

2010

## Art for Darfur

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# *Art for Darfur*



## *SMU Big iDeas Grant Proposal*

*Cover art taken from a piece in 2009's Art for Darfur auction by Dallas artist, Roxy Nichols.*



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# *Leadership*

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# *Statement of the Problem*

Since 2007, the armed conflict and genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan has grown in numbers to over 450,000 and in location to Eastern Chad. International recognition and action on behalf of the crisis has grown as well, but not fast enough.

The world becomes smaller every day through the globalization of trade and media. The daily decisions we make in Dallas have profound effects that ripple across the world, while the lives of others in foreign countries reach our TV screens and computers. We are connected whether we choose to be or not. Therefore, the suffering of the people in Darfur cannot be ignored. We cannot underestimate the afflictions of these people, nor can we underestimate our power and duty to provide hope to the over 2.5 million displaced persons in Darfur and Eastern Chad. Dallas needs to know about Darfur and how to take action.

However, uncertain economic times prevent schools from adding human rights curriculum and cause pre-existing Fine Arts programs, such as art, to be underfunded or cut out of the educational system entirely. We strive to give Dallas greater access to art and to, thereby, reach out, in solidarity, to those suffering in Darfur. We want Dallas to do its part for the global community.





# *A Brief History of Art for Darfur*



Human rights education and awareness-building events are a crucial part of ending the conflict in Darfur. In 2007, student activists at SMU collaborated with local faith communities, schools, and non-profit organizations to create *Art for Darfur*, an annual art auction to benefit the people of Darfur, Sudan. It is hosted at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts.

The second annual *Art for Darfur* in 2008 rose just over \$10,000, sent directly to relieve the suffering of the people in Darfur through the International Rescue Committee. Students and Dallas groups painted canvas tents through the "Tents of Hope" project that were also sent to Darfur, assuring homes for refugees.

In 2009, over \$10,000 were raised again, this time to benefit the education and outreach efforts of Amnesty International's Darfur campaign. The third annual event was enriched by a spoken word art performance, a live auction, and an exposition, "Exhibit Darfur", featuring pieces by artists including Mia Farrow.





# *Proposed Methodology*

Again hosted at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, this year's *Art for Darfur* will be held on April 17, 2010. As in previous years, the venue, food, entertainment and art sold will all be donated. In order to reach new fundraising goals, we are expanding our event to include a Preview Night on March 20, 2010, during which local prospective buyers will have an opportunity to get a sneak-peak of the art and enjoy a light meal and live entertainment. These events will both provide Dallas with greater access to information regarding Darfur through informational displays, testimonies of expert speakers and take-away information.

This year we are also launching "Community Canvases," our most important expansion yet. To better include students and Dallasites in the event and in art creation, we will sponsor presentations on Darfur to art classes, after school programs, and local organizations. After the presentation, students and community members will have the opportunity to create paintings with themes of hope and peace to be auctioned at *Art for Darfur* in April. The goals of this project are two-fold: to create awareness through the presentations and curriculum packets on Darfur provided and to foster the opportunity for Dallasites to intimately express what they have learned through art. Furthermore, this endeavor will also serve to enrich this year's *Art for Darfur* silent auction.





# Rationale

With such an impressive growing support from the art community in Dallas, and the continued, steadfast support of artists, Dallas residents, faith communities, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations, Art for Darfur has become a movement -- a movement of any and all people who recognize the power of art as a means for change, solidarity, and hope in Darfur. Passionate, concerned, and committed people continually create their own ways to make an impact in Darfur. Art for Darfur collaborates with these individual and national movements to make a profound impact on the lives of our global neighbors.

Through *art, education,*  
*collaboration, diversity,*  
*generosity, compassion* and  
*persistence* we strive to create  
*peace.*

This is our chance to put action and meaning to the words avowed by our world after the Holocaust: “**never again!**”



# *Proposed Timeline*

**Before January 29, 2010** – Submit Proposal to SMU BigIdeas

**January 30, 2010** – Submit Food Donation Request Forms to Central Market & For You European Delicatessen

**February 1, 2010 – April 1, 2010** – Present Lessons on Darfur to Area Schools and Community Groups, Have Volunteers Assist Groups in Creating Art

**February 1, 2010 – April 1, 2010** – Meet With Local Artists to Collect Individual Donations

**February 13, 2010** Prepare Invitations and Mail them to Guests

**February 17, 2010** – Create Programs for Events

**March 1, 2010** – Have Programs for Events Printed

**March 20, 2010** – Preview Night

**April 17, 2010** – Art Auction

**April 19, 2010** – Submit Funds Raised from Auction to Darfur Peace and Development

**April 21, 2010** – Write Thank You Notes and Letters to Key Contributors

**May 1, 2010** – Begin Preparation for Art for Darfur 2011



# Anticipated Budget

50 Canvases for the “Community Canvas” Project

**\$1500**

25 Sets of Acrylic Paint for the “Community Canvas” Project

**\$550**

Paint Brushes for the “Community Canvas” Project

**\$400**

Travel to the Schools and Community Groups

**\$100**

Printing Costs for Invitations, Mailings and Programs

**\$650**

Printing Costs for Curriculum Packets for Presentations at Local Schools

**\$200**

Advertisements Promoting Auction in Area Newspapers & Media

**\$300**

**Total Anticipated Budget**

**\$3,900**

Person Responsible for Funds

Adriana Martinez

Signature of Person Responsible for Funds





# *Art for Darfur in the News*

Jessica Meyers of the Dallas Morning News:

