



January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year to the Wonderful WHAM Family

We look forward to seeing you in 2026.

This is an exciting time for WHAM.



Message for New Year As we close the chapter on 2025 and welcome the opportunities of 2026, I would like to share a few reflections on our WHAM family.

Each of you is an integral part of a meaningful endeavor—a purposeful movement dedicated to fostering inclusion for all. Your unique gifts lie in your ability to express yourself and the world around you through art, offering a profound and inspiring contribution to our community.

Though we each bring diverse perspectives, abilities, and artistic talents, we unite in our commitment to giving back and enriching the lives of those around us.

If you have not yet fully engaged with WHAM's mission, I encourage you to become involved and experience the transformative power of our collective movement. If you are already actively participating, take pride in your gifts and your role in making our community a better place through the transformative medium of art.

Connie Whitlock
Executive Director

Here's What's Happen'n at the Gallery

The Fourth Annual "All Things Clay" Exhibit

Join us at WHAM Art Center for a celebration of ceramic art! From January 3–30, 2026, explore hand-built, wheel-thrown, and sculptural works—masters of clay transforming earth into art to inspire.

Reception: January 10, 2026 | 2–4 PM
Location: 16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ

Gallery Hours: Tues. -Sat. 10 AM-4 P.M.



JAN 3-30, 2026

Hand-built, wheel-thrown, and beyond — masters of clay transforming earth into art to inspire.

4TH ANNUAL
ALL THINGS
CLAY

RECEPTION
& AWARDS:
JAN. 10, 2026
2PM - 4 PM

WHAM
What's Happenin' in Art Movement
16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ
10am - 4pm Tues - Sat

**UPCOMING
GALLERY
EXHIBITS
THIS**

- February, the Vanguard Artists Group
- March, the AzArt Alliance Interpretations XI



A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our 12th Annual Bowls of Hope on November 29th. From all of our visitors to the dedicated WHAM Volunteers, hats off to all of you for making this the most successful year ever! Your generous donations of time and money will help more people than you will ever know. The proceeds will go to the following local charity organizations. All Faith Community Services, Eve's Place Community Services, the Homeless Youth Connection, St Mary's Food Bank, Southwest Family Advocacy Center, Streetlights USA, and Sounds of Autism.

GO-KARTS
FOR THE ARTS
WHAM
AT ANDRETTI
3-14-26

Andretti Glendale | 3.14.26 | 3 – 6 pm
6263 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305

**PUTTING THE FUN
BACK IN FUNDRAISER:
GO-KARTS FOR THE ARTS**

Rev up for a fun-filled day supporting the arts! Your participation *helps fuel programs for veterans, kids, teens, and adults* – from painting and drawing to sculpture, mixed media, and more.

FIND OUT MORE.

GO-KARTS FOR THE ARTS // WHAM

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14th from 3 to 6pm for an afternoon of pure fun for yourself, family and friends.

PARTICIPATE: Create a team of five and compete against other teams for a chance to win prizes and awards – or race as an individual and challenge your friends on the track! One ticket includes a High-speed Kart Race, two Virtual Reality Attractions of your choice and three hours of unlimited arcade play. Also available to you are refreshing beverages and tasty lite bites. All proceeds support the WHAM Art Center and the West Valley art movement, helping provide accessible art education for veterans, kids, teens and adults.

DONATE: Along with the Kart Racing, we will be having our popular online auction where folks can bid on gift baskets, travel packages, fine art and jewelry items just to name a few. We are now accepting donations for the auction. [Check it out HERE](#)

SPONSOR: We have three levels of sponsorship available, Platinum, Gold and Silver. Your sponsorship will help WHAM continue to provide art education in the visual arts and literary arts programs for the West Valley communities. *To be a sponsor, contact Connie Whitlock at connie.whitlock@wham-art.org.*



**GO-KARTS FOR THE ARTS
Auction Donation Form**

Andretti Glendale | 3.14.26 | 3 - 6 pm
6263 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305

A Race to Benefit WHAM! Full Details

Wham provides art experiences such as art exhibits, art walks, public art, festivals, art education, events, and instructional art classes for adults and children along with a variety of outreach programs to under-served populations such as Free Veterans classes with drug addiction, Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, Teens at Risk, and Persons with Alzheimer's.

