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## LAUNCHING 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF AEROSPACE ART CLASSES

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math based lessons,  
teach kids how to turn ideas into reality.

Tampa, FL, July 5, 2017—Artists4Space begins 2<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching aerospace based art curriculum to summer students. The program began this month at The Kennedy Space Center Visitor’s Complex, Florida. Last year, Artists4Space, was introduced in Tampa, Pinellas, Cocoa Beach, and New York. This year the number of classes and venues has expanded.

Instructor, Don Gillespie was the Senior Designer for Honeywell Space Systems Group and has painted hundreds of concept paintings for NASA. Gillespie says, “Aerospace Art is an ideal venue for teaching kids about STEM principles. Adding Art into the equation to create (STEAM) is a perfect fit.”

Last year the students toured the Space Center, saw the Space Shuttle Atlantis and other space craft, and touched a real moon rock. In the classroom, they were able to speak with astronaut and artist Nichole Stott via a live internet feed from Houston, Texas. She shared her experience in space as an astronaut/artist and discussed the challenges and thrills of painting in a zero-gravity environment while aboard the International Space Station. The interactive event broadened their horizons and gave them the unique experience of having their questions answered by a real-life astronaut.

*“Art is a very effective way of reaching children and getting them excited about the future of space travel. It’s great to see programs like Artists4Space inspiring this next generation.”*

**- Nicole Stott, The Artistic Astronaut**

Creative thinking and communication skills drive innovation. The greatest technology developments have often started with art in one form or another. Through these specially designed classes, students are taught more than just art techniques. They learn about our earth, its moon, the importance of gravity and orbital mechanics. Mathematics are introduced with accurate measurement, perspective and proportions. What better way to teach students about engineering and technology than aerospace? No matter what career path these students choose, the concepts they learn in the Artists4Space program will prove extremely valuable.

“The Summer of Mars” has just begun at the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex. Don is the resident artist there and he is painting the next generation of launch vehicles that will take humans to Mars and beyond. Visitors to the center can watch and ask questions as he creates artwork depicting the new heavy lift, Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion crew vehicle. He will be teaching in Tampa, Florida during the month of July. In August, Artists4Space travels to New York to teach at the CNY Arts Center.

*“Art has always played an important role in the development of our space program. Artists4Space continues this tradition by educating and inspiring this next generation.”*

**- Jim Christensen, Director of Education, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex**

Art makes complex stories easy to comprehend. It brings all this aerospace technology back down to earth so that kids can understand it. Artists4Space.com. If your school or organization is interested in scheduling classes, contact [info@artists4space.com](mailto:info@artists4space.com).

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All donations are tax deductible.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Don Gillespie at 813-732-6862 or email at [info@artists4space.com](mailto:info@artists4space.com).