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Views: Showcase your talent at the Raue

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Sidetracks

Time is running out on several opportunities to tap into **your talent**. The Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake is sponsoring its second Focus **Showcase** for youth. Opportunities await kids 5-18 in this multi-day **talent** show that covers performing and visual arts, voice ensemble and fashion design. There is no residency requirement.

"This is the opportunity for us to say that kids' art matters," said Christin Kruse, community development director at the Raue. "Innovation comes from the creative process. It is vital that we keep those opportunities available for kids."

Enrollment has closed for the fashion design segment, which is featuring 16 young designers sponsored by local businesses or nonprofit organizations. During a "blind sketch" presentation at 7 p.m. May 22 at the Raue, sponsors will announce their selections and meet students on stage. In June, junior- and senior-category designers will meet with Connie Perez, owner of Aesthetics in downtown Crystal Lake, to construct their garments for the July 24 Project Runway show at the Raue.

Applications are being sought for the performing arts and vocal ensemble by the new deadline, 9 a.m. Monday, and for the visual arts by June 1. They may be accessed online at www.rauecenter.org and either sent electronically or dropped off at the Raue, 26 N. Williams St.

Kruse said the Raue particularly is in need of vocal ensembles. Ensembles range from two to 20 people in the act, although exceptions can be made. They may sing a cappella or using accompaniment – included in the total size of the group. There will be an educational workshop with professional mentors that each group chosen is encouraged to attend. The date and time of the workshop is

to be determined.

No technical support, other than basic lighting and sound will be provided. For additional details, call 815-356-9212 or visit the Raue website.

This year's theme is: "A Community of Change. How does it affect you?" A representation of the theme is required in some form – be it artwork, dance, comedy, a monologue or a song. Scholarship money will be offered to the winners, or to the organizations they represent, should they advance to Focus 2010 **Showcase** finals on July 24.

Other dates the public may want to attend include the May 22 performing arts and fashion **showcase**, and the visual arts and vocal ensemble **showcase** June 19. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults.

"We have a million baseball fields around town," Kruse said. "This is an opportunity for us to open up the stage to kids who are creative."

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