Organization or Donor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

PLEASE NOTE:
This donor form MUST accompany all donations. Accompanying brochures and other collateral welcome. All donations must have a minimum of \$25.00 and include a value and expiration date. Please ensure expiration date is later than our event date of 3/14/2026.

Item Name / Description:	Monetary Value	Expiration Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

Please Check One (Items must be received by Friday, March 6, 2026):

Item/certificate is included or will be mailed. (Please mail to: WHAM, 16560 N. Dysart Road, Surprise, AZ 85378.) Must be picked up. (WHAM will contact you to arrange for pick-up.)

I would like to donate cash to be used to purchase gift cards or enhance packages.

A check is enclosed for \$ _____

WILL DROP OFF

Signature of Donor (REQUIRED): _____

WHAM
West Valley Museum of Art & Movement

WHAM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing art education for the local community with the intent of enhancing artistic talents.
16560 N. Dysart Road, Surprise, AZ 85378 | 623-584-8311 | www.wham-art.org | EIN 16-4497201

WHAM Members

Are you a member in Good Standing? Are your Dues paid? Please check with Gaylia Young if you are not sure gaylia.young@wham-art.org. Artists – are you excited to share what you know with other artists? There are always opportunities to instruct a class at WHAM. Check with Dede Robinson at dede.robinson@wham-art.org

The next Member Art Exchange takes place on Sunday, January 11th and Monday, January 12th from 11am to 2pm.



JANUARY CLASSES AT A GLANCE
for information on our classes
visit wham-art.org/classes



Friday Night Paint Night
"Cabin in the Woods"

Date: Friday, Jan 2nd
Time: 6:00-8:00 pm



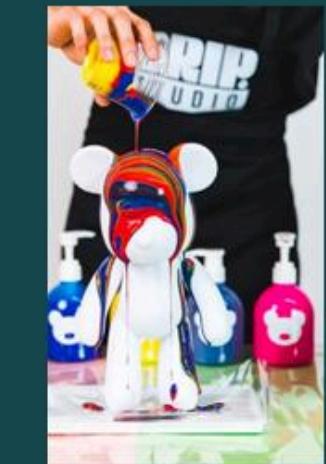
Mindful Art for Seniors &
Caregivers

Jan 6th
10:00 am- 12:00 pm



**TeenWHAM
Recycled Materials project and
DIY Gnomes project**

**Jan 7th
4:30-6:30 pm**



**WHAM Kids - Let's Drip 9"
Bear**

**Dates: Saturday, Jan 10th
Time: 2:00-4:00 pm**



**Vets Program "A Path to
Healing"
Peoria Vets
Jan 12th
10:00-2:00 pm**

**BEGINNING WHEEL
THROWING – BOWLS
5 week program**

**Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 & 10
6:00-8:00 pm**



**Stain Glass Workshop for Beginners - 3 week
workshop**

**Jan 14th, 21st & 28th
5:30-7:30 pm**



Finding the Artist Within

**Jan 15th
10:00-11:30 am**



**WHAM Kids Saturday Arts &
Crafts
Abstract Creation**

**Jan 17th
1-2:30 pm**



**TeenWHAM
Soap Carving**

**Jan 21
4:30-6:30 pm**



**"Peaceful Sunset" Acrylic
Painting @ the Spicery, located
in beautiful Historic
Downtown Glendale
7141 N 59th Ave
Glendale, AZ 85301**

**Date: Jan 22nd
Time: 6-8 pm**



**Tweens & Teens - Masters
Program
MATISSE**

**Jan 24th
1-2:30 pm**

[Visit our Website for Classes](#)

For more than a decade, WHAM's Veterans Art Groups have provided healing, connection, and creative expression for those who have served. If you are a veteran, and not already coming to these free creative sessions,

contact Marty Wolfe at marty.wolfe@wham-art.org to find out how you can become a part of this healing experience.

