Leader Packet

THE WORKING ARTISTS INITIATIVE

Leader Packet Materials:

- Welcome Letter

- Brochure for Prospective artists
    - To be folded into a mini zine

- Meeting Agendas

- Commitments & Accomplishments
    - To be filled out weekly by the participants

Welcome

What is WAI?

At heart, WAI is about helping artists form strong creative habits that will last a lifetime.

The fundamental component of the program is a simple commitment: make the time to make art, five to ten hours a week.

To support artists in this commitment, WAI groups meet every other week for twelve weeks. Together, in a cross-genre group where fine artists, musicians, writers, photographers, and filmmakers all share their perspectives, artists commit to the completion of a project of their choice. In each meeting, artists share their progress, renew their commitments, and respond to each other's work. At the end of the program, artists will have a completed book, film, album, or group of works. Even more important, they will have developed a strong habit of art creation that will serve as the foundation for countless future projects.
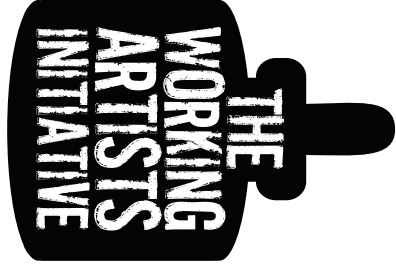
Size

Six people is an ideal size for the WAI group. Although individual leaders are welcome to be flexible in size, because of the twelve-week program design, there are only 6 slots for artists to share their work with the group, and the smaller size encourages deep and open discussions.

Artistic Commitment

WAI groups can work with artists at any stage, but work best when all artists are at a similar level of commitment and proficiency. Emerging artists should be grouped with other emerging artists, and established artists with other established artists. There's room for range within the program, but keep in mind that people who are just starting out in the arts, or consider them a hobby, may be frustrated by being in groups with more serious practitioners, and vice versa.

Diversity

A diversity of perspectives makes the program rich. Look for diversity in gender, age, race, artistic discipline, and faith background.

Contact

Interested in joining a group? Talk with your local regional leader.

Commitment

The fundamental commitment is not to attend a program, but to make art.

The final goal is not to complete a project, but to form a habit of art creation that will last a lifetime.

Over the course of twelve weeks, IAMWAI artists choose a project, set specific goals, and commit to consistent work with bi-weekly group meetings for inspiration and accountability.

But even more important, it's designed to form a habit of creation that will allow you to create in the context of your daily life, for a lifetime.

Community

IAMWAI welcomes serious artists from all disciplines. Many arts programs segregate by genre, but IAMWAI believes fine artists can learn as much or more from writers, dancers, and songwriters as they do from other fine artists – and vice versa. This cross-genre approach creates a unique community, offers fresh perspectives for all artists, encourages collaboration, and offers a cure for the growing fragmentation of the modern world.

Create

At heart, IAMWAI is about making a habit of making work.

It's an opportunity to create a substantial, focused body of work and build relationships with a diverse group of fellow artists.

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First Meeting Agenda

IMPORTANT: Before the first meeting, each artist should complete the Project Worksheet, and bring it.

Opening
Leader opens by talking about the purpose of the program. Why are we here? To form work habits that will last a lifetime, and allow us to create art consistently in the context of any life.

Introduction of Artists
Each artist introduces themselves by describing the project that they plan to complete during the course of the program. After each project is introduced, the leader asks for response from the group, using four standard response questions

1. What was your gut reaction to this project?
2. What did you like best about it?
3. Was there anything that was confusing or frustrating to you?
4. Do you see any areas for growth, or things you'd like to see more of?

Commitment
The group spends 5-10 minutes scheduling their art-making for the next two weeks onto their actual calendars. Each artist then shares their commitment with the group, noting

1. How many hours they plan to work
2. When they plan to work those hours
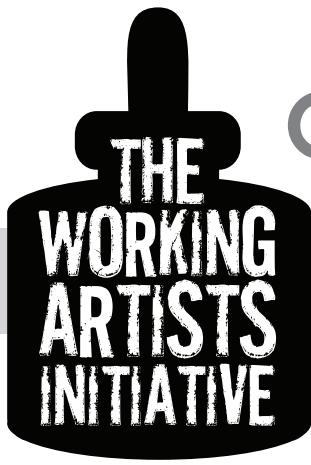3. What they plan to accomplish

The leader can note these commitments for use in future meetings. After each artist describes their commitment, the leader asks the group for feedback: encouragement, challenges, and reality checks.

Planning
The leader requests a volunteer or two to share their work in progress at the following meeting, and lets them know that they will have a few minutes to present.

Prayer
Praying for each other's art can be a powerful way to bond groups and break through artistic barriers. Many groups find praying for each other's artistic concerns in pairs to be a good way to close meetings.

Ongoing Meeting Agenda

Progress
Each artist describes their past week, including

1. What they accomplished
2. Any lessons learned or challenges encountered

After they share, the group can respond with encouragement, challenges, or ideas.

Commitment
The group spends 5-10 minutes scheduling their art-making for the next two weeks onto their actual calendars. Each artist then shares their commitment with the group, noting

1. When they plan to work on their project
2. What they plan to accomplish

The leader notes these commitments for use in future meetings. After each artist describes their commitment, the leader asks the group for feedback: encouragement, challenges, and reality checks.

Art Response
1 artist (max 2 artists per session) shares their work in progress. The leader then opens a response time, using these standard questions for each artist

1. What was your gut reaction to this work?
2. What did you like best about it?
3. Was there anything that was confusing or frustrating to you?
4. Do you see any areas for growth, or things you'd like to see more of?

Planning
The leader requests a volunteer to share their work in progress at the following meeting, and lets them know that they will have time to present.

Prayer
Praying for each other's art can be a powerful way to bond groups and break through artistic barriers. Many groups find praying for each other's artistic concerns in pairs to be a good way to close meetings.
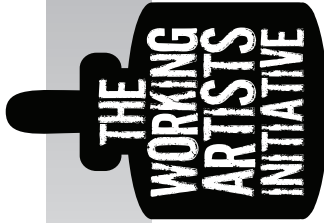
Commitments & Accomplishments

Week #: _____ Date: _____

Planned Hours: _____

Actual Hours: _____

	Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Total	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Accomplishments			Accomplishments		Accomplishments		Accomplishments		Accomplishments		Accomplishments		Accomplishments			

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