



Arts Day Spring 2012

Overview: In spring of 2012, Crafton Hills College (CHC) faculty, staff and students hosted the fifth annual Arts Day. This recruitment event exposes local high school students to the college's fine arts programs and support services available to them as prospective incoming college students. Attendees participated in a series of targeted arts experiences and interactive workshops in theatre improvisation, music, dance, art, and creative writing. This brief illustrates the perspectives of the one hundred five participants who completed a one-page survey evaluating their experience.

Methodology: The February 24, 2012 event was attended by students from the following six local high schools: Redlands, Redlands East Valley, Yucaipa, San Geronio, Pacific, and Arroyo Valley. To assess various aspects of the event, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning in collaboration with the Dean of Arts and Sciences crafted a one-page evaluation form to collect feedback from the students in attendance. In total, 105 valid surveys were collected and analyzed.

The survey included one multiple choice question asking participants to indicate their plans upon graduating from high school. Then, using a four-point scale (4 = *Strongly Agree*, 3 = *Agree*, 2 = *Disagree*, and 1 = *Strongly Disagree*), attendees were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements to gauge the perceived value and overall satisfaction with various aspects of Arts Day. Next, using a four-point scale (4 = Excellent; 3 = Good; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor), students rated the merit of the workshops they attended. Finally, respondents were given the opportunity to leave feedback, comments, and suggestions in two open-ended questions.

Findings: Table 1 displays all responses to the question "What do you plan to do after high school?" Respondents were most likely to indicate that they plan to attend Crafton Hills College (49%) and least likely to indicate plans to attend a vocational/technical school (5%).

Table 1: Plans following graduation from High School

What do you plan to do after high school?	N	%
Attend Crafton Hills College	51	48.6
Attend another community college	28	26.7
Attend a 4-year college or university	33	31.4
Attend a vocational/technical school	5	4.8
Work	16	15.2
Uncertain	21	20.0

Note: "N" refers to the number of times respondents selected that answer as their choice, and "%" is the N divided by the number of students who answered the question (105).

Table 2 is arranged by Mean score in descending order and excludes not applicable responses. The first column lists the statements, the second column (i.e. "N") shows the number of students who responded to the item, the column entitled "Min" shows the lowest response on the scale, the column entitled "Max" shows the highest response on the scale, the column "Mean" shows the average rating, and the

last column shows the standard deviation. Students rated whether or not they agreed with the statements on a four point scale as follows:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Agree
- 4 = Strongly Agree

If the Min (i.e. lowest) score was a “3”, that means that none of the students disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. If the Max score was a “4”, that means that at least one student strongly agreed with the statement. As an illustration, if the mean score was 3.65, that would indicate that, on average, students either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Respondents were more likely to indicate that their Arts Day attendance resulted in an increase of knowledge of Fine Arts at Crafton Hills College (Mean = 3.66). On the other hand, respondents were less likely to indicate that attending Arts Day helped them increase their knowledge of the application, registration, and financial aid processes at Crafton (Mean = 3.00)

Table 2: Perceived level of agreement of value and overall satisfaction with Arts Day

Please rate your level of agreement with the following:	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std.
					Deviation
After today’s visit, I learned more about the Fine Arts at Crafton	105	1	4	3.66	.663
Overall, I am satisfied with today’s visit to Crafton Hills College	105	1	4	3.61	.700
Today’s workshops were interesting and useful	105	1	4	3.58	.690
After today’s visit, I understand the application, registration and financial aid processes at Crafton	104	1	4	3.00	.763

Table 3 presents participants’ level of satisfaction with the theatre, music, art, dance, and creative writing workshops. Respondents were more likely to rate all of the workshops as excellent or good. Specifically, 75% of the respondents felt the Art workshop was excellent. In addition, 70% of the respondents rated the Dance workshop as excellent, and 68% of the respondents indicated that the Theatre Improvisation workshop was excellent.

Table 3: Perceived quality of Arts Day workshops

Workshops	Excellent		Good		Average		Poor	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Theatre Improvisation	71	68.3	29	27.9	1	1.0	3	2.9
Music	51	49.5	37	35.9	13	12.6	2	1.9
Art	79	75.2	15	14.3	6	5.7	5	4.8
Dance	73	69.5	16	15.2	10	9.5	6	5.7
Creative Writing	40	38.5	27	26.0	26	25.0	11	10.6

Open-Ended Questions: Attendees were asked to provide a response to the questions “What did you enjoy most about Arts Day?” and “How can we improve Arts Day?” The key concepts from the comments were extracted and the following is a compilation of the major themes identified.

Overall, students most enjoyed the environment created by the faculty, staff, and students who hosted the event (seven comments), as well as the opportunity to participate in several creative activities (eight comments). Four students noted that their favorite part of Arts Day was learning new things about the arts.

- There were 30 comments specifically remarking about the opportunity for students to make their own t-shirt screen-printing designs in the Arts workshop. One student wrote, “Love the printing on my new shirt!” Another student commented that art was his favorite workshop because he got to keep the shirt.
- Overall, students were very pleased with the workshops.
 - The Art workshop was most popular, with 54 students saying it was their favorite or one of their favorite parts of Arts Day.
 - The Dance workshop was also very popular, with 40 students making positive comments. One student wrote, “I usually don't like dancing...but the instructor was fun and knew what he was doing and how to teach.” Another wrote, “Even though I don't like to dance the instructor was enthusiastic and a great influencer. He made me respect dancing much more.” A third student commented, “I enjoyed dancing and stepping out of your comfort zone, being open.”
 - Theatre Improvisation was a close third, with 32 students claiming it as one of their favorites. One student wrote, “I learned a lot of new games that are both fun and help improve skill.” Another commented, “I could've done the improv class all day!”
- The students, faculty and staff working at the event were the focus of comments left by seven students. Comments included, “I enjoy the great energy, very welcoming,” “Everyone was just really chill and cool,” and “the group leaders were hilarious and entertaining.”
- Asked about what they liked most, fifteen students gave comments like “All of it” and “everything.” One respondent wrote, “Everything was fun! I can't choose [one favorite]! It was off the chain!”
- Lunch was also identified by seven students as a favorite. One student wrote that the cookies were especially good.

The suggestions for improving Arts Day included both general and specific comments. While 19 comments suggested no need for improvement, 18 respondents suggested that opportunities for exposure to additional kinds of art, specifically painting, drawing, theatre technology, other types of dance, video production, physical interpretation of theatre, singing, and animation would be welcomed. The most common request (11 students) was for a drawing and/or painting activity.

Nine students said that they didn't like having to participate in the writing activity, or that they would have preferred a different type of writing activity. In addition, there were several specific proposals for organization of the event next year.

- Four respondents identified the need to add a vegetarian menu option; six others commented that the food needed to be better.
- Some students wanted more time on Arts Day: nine students said that they would have liked each workshop to be longer, while three students asked for more workshops.
- Students said they would have enjoyed some kind of presentation during lunch, rather than having a DJ (four comments).
- Students suggested that future attendees should have a choice to attend only workshops that they are interested in (two comments).

- Students wanted to use musical instruments (two comments).
- Some students wanted more information about the college: two asked for more information about art classes, and another wanted a more extensive tour of the campus.
- Other suggestions for changes to Arts Day included “Have the students pick topics or start the idea” and “Ask us kids more questions.”