



## Evening Institute for the Talented in Arts

### Introduction:

Free schools for the talented in arts are considered one of the successful educational methods in civilized communities, and are also perceived as a dynamic learning tool.

The need for such schools in poor and developing communities is growing up, wherein arts and creativity are not a source of income. The people in these communities get involved in industry and handicrafts that are needed for the daily needs. This will not allow the talented to practice and build up their career.

Due to the prevailing conditions in Palestine, an evening school for the talented in arts has never existed until the establishment of the Young Artists Forum, YAF, which undertook this responsibility.

### Our Vision:

The vision and philosophy of the Evening Institute is based on the role and objectives that we seek to attain at YAF. There is a massive need for the vital role of art in educations and human development. Consequently we adopted "Education through art".



From that perspective, the Evening Institute implements various community activities aiming at raising cultural awareness among youth in the marginalized areas regarding democracy, human rights and peace education, as well as health education through art and psychotherapy for juveniles.

YAF has focused on human development for the purpose of promoting the role of the Palestinian youth by recruiting them and building up a specialized cadre in Fine Arts. In fact, YAF has implemented vital projects including the "Illustration School for Young Talented Artists", who are university graduates, specialized in fine arts. This schools aims at creating an infra-structure for the art illustration in Palestine.

Moreover, YAF has conducted jointly with the Ministry of Education a project in the public schools to train the art teachers. In addition to training (16) young males and females in the cultural centers located in the rural areas for six months.

### Organizational Structure of the Evening Institute:

It comprises (8) class levels equivalent to (8) courses – each course has its own requirements. Once the student successfully graduates from the eighth level, he/she can sit for n entrance exam in any at college or academy in the developed countries.

#### **I. Staff:**

- **Technical Director:** Supervises the teaching process and addresses all obstacles entailed. He manages



the performance of the trainers and follows up with the problems of the students and trainers on one hand, and the parents on the other hand. The technical director secures all art materials for the students and trainers, and monitors the relationship between YAF and the Ministry of education. He is responsible before the Director of YAF.

- **Student Affairs' Officer:** Supervises the registration of students, maintains the students' filing system. He is responsible before the technical director and the accountant at YAF.
- **Custodian:** Cleans and buys the needed materials, helps in arranging the exhibitions and other events.
- **Trainers:** University graduates and specialized in fine arts. Each trainer receives the curriculum that includes the tasks designated for each level. They get paid for their teaching hours and responsible before the technical director.

## II. Distribution of Students:

The students of the Evening Institute are divided into two categories:

- A) Children under 12 years old and divided into two groups:
- 1) Group one: aged 5-8 years old.
  - 2) Group two: aged 9-12 years old.

B) Students enrolled in the Academic Curriculum: Those students are distributed according to (8) levels. The duration of each level is (3) months. Passing from one level to another requires the student to meet the criteria set for each level.

The average number of students in each level/class is (15). However, we can notice that the number of students decreases as we go up the levels/classes.

## III. The Curriculum:

The artists/trainers have worked hard on the curriculum in cooperation with other artists. After each semester, an evaluation committee meets and reviews the curriculum and makes the required changes.

The present curriculum is ratified by the Ministry of Education stating that Level 1-4 necessitates the completion of (52) hours in 26 sessions during 3 months for each level/class. Level 5-8 necessitates the completion of (78) hours in 39 sessions during 3 months for each level/class. See details in Annex I.



## IV. The Annual Programme of the Evening Institute:

- 1- **Spring Semester:** Feb. 1st – April 30th
- 2- **Summer Semester:** June. 1st – August 31th
- 3- **Winter Semester:** Oct. 1st – Dec. 31th

### YAF in Numbers:

Since we launched the 1st semester in spring 2003, 16 students were enrolled in Level 1, which was quite

a good start. Later on, YAF campaigned for the Institute by distributing a flyer in schools and houses. Also, we put ads in the newspapers and in local TV stations. Consequently, we started receiving a lot of students in the Evening Institute.

In the year 2003, the Institute received (75) adult students and (59) young children. Moreover, during the summer camp of 2003, 850 children registered in the camp.

In the year 2004, the Institute received (113) adult students and (84) young children. Moreover, during the summer camp of 2004, 361 children registered in the camp.

In the year 2005, the Institute received (192) adult students and (133) young children. In the year 2006, the Institute received (131) adult students and (197) young children.

It is worth mentioning that as the student moves from the 1st level to the 2nd level and so on, this means that he is keen about nourishing his talent. By the times he graduates, he would have spent 24 training months ( $8 \times 3 = 24$ ) – Success stories.

### Annual Exhibitions:

This important event empowers the students' self-confidence and gives them a push for further achievement. It is an important occasion for the students' parents and friends to come and see the work of their children.

Presently, we are working on networking with regional and international art organizations to give the chance to our distinguished artists to attend their exhibitions as part of the cultural exchange prog

