

Teaching the Teacher

by Kay Bain Weiner

The mission of the nonprofit, federally approved Kay Bain Weiner (KBW) Glass Art Educational Foundation is to stimulate interest and promote growth in the glass art industry through educational projects. To further this mission, the KBW Foundation has a responsibility to encourage the teaching of glass art in the public schools, where art programs have been severely cut in the face of critical budget shortages.

Helping Teachers Discover Glass Art

As a way to overcome budgetary difficulties and encourage public school teachers to include glass art in their curriculums, the Foundation is suggesting a nationwide “Teach the Teacher” program. The idea is for glass art retailers and instructors who teach classes or who sell to public schools to offer free glass art classes to art teachers. The teachers in turn would be able to introduce their students to glass art classes in their classrooms. Retailers could suggest to the teachers special projects or supplies for a particular grade level. For schools in your area that do not offer art glass classes, this would be an opportunity for those who are involved in the glass art industry to introduce themselves and their stores or services.

There have already been “very favorable responses to the Teach the Teacher program,” reported Jacqui Bush, co-owner of Stained Glass of McKinney in McKinney, Texas. She adds, “We have taught six more art teachers for free and have helped them get started with glass art in their class schedules. We are now selling to the schools and the students.”



Working Together

Since its founding in 2006, the KBW Foundation has presented eight scholarships for various national glass art workshops. With the cooperation of glass art publishers, it has also distributed over 2,500 surplus books and magazines, patterns, videos, and CDs to schools, senior citizen centers, and adult education centers over the past year. If any retailers, suppliers, manufacturers, or glass artists would like to recommend schools that could use glass art books, please let the Foundation know.

Presently the Foundation is compiling a national directory of schools and colleges that offer glass art classes. If you know of an educational institution in your area that would like to be included in the directory, please e-mail the Foundation with the details, including the name of the institution, address, contact person, and type of glass art being taught. The e-mail address is kayeastman@aol.com. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website.



www.kbwfoundation.com

