

## **ARTISTS INVOLVEMENT**

The positive, creative contribution artists can make in the counter-recruitment movement is very significant and has been gradually becoming more of a reality. Artists have especially been working to get youth involved, either through youth poster contests, or offering hip hop, spoken word poetry, graffiti art, theater, puppet-making and other workshops.

CAMS has organized a youth poster contest with hopes of encouraging our younger generations to visually express their feelings of resistance. CAMS is also working with Code Pink and The Ruckus Society to organize a Not Your Soldier Camp for youth, which will also offer various workshops, including those that involve artistic expression.

*Axis of Justice* has been particularly active in terms of organizing and networking artists to get more involved with counter-recruitment efforts. *Arts for Action* has formed as a result and they are a collaboration of artists, musicians, and activists who want to create social justice through art!!! They participated in the Sept. 24th Anti-War March in Downtown Los Angeles this year. Before the march, they offered a small theater skit that connects the War in Iraq with the devastation happening with Hurricane Katrina. During the march, Axis joined the Bus Riders Union to drum through the streets with beats, enjoyed a drum circle, music, poetry, and live graffiti art. After the march they provided a children's puppet making, theater, and painting workshop. They also hosted a "Make Your Own Sign" booth.

Expressing resistance through music and art will more often captivate audiences, as opposed to merely leafleting papers. Providing free entertainment can draw crowds and trigger curiosity, so that people are more engaged and likely to ask questions or for more information. If these can be provided in the schools, it is even better. If there are peace clubs, political or cultural clubs, then artists can be invited to the meetings to share or even provide workshops. If teachers, students or organizers can provide larger art events, such as in the quad or lunch areas, or at assemblies during or after school, that's beneficial too, although more challenging to organize.

Currently, CAMS is looking to get more involved with artists and for artists to get more involved with CAMS. Please let us know if you, or those you know, are artists that may be willing to get involved. Together, we can make a huge impact!

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