

Artrain USA

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Craft Project - Personalized Magnets

Display your family's magnetic personalities on your refrigerator or make as gifts for friends and relatives.



Supplies

- Colored card stock, unlined index cards or other stiff paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Magnetic tape (sold in many office supply stores)
- Photographs

Directions

1. Create a basic shape or design that can serve as a background for each photo. If your uncle is an architect, for example, you might decide to use a house for his background. For a veterinarian, you could choose an animal; for a teacher, an apple; you decide!

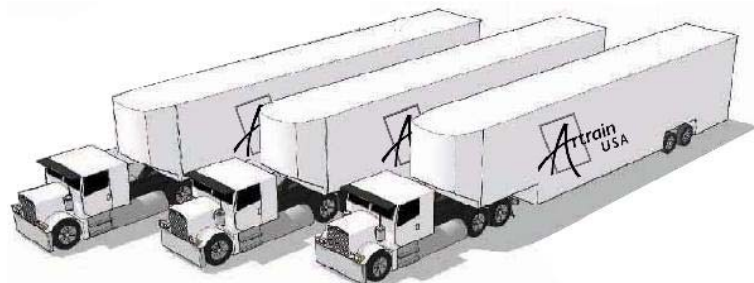
2. Cut out the shapes from the paper and use markers to decorate them.

3. Next, trim the photos and glue them onto the backgrounds. Add names or other fun words, if you'd like.

4. Finally, glue pieces of magnetic tape to the back of your work, and you're finished!

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

In our winter newsletter, Artrain USA announced that we would be introducing a new mobile museum venue consisting of state-of-the-art tractor trailer trucks.



Known in the industry as mobile display units, the trailers can each expand to as large 53 x 22 feet or approximately 1,000 square feet. Depending on the exhibition displayed, Artrain USA's traveling museum will consist of two to four trailers. On location, the trailers will expand and connect to create a continuous gallery configuration.

The benefits of this new facility are many. Artrain USA's reach will more than triple. In addition, Artrain USA will:

- Be able to visit any city in the United States;
- Have complete control over scheduling;
- Be able to end periods of downtime;
- Schedule longer and shorter visits;
- Accommodate impromptu visits;
- Tour more than one exhibition at a time; and
- Visit more communities thus welcoming more visitors!

Building upon our history of replicating museum facility standards in mobile railcars, Artrain USA is partnering with experts in the mobile exhibit industry - the Switch Agency in St. Louis - to modify the trailers to meet all museum environment and security requirements. These state-of-the-art trailers are in the planning and design stages. Recently, members of Artrain USA's board and staff toured the production facility.



Members of Artrain USA's board and staff receive a tour of the interior of an unfinished expandable trailer.



A view of an expandable trailer partially expanded.

You can watch a virtual fly-through of the new facility [here](#). As always, Artrain USA is interested to hear what you think! Please email us at info@artrainusa.org or call 800-ART-1971.



CONNECTING & GROWING

Three years ago, Artrain USA implemented a new program called *Connect & Grow* to increase awareness of our programs across the country and to help raise operating funds. The essence of the *Connect & Grow* program is to establish and maintain meaningful **connections** with people who truly understand and value our mission. Artrain USA works to **grow** these connections into life-long relationships. The process includes increasing individual donations through our multi-year donor society: *Partners Express*.

While many people are familiar with Artrain USA, the *Connect & Grow* program helps to provide information about the depth and breadth of our important programs from the perspective of our rich 37-year history and our exciting vision for the future.

Since the beginning of the program, Artrain USA has held casual gatherings in Michigan to introduce people to Artrain USA's history, mission, programs, current activities and future plans. Meetings are now being held at select locations outside of Michigan, our home state. Most notably, Artrain USA held events in the greater Washington DC area and St. Louis, Missouri. It is wonderful to welcome so many new friends and to be spreading the word about Artrain USA's wonderful programs.

Upcoming events include:

- June 19 - Introductory Gathering, 5:30 pm, Ann Arbor, MI
- July 17 - Introductory Gathering, 8:30 am, Ann Arbor, MI
- July - Dates & times to be determined, greater Washington DC



Artrain USA continues to look for new places to spread the word! If you are interested in attending an event or hosting a gathering for you and your friends, please call Debra Polich at 800-ART-1971.

ARTRAIN USA ATTENDS VIZTHINK CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

In January 2008, Artrain USA attended the first international conference of VizThink as its first national philanthropy project.



VizThink is an organization dedicated to the promotion of visual thinking and the visual thinking community. Visual thinkers are people who use any form of the visual arts such as graphic design, illustration, photos, video, animation, sketches, 3D, etc. for communication and future plans. VizThink's goal is to bring together the best of the best in this industry with participation from trainers, marketers, presenters, executives, planners, strategists, and managers, just to name a few.

Artrain USA board member Brian Tolle and president Debra Polich along with Switch Agency partner, Annie Castellano presented information about Artrain USA and our facility transition. As a result, 400 more people learned about Artrain USA, and a number of companies and individuals are interested in supporting us through volunteer services and financial support. And this is just the beginning! This is an ongoing project involving many of the people from the conference, and Artrain USA is excited to see where the VizThink project will go. Please see below for blog posts by facilitator Christine Martell for more information about the Artrain USA Challenge at the VizThink conference. To learn more about VizThink, please visit www.VizThink.com.

Christine Martell Blogs:

[2/27/2008 Overview](#)

[2/27/2008 Selected Images](#)



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