

Adolescents Find Community Through Creating Art - Nellie Errett

With the chaos and many responsibilities of college, students may find themselves lonely while studying at a university, or bored and without time to follow their passions. These feelings are not abnormal, especially in the hectic stages of growing up, and art has been an outlet for young people to combat these issues throughout history. Art is a vessel for self-expression and fulfills creative needs, and college is a time where people are in close proximity to thousands in the same age range that are going through the struggles of becoming an adult. When combining the two, adolescents are able to find a community while following their passions of art and creating together.

At the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, students have created a group where artists of many different talents and backgrounds can contribute to an arts and culture magazine, titled MIDAS. Video shoots for example, like photoshoots, are an opportunity that brings artists of many fields into a space together to create a shared vision. Photographers, models, assistants and creative directors are able to contribute their talent and passions to reach the common goal of a final creative product.



It is important to have enough helping hands in preparation of a shoot, especially as students are working with a budget and not having access to resources that could make the process easier. People who are passionate about the final result and through the kindness of their hearts are willing to pull their weight.



Artists are also human, and bond with one another over shared interests and friendship. MIDAS has paved the way for people to spend time with others that enjoy similar hobbies, and all being younger people, share similar feelings of growing older.



As a part of creativity, trial and error is practiced in art. Young people are usually very creative while having new experiences as they grow older, and can experiment with things that fit their vision. Sharing these experiences together is beneficial and fulfilling.



Humans naturally help those in their community, further building connections and experiences that make life worth living. Setbacks may arise in trying to reach a goal, but it is beneficial to have multiple people come together and create new ideas of how to solve problems.



Community fosters friendship, which is an incentive to uplift others. People in a successful community enjoy watching others in the group shine in their talent and working with their passions.



There are opportunities to focus on one's own individual artistic intent while still being next to people of the group. Comfort can be found in knowing there are others around who have a same common purpose as themselves.



Long hours spent together working on a goal can lead to relationships that are meaningful in the long run. In between focusing on projects, there is time to simply enjoy each other's presence.



Communities usually have subgroups, and in an artistic community such as MIDAS, there are many different sections that a person can be part of. People are able to communicate with their section about the niche art form they practice, and everyone has a role that they participate in. While everyone can collaborate with each other, there are times the larger community segments off into smaller groups.



Along with uplifting each other, humans support others of the community in times of need. When a member of the group is struggling, such as exhaustion on a blazing hot day, others offer aid or company to help.



The arts have given an opportunity for people to bond and find community, especially young people who are in the process of growing older. From start to finish, an artistic project has many aspects that foster creativity and build relationships that are meaningful.