Online Class FAQ

Q1: What do we mean by “live & interactive” online classes?

A: This means our teachers and students meet face-to-face on Zoom during the class. Classes are NOT pre-recorded, allowing real time interaction between students and the instructor, just like an in-person class. For virtual classes, the classroom is the Zoom meeting.

Q2: What equipment do I need to participate in online classes?

A1: Internet connection and a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. A larger screen is helpful, but not necessary.

A2: Any additional materials will be listed in the “Materials” section of the class description. In some cases, the instructor will only require items/supplies normally found at home. Example: A youth class may only require crayons, pencils or paper. Or, a class may require more specific supplies like certain oil paints or watercolors.

Q3: I’m not “tech savvy”. Will I be able to enjoy the class?

A: Absolutely! As long as you can access emails, and follow the user-friendly instructions provided, you are ready. A confirmation email is sent with each class registration, detailing how to access the online class.
Q4: Class prices seem different than before. Why is that?

A: The virtual classroom format requires different resources in terms of setup, licensing, staff assistance, and instructor time. These, and other factors all impact the cost of each class. Every effort is made to keep pricing as accessible as possible. Financial Aid, discounts to veterans, active duty military, and their families are also available. Interested in a free class? Volunteer with the Center to earn credit towards a free class. (Remote opportunities available)

Q5: Why should I take an online class?

1. Interact with real people and learn from amazingly talented instructors.
2. No masks, no hand sanitizer, no social distancing necessary.
3. Unique offerings: Some online classes are not normally offered in-person.
4. Save time! No need to worry about traffic or travel time.
5. It’s a great option if you’re not close by, or travel during the warm months.
6. No need to lug materials and tools around!
7. Support your favorite instructor!
8. Support your favorite art center, a local nonprofit organization!
9. Supports your local arts community.
10. Seriously, these classes are awesome!

Don’t have time for a class, but would still like to support your local artists and arts community? Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

Q6: I’ve never done this before, how does it work exactly?

1. Find a class (or a few) that interest you on our website: phoenixcenterforthearts.org
2. Register online or call 602-254-3100.
3. You will receive two emails. (Note: Check your spam folder, just in case)
   a. One email will be a billing receipt
   b. The other will be a registration confirmation email
4. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the registration email to create a Google account (if you don’t already have one), and log in with the Zoom link and password.

Q7: What happens on the day of the class?

A: Open the registration email, click on the Zoom link and enter the password provided. This opens a virtual waiting room for students until the class “opens”. This is normal.
Class opens at the time it begins. An administrator admits students from the waiting room to the classroom, where the instructor, virtual administrator, and fellow classmates can meet.

Turn on your video, and unmute yourself when/if you have a question. The administrator will provide a phone number for troubleshooting, and will begin recording the class. At that time, the instructor will begin the class. From there, you create!

Q8: What precautions are being taken for online youth classes?

A: Great question! Our virtual classes require a Zoom password to enter, which is only given to registered students/guardians. On the day of class, students enter a waiting room prior to entering the Zoom classroom. An administrator compares the official classroom roster with the names of students in the waiting room and only allows enrolled students to enter. Further, our virtual classrooms for youth have an administrator present during the entire class, ensuring two adults in the youth classroom at any given time. The administrator monitors the class and ensures the security of the meeting.

Q9: I can't view the pictures in Google Classroom - they show up as mountain icons.

A: First, try switching to a Google Chrome browser. If that isn't possible, try to change some settings in your browser. Check out this article for how to change the settings: https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/thread/40285783?hl=en

Q10: What if I can’t attend class or want to re-watch a class? Will the video content be available?

A: We would love to provide this for you, but unfortunately, we are not able to at this time. We hope to be able to provide this service to you in the future.

Q11: Is there a deadline to register for online classes?

A: Registration is requested at least two days prior to the start of class.

If you have additional questions about online classes, please contact our front desk administrative staff at 602-254-3100. We’re happy to help!