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Art Show for Parkland Metalwork and Jewelry

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From August to September 2016, Common Ground Food Co-op's Flatlander Classroom featured pieces created by Parkland College's Metalwork and Jewelry department. The items were set on display for any community member that sat in the classroom for both its intended purpose and to dine. On September 23, I helped CGFC's outreach coordinator, Sarah Buckman, transform the Flatlander Classroom into an art gallery. We moved all of the tables and chairs out into the back hallway, cleaned the surfaces, and added benches for guests to view the artwork from a distance. We prepared finger foods such as chopped vegetables, hummus, cheese, fruits, and jams. Some of the items we prepared were locally grown and produced. We also served several wines for those of age and Honest Tea's white mango iced tea. We set up "jazzy brunch" music to set a relaxed mood for the guests. As the classroom size grew, we made sure to keep the finger foods stocked and glasses full.

Sarah Buckman is in charge of finding opportunities for CGFC to get involved in the Champaign-Urbana communities. We, as a co-op, try to involve the community in local events--both held in public venues and at the store. Recently, she and CGFC's education coordinator held a children's event at Douglas Park. They teach easy, healthy cooking practices that the kids can practice at home. We have also partnered up with the local organization, Imbibe Urbana, to encourage C-U residents to shop locally. Every first Friday of the month is set aside for local

businesses to showcase their products. CGFC offers samples of various items such as wines, local cheeses, organic substitutes for candy, local jams, and more. The Flatlander Classroom offers various courses as well, such as “Cooking Healthy on a Budget,” those dedicated to specific recipes (pies, Indian comfort food, beer and cookies, the list goes on!), and information regarding solar energy and how solar panels can be installed to replace a house’s electricity.



