



# Artistic Awakenings

Mailing Address: 3550 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 304 Miami, FL 33137

Activity Address: Dorothy Quintana Community Center 101 N.W. 34 Street Miami, FL 33127

Telephone: (305) 576-0010 | Email: [Artisticawakeningmia@yahoo.com](mailto:Artisticawakeningmia@yahoo.com) | Website: [www.artisticawakenings.com](http://www.artisticawakenings.com)

A 501 (c) 3 Non- Profit Corporation | Steven Saenz, Chairperson  
“Awakening Minds Through the Arts”

## Who are we?

Artistic Awakenings, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that provides no-cost arts and crafts education for inner-city, low-income residents in the neighborhood of Wynwood, Miami. The Senior Arts Program, in particular, focuses on providing these services—for free—to the elderly in the neighborhood: those who are often forgotten by other public educational and social institutions. Overall, the Program has three goals.

First, the Program provides daytime activities for local seniors. Seniors are able to come to classes and remain in the education hall all day with other members of the community. Second, the arts sessions build self-esteem and a sense of autonomy for seniors. Many elderly feel limited by their physical constraints and their need for help; the arts, however, are one area in which seniors can enact full independence. And third, the Program encourages self-expression through the arts. Seniors are able to make beautiful creations that they can then take to their homes and/or give to friends and family.

## By using the arts, we seek to:

1. Provide daytime activities and promote a feeling of purpose;
2. Build self-esteem and a sense of autonomy; and
3. Encourage self-expression.



*Artistic Awakenings:  
Serving the residents of Wynwood with the arts*



## What do we do?

The first effort of the Senior Arts Program is to provide arts and crafts classes. Seniors meet every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm for these classes. Students and instructors work together to create and maintain a sense of community during these sessions. Some residents take charge of making coffee for the class, for instance, while others clean and set up the classroom. The session usually begins with a description of the task for the day followed by a demonstration. Examples of classes include making homemade jewelry, clay sculptures, holiday wreaths, beadwork, and mosaics. (The range of arts and crafts projects are determined by the availability of materials and the abilities of the senior residents) Residents are welcome to stay as long as they would like, enjoying conversation and snacks with other residents well after the class has finished.

The second effort of the Senior Arts Program is to hold cultural and holiday celebrations. Seniors come together to showcase their arts and craft creations during cultural and holiday celebrations approximately once every six weeks. Examples of celebrations include Hispanic Heritage Month, Thanksgiving, Three Kings Day, Valentine's Day, and our yearly Gala. These events bring together the friends and family of the senior residents for a day of merriment. Other volunteers also attend these events to help with food, music, and dance. Notable guests have included City of Miami Mayor Tomas P. Regalado and District 5 City Commissioner Keon Hardemon.



*Artistic Awakenings:  
Serving the residents of Wynwood with the arts*