

Growing up, I have always liked the artistic side of things and just looking at pretty things in general. I've always had an eye for the technical aspects of things that you see daily. I quickly realized once I joined a program in school that I liked architecture, a type of art. To me it wasn't very surprising because I have also always liked math, and with two of my favorite things tying together, it was great. For me, architecture is something I interact with every day, whether it's noticing the lines on a building, sketching drawings on a computer or paper, or even thinking about how a room looks. Architecture is being able to mix functionality with beauty. In school, I get the opportunity to draw technical drawings such as parts to a machine on a computer or 3-D printing things. I've 3-D printed sharks, a hair dryer, and other neat little things, you get to be so creative when doing so. Everything you make is considered a piece of art; the value you put on it is up to you.

A big memory that I have when I was younger, relating to art, was when I was in elementary school. We had an art class, which I always enjoyed, but I felt I wasn't good enough at it because I wasn't super creative. I remember drawing a flower, and I loved drawing flowers when I was younger, and I did it for an art project, with all the crazy colors I had going on back then. I remember my art teacher giving me a piece of paper saying that my piece of art work was going to be on showcase. I was so happy to go home and show my mom that my letter, I felt so proud of myself. It was such a happy moment being able to show off my skills to my mom and the other people who saw it as well. At that point, I felt like I was on top of the world.

I think a way that BENV Kiwanis can promote art in the community is by having more opportunities for students to feel like their work is special. If the Kiwanis is able to partner with an organization that already has a showcase of artwork or make their own. I think kids now are starting to get out of art and doing other things, so maybe having a contest where you can earn prizes would be great. You can get art teachers at the schools around here to nominate students of theirs to be able to have their work on display somewhere in public.

Kiwanis could also devote a month just to students' artwork, doing a daily upload of someone's work, whether that be on Facebook or a website. Even having just a room somewhere with tons of students works would make kids feel so appreciated and like their artwork matters to everyone else.