishing derby to the concerts throughout the festival.

Beginning with the youth fishing derby that will be broken down into two age groups having over 200 youth fishing and each one escorted by at least one parent/guardian. Adding in the Adult & Teen Division this year. Going into a judged car show; trade/barter area; food, arts and crafts vendors. This festival will take place in three parks in Old-Town Lincoln. Over the past years we have had over 1000 (+) visitors.



Opelika - Trip to Taormina

Article was originally published by the city of Taormina, Italy

Taormina was presented with the new co-marketing project by Collette, one of the most important Tour Operator of the American market, in collaboration with SAT Group (our bus company in Sicily).

For the past 30 years, Collette has chosen Taormina as the main hub of its Sicilian itineraries. For this upcoming season, they will travel throughout southern Italy in this coach branded with the stupendous image of the Greek Theatre of Taormina.

For the inaugural journey of the coach the Mayor of Taormina Dr. Mario Bolognari, has welcomed Greg Madden product manager of Italy, and Luciana Belviso tour leader of the American tour operator, along with their group of guests.

Collette was one of the first operators to believe in a seasonal adjustment process, by pushing the beauty of the Island in the different temporal nuances that succeed one another during the year, with great appreciation by the American public.





Opelika - Garden in the Park

“Garden in the Park is Opelika’s annual festival showcasing handmade and homegrown art. The event also features food, train rides, a petting zoo, entertainment and more!”



Mobile - Rickarby Park

Art definitely has its impact at Rickarby Park, during our nature walk we collect pine cones and prepare them for use when making fall and Christmas center pieces. We hand paint t-shirts, do computer art drawings, and use art discoveries while baking. At Rickarby Park art is not just drawing and coloring, it has opened a whole new outlook for us all.



We Want Your Ideas!

What aspect of Parks and Recreation do you want to see featured in *The Alabamian*? The choice is yours!

Contact Laura Chesser at LChesser@opelika-al.gov with your suggestions! Who knows, we might even feature your organization if your idea is chosen.

The theme for the next issue is “TBD”

The deadline for consideration in the Summer 2019 issue is July 5th. Please call 334-279-9160 with any questions.

Arts Unleashed:

Creating Successful, Lasting Arts Programs

by Paula Jacoby-Garrett

Whether in a small town or large metropolis, our park and recreation programs can be integral in tying our community together and vital for the success of our youth. Those who regularly participate in the arts are more likely to have academic achievement, be elected to a class office position, win awards, read for pleasure and perform community service. For those at-risk youth, the arts can deter truancy and delinquent behavior and increase academic performance, according to Americans for the Arts. Understanding the community's interest in the arts is paramount in prioritizing program depth and breadth. Americans for the Arts suggest first determining what your community wants from an arts program, what it wants to achieve and where interest lies; then determining how the arts are supported politically and financially in your community and what funds are, or could be, utilized for programs. Americans for the Arts also has resources for marketing, establishing a local network and creating relationships with local businesses.

Arts programs come in many shapes and sizes — from traditional summer camps and afterschool programs to highly specialized and focused programming. Finding the right fit for your community is the key to a successful program.

Afterschool Arts

While there is often a plethora of activities and classes available for preschool- and elementary-aged children, our middle and high school students seldom have much available to them. According to Afterschool Alliance, “On school days, the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime, and quality afterschool

programs for young people offered during those hours can help prevent youth violence.”

The city of Austin, Texas, created the Totally Cool, Totally Art program specifically to reach this age group. The Harvard Family Research Project says the goals of the program are to “increase youths’ (1) sense of belonging and feeling that they have safe, positive and creative environments in which to participate during free time; (2) opportunities to expand knowledge, skills and possible career interest in art; (3) trust and respect for other youth, adult mentors, artists and other authority figures; (4) ability to work cooperatively with other youth and communicate effectively in a group; and (5) ability to make creative and positive choices through self-expression.”

The Totally Cool, Totally Art program was established in 1996, originally to thwart gang violence. To date, the program has received the Nickelodeon Television Award for Best Local Teen Art Program, and several NRPA awards, among others. Offerings have included culinary arts, fashion design, soft sculpture, painting, STEAM, ceramics, metalsmith, jewelry making, mask making, drumming and urban painting. Each session runs five weeks, with instructors rotating between recreation centers.

