

ART IN ACTION COLLABORATORS KELLY PARKS SNIDER & JANE BARTELL



Visual artist Kelly Parks Snider and video producer Jane Bartell began collaborating in 2000 with the mission to explore contemporary social issues through the arts. The collaboration has included the multi-media exhibition, ***Rural Women: Voice and Spirit***, which was funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts and was featured recently at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Arts & Letters gallery as part of their "Future of Farming" forum. It continues to be exhibited nationally. Other projects include ***PROJECT GIRL***, an arts-based program helping adolescent girls increase their awareness about the influences and impacts of commercial media as it defines beauty and success. The ***PROJECT GIRL Exhibition***, which was the culmination of a two-year exploration of the effects of contemporary media on young teens' live and attitudes, debuted in spring 2007 at Edgewood College in Madison. The ***PROJECT GIRL EXHIBITION*** and related workshops have traveled to the Walker Art Center and InterMedia Arts Center in Minneapolis, the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and Alverno College in Milwaukee, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield, the Seippel Center for the Arts in Beaver Dam, Estrella College in Avondale, Arizona, and Colby College in Waterville, Maine. The exhibition and workshops are currently scheduled in Appleton, Madison, La Crosse, Sioux City, Iowa, and Chicago, Illinois.

The team has developed and implemented after school arts curriculum for Edgewood Campus Grade School, created cooperative arts programming for Very Special Arts Wisconsin, for children of families participating in the Interfaith Hospitality Network and the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin-Badgerland Council, and has participated in artist-in-residence programs throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. Through their collaborative projects Kelly and Jane use their art and art-based programming to educate communities and stimulate dialogue about targeted issues to create social change. They focus their efforts on programs directed at meeting the needs of women and children with an emphasis on environmental and social issues. These include workshops on media awareness, artist-in-residence programs and interactive exhibitions made available through public and private galleries, schools, and youth and community centers. In 2008, Kelly and Jane each were recognized by the Wisconsin Arts Education Association with their Concerned Citizen of the Arts Award in recognition of their outstanding leadership service and dedication to art education.