



Special to the Reading Eagle: Jeff Doelp | The third annual "Light Up The Lantern" event March 16 at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel featured an art show and auctions to benefit recreation programs.

Reporters' Notebook: Arts are a fundamental endeavor

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Reading Eagle

I covered the third annual "Light Up The Lantern" awards dinner and art auction to benefit the Reading Recreation Commission's programs and services, which include summer day camps, sports, leadership training and art classes.

One of the art aspects involves a program at the Third and Spruce Recreation Center in which children learn about the works of famous artists and then attempt to emulate the various styles in their own work.

One little girl had drawn Horton the elephant from Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who," and she beamed with pride when I asked her to tell me about it.

Her pride was well-earned, and her Horton was a spitting image of the original.

This was only one of several conversations I had that night that didn't make it into my story, but I walked away from the evening with a new appreciation for the recreation commission and a confirmation of my strongly held conviction that the arts are not a disposable, tertiary endeavor. They are a fundamental tenet of human expression.

Seeing the positive influence of the arts on those kids was the highlight of my week.

- Lindsey O'Laughlin

reporter