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I have been interested in the arts for as long as I remember. Art is part of my everyday routine, whether it is listening to music, creating an artwork, or playing music. I grew up listening to all kinds of music, mostly rock and pop music. I still carry those genres and artists with me today. I enjoy making art, as it is relaxing and helps me express my thoughts and feelings. Creating art lets me express myself when I may not be able to put it into words. I am in my school's band, and have gotten the opportunity to play many pieces of music in many events. I have played in concerts, County Band, and Music in the Parks where we won several trophies. I even got to play patriotic tunes for my school's annual Veteran's Day assembly at the beginning of the year. It was an honor to be able to play music for the veterans and their families.

I have many fond memories that involve the arts. When I was younger, my grandmother and I would paint and craft together. I'd help her repaint the decorations she puts up for the holidays. When I was around 8, I had a toy microphone that I would jam out with. I remember performing a concert for my parents, which was very entertaining for them. As a kid, I was (and still am) a messy painter. I always ended up covered in paint, no matter how long I painted for. The fondest memory I have is performing at Music in the Parks with my school's band. It was a very memorable experience that I will always remember and cherish. We bonded as a band while working on the songs we performed, and we supported each other on our journey.

To promote the arts in our community, BENV Kiwanis could hold art events that appeal to all different age groups. I believe these events will be the most effective method in attracting the community to spread the love of art. Introducing children to art at a young age will influence their interest in the arts. I remember having fun attending, "fun-time free-time," at my town's youth center where we swam, made crafts, and ate snacks. Hosting a get together for younger kids, and providing them with supplies to make crafts will give them a head start if they choose to pursue art as a hobby or something more professional.

As for the musical aspect of the arts, I know several people that want to get a start in music, but don't know where to start. An event where people can come and try out different instruments can be helpful to those interested in music. If people are allowed to try out several instruments, they will know what instrument they want to commit to. Hiring a musical professional to attend could be helpful as well, as they would be there to guide the community when handling and playing the instruments.

In the end, art is a very important aspect of daily life, and it is important to implement it in our community. By holding the art events mentioned, the community can become more involved in the arts. This is a positive thing, because art can be used to express ourselves and bring us together. Thank you for considering my essay for Kiwanis 5th annual essay contest.