ART A PATH TO HEALING

ART WORKSHOPS FOR OUR VETERANS

WHAM Art Association offers a **FREE** art program for **veterans of all ages**. Each 4-hour session is taught by professional artists and include drawing, painting, and other art mediums. No experience necessary! **Supplies and a light lunch provided. Please bring your military ID to your first class.**

Surprise and Peoria Sessions

When: SECOND MONDAYS – 10 AM TO 2PM

2025: Dec 8

2026: Jan 12 / Feb 9 / Mar 9 / Apr 13 / May 11
Jun 8 / Jul 13 / Aug 10

Where: WHAM Art Center
16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ 85378

Goodyear Sessions

When: THIRD MONDAYS – 1AM TO 2 PM

2025: Dec 15

2026: Jan 19 / Feb 16 / Mar 16 / Apr 20
May 18 / Jun 15 / Jul 20 / Aug 17

Where: Loma Linda Community Center
420 E Loma Linda Blvd,
Goodyear, AZ 85338

Sponsored by



WHAM-ART.ORG



Come create with us and meet other art enthusiasts! You do not have to be a WHAM member to join in, relax and soak up all of the "art vibes" in the open studio.

ART is Happen'n HERE

Open Studio
+ Demo Series

WHEN:

Third Friday of the Month
4-8 PM

WHERE:

WHAM Classroom (South Side)
**16560 N Dysart Rd,
Surprise, AZ 85378**

Bring your own art and work in a fun,
creative open-studio atmosphere —
plus a 20-30 minute demo each night,
starting around 5:30-6:00 PM.
Come and go as you like.

**Everyone
is invited.**

**DATES
&
DEMOS:**



Jan 16, 2026
Gelli Plate Creation Demo
Feb 20, 2026
How to Use a Gelli Plate
Mar 20, 2026
Cake Decorating Demo
Apr 17, 2026
Decoupage on Rope Baskets
May 15, 2026 – Coming Soon!



RSVP: dede.robinson@wham-art.org
Park on the south side of the WHAM building

RSVP Dede for Open Studio

Penny Orloff

January 10th is a full day at WHAM. Get your tickets to WHAM's second One-Person Show starring WHAM's very own Penny Orloff. Tell your friends and join us for this memorable and meaningful night of real entertainment. Advance tickets available at WHAM or on [Eventbrite](#).

Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life

Solo Performance By Penny Orloff

January 10, 2026, 7:30 pm

Tickets:
\$25 at Eventbrite.com
\$30 at the door

Orloff's solo show blends heirloom melodies, personal storytelling, and reflections on her Jewish immigrant family and colorful life in show business, offering an evening that is heartfelt, hilarious, and deeply human.

15580 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ 85378
623-564-8311

WHAM
Whitney's Home for the Performing Arts

There's Still Time Left for You to Start to Tell Your Story at the WHAM Writing Workshop sponsored by the Peoria Arts Council.

Don't Forget the Monthly Open Mic. The Third Friday of the Month. 6:30-8:00 p.m. All are welcome. \$5 or free with a library card. Bring a friend. January 16th at the WHAM Gallery.

Presented by WHAM Literary Arts



WHAT'S HappEN'N ART Movement

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? WRITING WORKSHOP

**Do you want to share your stories,
poems, or lyrics?**

**Learn new writing skills and
improve your storytelling techniques
in this 10-week series.**

Come to one session, or come to all!

Register at <https://signup.com/go/CctXAtn>

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Starting Oct 4 - Feb 21

Peoria Main Library, 8463 W Monroe St. Peoria, AZ



Made possible by Peoria Arts Council



Join us at the Authors Circle

MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH MONTH IN THE WHAM CLASSROOM AND WRITERS WELCOME!
MEETINGS TAKE PLACE EVERY THREE MONTHS AT THE WHAM ART CENTER.
MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL WRITERS.

