

Beaver Dam, Wisconsin DAILY CITIZEN

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Weather

Today: 13°F, Chance Snow more >>>

Wed 12 30% -9

Thu 9 -1

Fri 22 56% 17

Sat 30 18



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You go, girl



Daily Citizen layout
A Madison-born exhibit seeking to empower girls will begin its national tour in Beaver Dam

Project Girl, an extraordinary interactive art exhibit focusing on the impact of mass media on everyone – and on adolescent girls in particular – will begin its national tour in Beaver Dam.

The Beaver Dam Area Arts Association is presenting this unusual opportunity from Jan. 13 through Feb. 24, at the Seippel Homestead and Center for the Arts, 1605 N. Spring Street.

During that time, trained facilitators will conduct interactive workshops for groups of all kinds – 4-H, scout, church and teen groups, families, school classes and others, including any small groups that are organized specifically for this experience.

All of these opportunities are free thanks to major sponsorships from the Beaver Dam Hospital Health Foundation Inc., Melodie and Tom Wilihganz, as well as additional support from the AAUW Beaver Dam Branch and Derr & Villarreal, Attorneys.

Exhibit creators Kelly Parks-Snyder and Jane Bartell of Madison are training local adult and high-school-age women to facilitate the workshop groups, as requested, throughout the exhibit period.

The facilitators will learn how to use the art exhibit to generate discussion and activities that help counteract negative media influences. They will then be available to conduct any workshops that are requested by family, community and school groups.

These trained facilitators will also help such groups discover appropriate, healthy ways to respond to the personally destructive messages that bombard society.

The Project Girl exhibit presents an environment of art, videos and games prepared by originators Parks-Snyder and Bartell, as well as "body art" created by some of the girls in the Madison area who first participated in the project.

Since its introduction in Madison, hundreds of people of all ages have enthusiastically responded to this means, through art, to make a difference about a critical social issue.

In domino style, action clubs have been formed, some teens designed a Web site, www.projectgirl.org, and the creators are receiving invitations from all over the country to give presentations.

"This project helps answer a serious need for our girls to know that there are many very acceptable body types," said BDAAA Exhibit Co-chair Diane Virnig. "They need to know how to develop and maintain their self-esteem in spite of what they hear and see."

Co-chair Jerry Kamps added, "Although the impact on adolescent girls is emphasized in these workshops, it is important for boys as well as girls and for adults to experience this exhibit and workshop. Awareness and understanding by everyone is needed to deal with this issue."

For an introduction to the exhibit and the workshop program, visitors can attend the opening on Sunday, Jan. 13, 1 to 4 p.m. A brief tour and explanation of the program will be presented about 1:30 p.m. Following the opening, through Feb. 24, individuals may view the exhibit, free of charge, Thursdays, 1 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.; or by appointment by calling (920) 885-3635.

For the group workshop experience, a group representative should call as soon as possible to schedule a time on a week day, in the evening, or on a weekend.

Length of the workshop can vary, based on the time available for each group. Although art is used as a vehicle for discussion and responses, particular art

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