

Masterpiece Mingle

Even fundraising events are approached creatively at the McKinney Center!

The Masterpiece Mingle is a perfect example of an event that supports local artists, invites the community to a festive party, encourages people to meet and mingle, and benefits the Scholarship Fund for the McKinney Center's Mary B Martin Program for the Arts.

Each community member who purchases a ticket to the event enters a delightful world of chance encounters. As you enter the facility you are given a name tag with a number on it that corresponds to a work of art in the extensive gallery of over 100 pieces. The treasure hunt begins as you search for the work that is yours. Once you find it, you have the option of keeping it, or if you want to trade you are given a special swatch that identifies you as someone searching for art trades. Interesting conversations and new friends emerge as you wander the gallery, talking to other swatch traders and exploring possibilities.

A festive atmosphere prevails. Last year's event was catered by *The Catering Company* – with sliders, sweet biscuits, desserts, tea and coffee, and featured a cash bar by Tennessee Hills Distillery. Music provided by local musicians kept the party jumping. Last year's event also featured dancers under the spotlight in pop up improvisations by Mountain Movers Dance Company.

Attendees leave the event with artwork in hand - free with their ticket to the event - and sometimes with additional items they have purchased at a silent auction held in one of the classrooms.

In 2018 over 125 artists donated work in all mediums for the event and received discount tickets to the event, wonderful exposure in the media, and a chance to meet the public that appreciates and honors them.

It's fun, and everyone benefits - the artists step into the light, the musicians are offered a chance to entertain, the attendees enjoy the party and meet new friends, and then walk out with a new piece to hang in their home or office.

For more information on the Masterpiece Mingle please call the McKinney Center at 423-753-0562 or email theresah@jonesboroughtn.org.