Darfur Crisis Hits Home -

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/050309dnmetdarfur.3c7e1c3.html>

PegasusNews.com, Editor's Pick of the Week:

Art for Darfur 2009 offers affordable art and global activism -

<http://www.pegasusnews.com/news/2009/apr/12/art-darfur-2009-offers-affordable-art-and-global-a/>

Shelley Smith of the Dallas Morning News:

Art for Darfur to host fundraiser at SMU on Saturday -

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/plano/stories/041609dnmetdarfur.d9a0e11c.html>

Religion Blog of the Dallas Morning News:

Exhibit of Darfur-related photography comes to Dallas this week -

<http://religionblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2009/04/exhibit-of-darfur-related-phot.html>

ArtDaily.org:

Art for Darfur Brings National Tour of Exhibit Darfur to Dallas -

[http://www.artdaily.org/index.asp?int\\_sec=11&int\\_new=30356&int\\_mod=2](http://www.artdaily.org/index.asp?int_sec=11&int_new=30356&int_mod=2)

Dallas Observer:

At SMU Over the Weekend, the Art for Darfur Event Raised Money and Spirits -

<http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2009/04/at-smu-over-the-weekend-the-ar.php>



Marilee Vergati from Examiner.com:

Art for Darfur Event at SMU Meadows School of the Arts featuring Exhibit Darfur photos - <http://www.examiner.com/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d16-Art-for-Darfur-Event-at-SMU-Saturday-April-18>

Slideshow: Art for Darfur Event featuring Exhibit Darfur photographs by Mia Farrow was a success –

<http://www.examiner.com/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d23-Slideshow-Art-for-Darfur-Event-featuring-Exhibit-Darfur-photographs-by-Mia-Farrow-was-a-success>

Exhibit Darfur a photographic journey of six artists on display at the Dallas Art for Darfur Event - <http://www.examiner.com/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d18-Exhibit-Darfur-a-photographic-journey-of-six-artists-on-display-at-the-Dallas-Art-for-Darfur-Event>

Dallas slideshow Exhibit Darfur at Art for Darfur Event -

<http://www.examiner.com/examiner/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d24-Dallas-slideshow-Exhibit-Darfur-at-Art-for-Darfur-Event>  
<http://www.examiner.com/examiner/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d24-Dallas-slideshow-Exhibit-Darfur-at-Art-for-Darfur-Event>

Exhibit Darfur artist and actor activist Mia Farrow plans a hunger strike to help people in Darfur - <http://www.examiner.com/x-7391-Dallas-Events-Examiner~y2009m4d22-Exhibit-Darfur-artist-and-actor-activist-Mia-Farrow-plans-a-hunger-strike-to-help-people-of-Darfur>

# Conclusion

*Art for Darfur* has clearly proven its success over the past three years. Yet, it maintains the potential to even further benefit SMU, Dallas, and our world.

**For SMU:** *Art for Darfur* engages students, faculty and staff, promoting awareness of global issues and the interconnectedness of our world. This event emphasizes the reality that each person can make a difference. Further, this event brings attention and prestige to the University, setting an example of creativity and initiative for the greater community.

**For Dallas:** *Art for Darfur* unites the North Texas community in an endeavor to change the world. Specifically through the “Community Canvasses” project, residents of the Dallas area will be given the opportunity to learn and to express. Additionally, artists gain attention and a new forum in which to display their work, while ordinary people have the opportunity to purchase their artwork.

**For the World:** *Art for Darfur* further unifies our interrelated world, as a successful effort to create solidarity despite geographical distance. It creates a distinct bond between the residents of the North Texas area and the people suffering in Darfur. It is a representation of the reality of peace in our world.

*“Art for Darfur breaks out of the traditional limits that confine most efforts to raise consciousness about genocides and potential human rights violations in the world. Too often, similar groups preach mostly to their own choirs and they cannot effectively break out beyond the circle of the already familiar. By engaging a wide group of artists to create and by appealing to a very diverse group of art lovers to purchase these works, Art for Darfur is reaching out to segments of the community that are not already acquainted with the crisis in Darfur and it will stimulate a significant number of people to become aware and hopefully to engage.”*

*- Elliot Dlin, Dallas  
Holocaust Museum  
Executive Director*