

Gail Saddy

As we all know The Arts are under attack as a result of budgetary cuts in both private and public sectors. This is evidenced also in the Public Education sector where The Arts have been relegated to a status of being frivolous in their role in Society. The real truth is that you ask any child or adult what memories they have of pleasure and confidence building in their lives and those memories will always be connected to their experiences in art, performance etc. Why? Because that is where they were able to realize the worth of their own self expression and individuality. Self expression, individuality empower the freedom of ideas that are needed to put things such as "freedom of speech" and social ideas into action. When we give no importance to the forming of a "creative mind" through art processes we deny the fruition of ideas and action that represent true freedom and liberty. Yet we continue to hold these things out as part of the true value of being part of the American Society.

In Addition: There is no way that a building can have a Senior Center on a 5th floor. In the case of any emergency stairs are not a means of practical egress for seniors (mobile or otherwise) and Elevators CANNOT BE USED AS EGRESS DURING A FIRE! So I question the legality of the choice to place Seniors on a 5th floor. AND Seniors need stimulation from Art Activities and intergenerational contact. Perhaps the real issue is INTEGRATING the Arts Programs and School with the community activities.