



# Celebrate Hope Through Art

## ↘ What is this project all about?

Through collaboration with the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge with assistance from the State Arts Council, adults 50 plus will learn from cancer specialists and survivors, expressing themselves through painting, drawing, writing or mixed media. They will meet and work with residents at Hope Lodge, who will be invited to create art pieces and share their stories. This event will culminate with an art show at Hope Lodge, sharing art that interprets the effects of cancer and the stories of the artists.

## ↘ Timeline

During this eight week series, participants will be guided through the process of creating an original piece of art without a reference. How do you put feelings into your artwork? What can art say to the viewer?

### Sat, April 5 from 1-3 pm (**Free and Open to the Public Age 50+**)

Speakers will share knowledge about cancer and how it affects our bodies. Next will be breakout sessions with cancer survivors where sharing how cancer has affected you will be encouraged.



### Saturday, April 12 from 1-3 pm

Teaching Artists will introduce themselves and share personal experiences on how they go about creating art that tells a story. This will be followed by the media groups meeting together.

### Saturdays, April 19, 26, May 3 and 10 from 1-3 pm

Participants will work with Teaching Artists in the creative process. During this 4 weeks, each media group will help create and serve a meal to Hope Lodge Residents under the directions of Chef Robin Magturo. Groups will eat, visit, and participate in an art project together.

- Writing group: Tuesday, April 15 from 4-7 pm
- Painting group: Tuesday, April 22 from 4-7 pm
- Mixed Media group: Tuesday, April 29 from 4-7 pm
- Drawing Group: Tuesday, May 6 from 4-7 pm

Sat. May 17 from 1-3 pm

All Participants will meet to discuss the journey. Each will have a chance to share their creation with the rest of the group and tell a bit about their experience that occurred during this project.

Tuesday, May 20 from 6-8 at Hope Lodge (**Free and Open to the Public**)

We will celebrate the art created by the program participants and Hope Lodge residents. Guests are welcome. This is a come and go event. *801 NE 7th Street, OKC. Parking available at Embassy Suites.*



## Tuition/Enrollment Form

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Who can participate? Any adult 50 plus

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Media:

\_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_ Painting \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Mixed Media (Limit 15 per group)

Tuition for this eight-week series is \$100.00 This includes all materials, plus a meal at Hope Lodge, snacks, and a culminating reception. Transportation is not included. Partial Scholarships are available as needed. Healthy Living OKC or Healthy Living Norman Members receive a \$25 discount on tuition.

**In person enrollment required.** Enroll at Healthy Living OKC's front desk, 11501 N. Rockwell Ave., OKC.



## Contact Information

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For any inquiries on this project, reach out to:

**Cheryl Ford**

**Project Manager** 405-773-6910 cheryl@healthylivingokc.com



# Teaching Artists

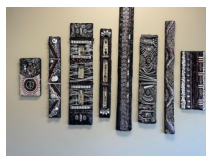
## Erica Nkechi, Painting



Erica Nkechi will be working with our painting group. Erica is an artist, curator, and teaching artist with over a decade of experience. She works in diverse visual media with the goal of helping others experience the transformative power of art.

After studying art and earning her Bachelor of Arts in Human Services at the University of Central Oklahoma in 2014, Erica founded Heart Studios in Edmond, Oklahoma in 2017, where she and her team provide private and group art classes, as well as workshops in schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations. For Erica, teaching is more than instruction—it's about inspiring creativity, fostering self-expression, and cultivating a lifelong love for art that extends far beyond the classroom.

## Cheryl Ford, Mixed Media



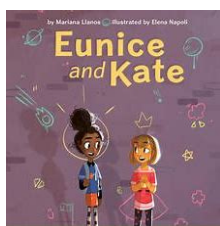
Cheryl Ford will be working with our mixed media group. Cheryl's main passion is helping students realize that they are already artists, they have something to say to the world. She currently teaches evening art classes at Healthy Living OKC. She brings to the table over 50 years of teaching experience from elementary to adults. Cheryl graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Phillips University.

## Frances Williams, Drawing



Frances Williams will be working with our drawing group. Frances is our newest addition to the Healthy Living OKC Art team. She had a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OSU and a Master of Education in Art from the University of Central Oklahoma. She brings over 25 years of teaching experience. She serves on the board for the Oklahoma Art Education Association, the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education and the Piedmont Library and Cultural Events Society. Francis enjoys producing art in many different mediums and thrives on learning new processes and techniques. She believes everyone has something they can learn through the art process...So Let's Make Art!

## Mariana Llanos, Writing



Mariana Llanos will be working with our writing group. Mariana is a Peruvian-born writer, poet and translator. She received the Pura Belpre Honor in 2024 by the American Library Association. She is an avid advocate of literacy through her School Visit Program. She is the first immigrant Latina to win an Oklahoma Book Award. She is a board member of Norman Firehouse Arts Center Latino Committee, a newly developed initiative to increase the participation of Latino population in arts programs. She has written many books which you can check out on her website: [www.marianallanos.com](http://www.marianallanos.com).

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LIVING OKC**

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Partially Funded by:



