



Fall 2026

Art isn't confined to grand museums or concert halls. Art is everywhere. It is visual, physical, literary and culinary. To find culture, we don't need to look much further than our own front doors. It is the thread that binds us to our families, our friends, and our communities- simultaneously celebrating what makes us unique while honoring our diversity yet shared humanity.

When we support Arts & Culture, we are not distracting from human need; we are actively addressing the holistic wellness of ourselves and our communities. To turn this vision into action across our federation, I am proud to introduce our Unity Project: **The Octopus Challenge.**

This two year challenge invites clubs and states to stretch their reach throughout all areas of Arts and Culture.

Using the entry form found in the Club Manual, all State/DC Federations and Clubs can win recognition by completing 2 projects in each of 4 areas:

ART

MUSIC

DANCE/THEATER

CULTURE

But we know an Octopus has 8 legs and if it loses one (or in our case "uses" one) it can grow another. So as a bonus challenge, and special recognition, complete 2 additional projects celebrating each of these special areas:

***Affiliate
Organizations***

***Lesser-known cultural traditions
Lei Day, Diwali, Panigiri, Bon Odori etc.***

Have fun with this! Let your ideas flow, make waves of creativity and inspiration. By the end of this administration, those who have completed the Octopus Challenge will have left a legacy of service to their communities as far-reaching and embracing as an octopus' arms!

Don't forget to brand your artistic endeavors with your club's name, contact information (where appropriate), and the GFWC Emblem.

Arts & Culture is inherently human and social. When we create, preserve, or curate cultural work, the ultimate goal isn't just the process of creation-it's the **connection** it fosters.

As you navigate the Octopus Challenge, remember that your projects are just as vital for your members as they are for the broader community.

So where do you begin?

A great place to start is the club manual, which is packed with inspiration. You can also explore websites like *"There Is A Day For That"* for creative sparks. These resources can give you an easy, built-in opportunity to plan a meaningful project. For instance, did you know that every month features themes tied directly to Arts & Culture?

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic Heritage Month

9/14 *National Coloring Day*

9/24 *Arts in Care Homes Day*

9/25 *National Doodle Day*

OCTOBER

National Arts & Humanities Month

10/3 *World Card Making Day*

Make/Send to St. Judes/ Veterans/ Seniors

10/5: *National Spinning & Weaving Week*

10/31: *Dia de los Muertos*

10/12: *Children's Day in Brazil*

10/21: *National Honey in UK*

10/21: *International Artist Day*

Have fun with this Community Service Project! Start making your waves. If you share your projects with me I will post some of them in the next Newsletter!

NOVEMBER

American Indian & Alaskan Native Month

11/2 *Look for Circles Day*

11/5 *National Men Make Dinner Day!*

11/6 *National Saxophone Day*

11/9 *Go to an Art Museum Day*

11/26 *Thanksgiving*

DECEMBER

Multi-Cultural Holiday Observances and Seasonal Performing Arts Month

12/1 *Day With(out) Art Day*

Celebrating artists impacted by HIV/AIDS

12/3 *Make A Gift Day!*

12/7 *Day of Little Candles in Columbia*

12/8 *Day of Music in Finland*

12/27 *Cut Out Snowflakes Day!*

12/27 *Jolabokaflod in Iceland*
National Day of Giving Books!

12/28 *National Cinema Day*



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