

Inspired By Nature: Art & Design

This week we become artists and designers, and nature is our inspiration. Mother Nature herself is a skilled artist and designer - the Earth, her masterpiece. From the intricate details found in the colors, textures, and patterns of a leaf, to the grandiose beauty of expansive vistas, the world around us has inspired creative endeavors throughout time. Our quest for natural inspiration will take us to the forested trails and flowing streams in Makiki Valley, to a sandy windward beach, and to a nearby botanical garden. All week long, we'll create and invent in a variety of ways, including drawing, painting, sculpting, story-telling, and poetry. Through integrating science and art, we'll find creative ways to care for the natural environment, so we will always have our source of inspiration – now and in the future!

Schedule:

Day 1 – Inspired by Nature: Introduction to SNAP and Themes of Art and Design. We'll start our week by observing artistic creations from around the world that have been inspired by nature. What better way to find our own natural inspiration than by taking a short hike to hear birds and catch bugs? In the Nature Center's gardens, we'll use our senses to appreciate the variety of plants. We'll end the day by exploring a bamboo forest and making bamboo structures, jewelry, and instruments.

Day 2 – Inspired by Trees: Field trip to Foster Botanical Garden. This garden with trees from around the world is today's dose of inspiration. We'll smell the variety of flowers and fruits, feel the texture of bark and leaves, and observe the structure of branches and roots. The wondrous features of trees, both familiar and exotic, will provide inspiration for our pastel and colored-pencil drawings. *Don't be late - Bus leaves at 8:45am!*

Day 3 – Inspired by Water: Explorations at Makiki Stream. Freshwater is the source of inspiration for today's adventures, which we'll use to make watercolor paintings along the banks of Makiki Stream. The aquatic life we'll catch in the stream to make scientific illustrations shows us that science and art are interconnected. In the afternoon, we'll get a taste of the performing arts by acting out water-themed Hawaiian legends.

Day 4 – Inspired by Sand: Field trip to Waimānalo Bay Recreation Area. Did you know that sand is made up of tiny grains that can be different sizes and colors? A certain kind of sand is used in concrete and heated sand is an ingredient for making glass! We'll take a trip to Waimānalo and find artistic inspiration beneath our feet. As we explore the coast and build sand structures, we'll gather marine debris for making educational art to encourage wise stewardship. Along the way, we'll also discover plants adapted to living in sandy soil and try our best to catch sand crabs! **Please wear closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water. Don't be late – Bus leaves at 8:45am!*

Day 5 – Inspired by Landscapes: All Day Hike through Makiki Valley. Our final day of nature-inspired art comes from the landscape of Makiki Valley. Along the trails, we'll build structures and copy natural designs we observe around us. On the way back to the Center, we'll gather sticks for a yarn craft as part of our culminating art exhibition – a showcase of the nature-inspired creations we've made throughout the week! **Please wear hiking shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Have your backpack ready for the trail with healthy snacks (bring at least 2), a big lunch, and plenty of water.*