“We just finished our 21st year of this regional and national award-winning program,” says Kelly Hasandras, program specialist for the city of Austin. “We serve 150 teens a week, ages 12–18, in eight recreation centers, and we create different classes every year to keep it fresh. We are trying to help two different communities with this program. We hire emerging artists in the community to teach these classes so they get valuable experience teaching. And, it is valuable for the students who take the classes.”





Arts and Culture

As the recipient of the 2016 National Gold Metal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, the town of Cary, North Carolina, takes its cultural resources very seriously. “Our arts programs run the gamut from hands-on classes in painting, pottery, fused glass, metals, woodworking and textiles to performance classes in drama and dance, and various music areas, including guitar, piano, voice and our popular bluegrass summer camps. In addition, we offer classes in filmmaking, video game production and history camps,” says Lyman Collins, cultural arts manager. Programs are available for those 18 months old to seniors.

The Town of Cary also hosts a robust film festival, national musical and theatrical acts, and cultural events such as the Diwali Festival, which is celebrated with the local Indian-American community. “A new off-season program at the amphitheater is the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival, where incredible Chinese ‘lanterns’ — tall, intricate cloth-covered figures lit internally — are built on-site by Chinese craftspeople and then left on-site for six weeks. [They] drew over 90,000 visitors this past holiday season,” says Collins.

“Because the Cary Arts Center brings together the visual and performing arts in one facility, we have nurtured opportunities for programs to complement each other. For example, for a performance with a touring artist in our Marvelous Music series, our arts classes have worked with young people on drawing to the music — expressing their art based on the music they hear,” says Collins. The city also works with more than 30 local arts organizations to assist in facilitating its programs and goals. This wide range of arts programs and activities are what has made the town of Cary successful and nationally recognized. As Collins says, “variety is our strength.”

Art not only can engage our youth, but also can work toward social change. Along the Lafitte Greenway in New Orleans, a team of young community members created a mural that not only documents the history of the greenway, but also incorporates themes of hope and reconciliation. Truly a team effort, the project was spearheaded by the Welcome Table New Orleans Mid-City Circle, the Young Artists Movement (YAM) and Prospect New Orleans. “The lead artist, Keith Duncan, led workshops with young people to teach skills in mural-making. [After community engagement], he worked with them to create the ultimate image that would be created at Lemann Pool,” says

Alphonse Smith, director of the Arts Council New Orleans. “We had over 100 community members participate, putting on the initial coats of paint. We had people from ages 5 to over 60 coming out to kick off the project. From there, the young people who were chosen to participate in the project completed the rest of the mural.” Today, the mural stands as a reminder of the talent of our youth and the power of community arts projects.

Dance

When a program is successful, it lasts, and the San Diego Civic Dance Arts program has done just that for 75 years. Through the years, the program has introduced hundreds of thousands to the art form of dance, and has been lauded as the standard by which other citywide dance programs nationwide measure themselves. The program serves San Diego residents from 3 years old to senior citizens across 20 locations.

The program runs more than 200 classes weekly from ballet to hip-hop to Bollywood, and many other classes in between. It provides youth summer camps, advanced training camps, master classes, an adult workshop, and a workshop specifically to increase the participation of boys. “There is less interest in the traditional arts programming, such as ceramics and crafts, and more interest in performance-based arts, including dance, singing and dramatic arts,” says Deputy Directors Kathy Ruiz and David Monroe.

A large part of the program’s success is the caliber of instructors it brings to the program each year. World-class instructors and choreographers give the classes a level of quality and professionalism not typically seen in a city-run program. Beyond the number of classes it offers, this program has successfully secured more than 25,000 hours of volunteer support on an annual basis. This volunteer support helps offset personnel costs and establish community support. Financially, the San Diego Civic Dance program holds its own — in 2016, the program netted more than \$300,000.

The program has received a multitude of awards, including the 2017 nomination for Bravo Award for Best Dance

Concert, 2016 Bravo Award for Best Dance Concert, 2016 Presidential and Mayoral Volunteer Awards to two long-term volunteers, 2014 Bravo San Diego Award, and the 2013 Presidential Volunteer Award from Barack Obama, among others.

“The program is successful because the staff and I are dedicated to its success,” says Andrea Feier, dance specialist. “Many of the staff have grown up in this program and now teach for it out of a love for both the program as well as a passion for dance and the arts.” “Three of my staff have been teaching for 38 or more years, and most of the others have been here 10-plus years. As a graduate of The Juilliard School, I utilize my contacts in the world of dance to bring in guest artists from major modern dance companies, Broadway, and film and television to uplift and inspire our dance community.”

