

Where to do Arts and Crafts in the Valley

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With summer approaching quickly, are you finding yourself searching for a new indoor hobby or an interesting activity that will engage your children? Release your inner artist and try the hands-on approach of art. Whether you're a beginner or just need a little more help perfecting your skills, there are art and craft classes around the Valley for everyone.



The Craft Retreat

The Craft Retreat in Glendale has tables and supplies for scrapbooking, personalizing and painting pottery, creating mosaics and teaching kids how to do crafts. Classes are open to the public for specialty card making, heat embossing, painting and much more. Each month, classes and schedules change, so The Craft Retreat offer a complete calendar of events on its Web site. For more information, visit

<http://www.thecraftretreat.com/index.html>.

Make Meaning

Make Meaning is well known around the country at its locations in New York and, as of this month, at Scottsdale Quarter. This studio offers a chance for guests to experiment and have fun creating masterpieces with ceramics, candles, glassware, jewelry, soaps, paper and even cakes. Walk in or make reservations to get your creativity started or purchase a membership for you and your family. For more information on classes and opportunities at Make Meaning, visit <http://www.makemeaning.com/>.

Phoenix Center for the Arts

Class and registration information is online for Phoenix Center for the Arts art classes. The organization offers everything from dry pastel painting, jewelry making, figure drawing, stone setting, making belt buckles, clay and hand building to glass fusing, photography, and music lessons. To register, visit <http://phoenixcenterforthearts.org/>.

Art for Fun!

Art for Fun! Studio and Gallery located in Phoenix offers a variety of classes, including glass, ceramics, painting, mixed media and mosaics. It offers open studios for children and adults and host parties and get-togethers for any occasion. For more information and pricing, visit <http://www.art4funstudio.com/index.html>.

Scottsdale Artists' School

The Scottsdale Artists' School Youth Academy is the "premier art school for kids," offering kids and teens classes to engage their inner artist. Drawing, painting and sculpting are among their class list. They also offer a summer session of art classes for youth. The school also offers classes and sessions for adults, workshops and open studios. For class and summer session information, visit <http://scottsdaleartschool.org/schoolinfo/gettingstart>.

Lisa Fitzgibbons Painting and Fine Art

Lisa Fitzgibbons has had experience painting and teaching for 20 years, offering classes in her Scottsdale studio to teach enthusiastic students to use a paintbrush- and do it well, even as a beginner. One class she offers, Fearless Painting, offers "incredible results on your first try." Fitzgibbons works with all experience levels and helps you create masterpieces to be proud of. For more information and classes schedules, visit <http://www.lisafitzgibbons.com/index.shtml>.