SHARE YOUR WORK AND RECEIVE GENTLE FEEDBACK TO SUPPORT YOU ON YOUR WRITING JOURNEY. NO INSPIRATION REQUIRED.

Connect with fellow writers, share ideas, and enjoy a supportive atmosphere.

For More Information contact
Chris Taylor, Authors Engagement Lead
chris.taylor@wham-art.org
Please put WHAM Authors Circle in the subject line.
www.wham-art.org

Authors Circle

The new Authors Circle Meetings are gaining momentum. Come and share your work and receive gentle feedback to support you on your writing journey.

Contact Chris Taylor for more information:
chris.taylor@wham-art.org

CALL FOR ART

Call for Entries WHAM Art Center invites all artists of all levels to submit original works for 'Our Planet, Our Inspiration,' an exhibition revering the beauty, resilience, and complexity of our world. Artists are invited to explore the Earth, life, and the environment in any form—landscapes, creatures, human connections, abstract interpretations, or cycles of life. All mediums welcome, including drawing, painting, photography, clay, mixed media, and recycled/upcycled art.

AWARDS Ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded for First Place, Second Place, Third Place, and Best in Show. Artists do not need to be present to receive awards. All awards will be determined by the Juror and announced at the exhibition reception.



"Our Planet, Our Inspiration"

April 1 – 29, 2026
WHAM Art Center
16560 N Dysart Rd,
Surprise, AZ 85378

Read more about it
on our website
www.wham-art.org

The Gift Shop is the special place where WHAM Members display and sell their art. Check it out, it will



VOLUNTEERS, LOOKING FOR SOME COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

WHAM has been invited by the City of Surprise to once again participate in its annual celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., taking place on Saturday, January 17, from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

As part of the program, teen poet Zoe Hyman and WHAM Literary Arts Manager Maggie Gautier will present a poem they co-wrote, to be recited during the event's formal presentation.

Following the presentation, WHAM—in association with Youth4Troops—will lead a community art activity focused on creating thank-you and appreciation cards for our active military members, first responders, and homebound Surprise residents. Last year's Valentine-themed card-making initiative was a tremendous success, offering meaningful community engagement and excellent visibility for WHAM.

We invite you to join us in making art that spreads gratitude and brings smiles. This event also provides a wonderful opportunity for WHAM members who are seeking volunteer service hours.

👉 If you would like to participate, please complete the required City of Surprise registration form using the link below. Registration ensures WHAM's strong presence at this important community event. Bring your creativity, your heart, and your willingness to serve—and be part of honoring Dr. King's legacy through action, art, and community connection.

We hope you will join us and help WHAM continue its mission of building connection through words, art, and community.

surpriseaz-services.app

Want to become a WHAM member?

Here are the amazing benefits!

- Discount on Art Classes
- Classroom Rental Discount (art instruction/class use)
- Art Clubs & Special Events (art collaboration)
- Member Meetings Quarterly
- Ability to hang your artwork at no cost to you unless it sells then you pay 25% fee
- Usage of WHAM building during open hours with approval
- Access to an Artist community to share ideas
- Ability to sell artwork in the Gift Shop at no cost to you unless it sells, then you donate 25% back to WHAM
- Ability to Enter into WHAM Exhibits, Events and Art Fairs
- Opportunities to give back to the community with your volunteer hours for classes and events!
- More fun than a barrel of monkeys!

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ARTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



Newsletter Editor: Maggie Gautier, WHAM Literary Arts Manager

Newsletter Designer: Jimmy Garcia



WHAM Art Center | 16560 N Dysart Rd | Surprise, AZ 85378

623.584.8311 | WWW.WHAM-ART.ORG WHAMARTASSOCIATION@WHAM-ART.ORG

WHAM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing art education for the local community with the intent of enhancing artistic talents.

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