Filmmaking

For the Camacho Activity Center in Austin, Texas, outdoor education and nature-based programing are its usual fare, but it has expanded its horizons into filmmaking and photography. There are filmmaking camps during winter and spring break and several during the summer for students ages 5–18.

“Each week-long camp incorporates filmmaking education, including writing, camera operation, sound, lighting, acting, editing and more. Each camp films an original story that is later showcased in our annual film festival in the fall,” says Ryan Eaker, Camacho activity supervisor. “In addition to these filmmaking camps, we lead nature photography outreach programs throughout the school year to primarily underserved populations, lower-income schools, recreation centers and community groups.”

Filmmaking and photography are popular with youth, and today’s cellphone technology has allowed students to take high-quality images and video without the added cost of expensive equipment. These classes are extremely popular. For Eaker, it is about staying current: “It’s crucial to stay on the forefront of the technological front, and remain pioneering in the ways that you teach and educate the public.

“Now it’s about teaching those participants to look at the world around them in a different way and expose the art and beauty in the objects and environment that surround them, which they honestly aren’t noticing with their heads buried in their phones,” says Eaker. “We allow kids to take a handful of selfies to get that out of the way and then focus (so to speak) on getting physically close to natural objects and playing with perspective and vantage points, lighting and storytelling through photography.”



Theatre

For Hasandras, her latest challenge is expanding an already successful program in a new direction. This is the second year of the Totally Cool, Totally Art Theatre Camp. This fast-paced theatre camp takes students ages 12–17 through the process of creating a theatrical production. Students attend workshops in acting, directing, improv comedy, dance, design and puppetry. They also visit a professional theatre to see a show and tour backstage. The students then create their own production and take it to local parks.

“We bring together kids from all over Austin. We have four weeks to write, cast, direct, write songs, and make costumes and set pieces for the production. Then, we take the production out to our summer playgrounds program, a free outdoor playground camp for children 6–12, primarily for kids with high needs, most of whom have never seen a play before,” says Hasandras.

Conclusion

Regardless of the size of your budget, number of constituents or type of facilities, the key to creating and maintaining a successful arts program is finding what works for you and your residents. “Give them a ‘tribe’ to belong to that instills discipline, commitment, integrity, artistry, self-expression and teamwork. Find teachers who are dedicated to teaching and to continuing to learn themselves,” says Feier. The programs mentioned all have one thing in common: they cultivate ties within the community, resulting in a strong, healthy community for years to come.

Paula Jacoby-Garrett is a Freelance Writer based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“Reprinted with permission from Parks & Recreation magazine from its August 2017 issue. ©2017 by the National Recreation and Park Association.”

In Memory of Nicki Penn



Nicki Penn started with the Arab Parks and Recreation Department in 2017. She served as a Part-time Secretary and the City Pool Manager. She was always full of life and energy and always had an infectious smile. If you came in contact with Nicki she wouldn't hesitate to have a conversation with you; she never met a stranger. She never had a cross word with anyone and always had a positive outlook on all situations. Nicki was wonderful at her job and would resolve any issue- leaving the customer happy. Not only did she enjoy her job and the people she worked with, she enjoyed meeting everyone she came in contact with and getting to know them. She was able to touch so many people's lives through her attitude and positivity in any

situation. Nicki also enjoyed sharing her faith with others, leaving scripture hidden around the office for co-workers to find.

Outside of her work life, Nicki was truly devoted to her family. She loved her husband (Greg) and four children (Leah, Bevin, Allie, and John-Michael) more than anything in the world. She also loved Alabama football, the beach, reading and hiking. She will be deeply missed, but definitely not forgotten within the Arab Parks and Recreation Department.



HELP US CONSTRUCT OUR
2020 CONFERENCE

ALABAMA RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION

Now accepting session proposals
for 2020 State Conference
Mobile Alabama
Jan 26 -28



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
RBROTHERS@FORTPAYNE.ORG

Deadline - July 1

Online forms- <https://form.jotform.com/FtPayneRecDirect/ARPA2020>
or use QR code.



2019

Calendar of Events

June

12 ARPA Board Directors Meeting
ARPA State Office, Montgomery

July

14-16 State Softball Tournament
Lagoon Park in Montgomery

September

10-12 ARPF Fall Workshop
Hampton Inn & Suites in Orange Beach