

# ACCOLADES

## *For The Arts*

Springfield Area Arts Council

April 2018

## Adult Prom is June 29

Who do YOU think will be crowned “all that and a bag of chips” at the Springfield Area Arts Council’s 90s Adult Prom? Get yo best 90s bling on and come find out on Friday, June 29th, 2018, from 7pm to 11pm upstairs at Arlington’s on Broadway between Second and Adams in downtown Springfield. BOO YA!

DJ Black Cats will spin those phat 90s jams and all who attend will receive their very own piece of flare and a slap bracelet! Come dance the night away and take some classic 90s pics with a disposable camera (PSYCHE! It’s a photo booth.) You should totally come! It’s gonna be sweet.

- Costume Contest for most slammin’ 90s outfits!
- Court crowned, 8–9pm
- Photo booth
- DJ Black Cats
- Access to cash bar
- Ages 18+

## Arts in Education

The SAAC receives money from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust to fund art activities in Sangamon and Menard county schools as part of its longstanding Arts in Education program.

Schools receiving money during the 2017–18 academic year: Ball Charter, Black Hawk, Cantrall, Enos, Grant, Hope, Iles, Lee, Riverton, St. Aloysius, St. Patrick, Tri-City, and Trinity.



▲ Storyteller Patrick Ryan

▼ Troy Freeman, Muralist



## Ten Reasons to Support the Arts

The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts bring us joy, help us express our values, and build bridges between cultures. The arts also are a fundamental component of a healthy community – strengthening it socially, educationally, and economically – benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times.

1. Arts improve individual well-being.
2. Arts unify communities.
3. Arts improve academic performance.
4. Arts strengthen the economy.
5. Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses.
6. Arts spark creativity and innovation.
7. Arts drive the creative industries.
8. Arts have social impact.
9. Arts improve healthcare.
10. Arts strengthen the health and well-being of our military.

*Randy Cohen, Americans for the Arts*

**Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 10**  
**6:00–8:00 P.M.**

**Engrained Restaurant and Brewery**  
1120 West Lincolnshire Boulevard, Springfield



**Music, Beer, Food, and a Bit of Business**  
**All Arts Council supporters are welcome!**

## SAAC Mission

The Springfield Area Arts Council enriches the community by promoting and supporting all art forms and providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.

## Accolades for the Arts

*Accolades for the Arts* is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Your comments are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

# First Night® Springfield: Cold weather, warm memories

It felt like thirty-one degrees below zero on the thirty-first of December as Springfield residents and visitors gathered for the thirty-first FIRST NIGHT SPRINGFIELD, but it was only minus four degrees. Despite the chill and the postponed fireworks show, the annual “celebration of the arts” went off without a hitch.

In the afternoon, hundreds of children and their parents came to Springfield High School to make crafts, build a birdhouse, have a harmonica lesson, see a model railroad, and attend shows by Cowboy Randy, DePriest Puppets, Tom Irwin, and Troy Roark. All this was provided free of charge through the sponsorship and participation of Fun Shop, LRS, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Lowe’s, Northside Children’s Community Library, Mark Russillo, and Paul Smith.

The evening venues included Schnirring Auditorium at Springfield High School, seven performance spaces at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the auditorium at Lincoln Home Visitors Center, the Carnegie Room at Lincoln Library, and Kari Bedford Photography Studio. Attendees were warmed by the performances of:

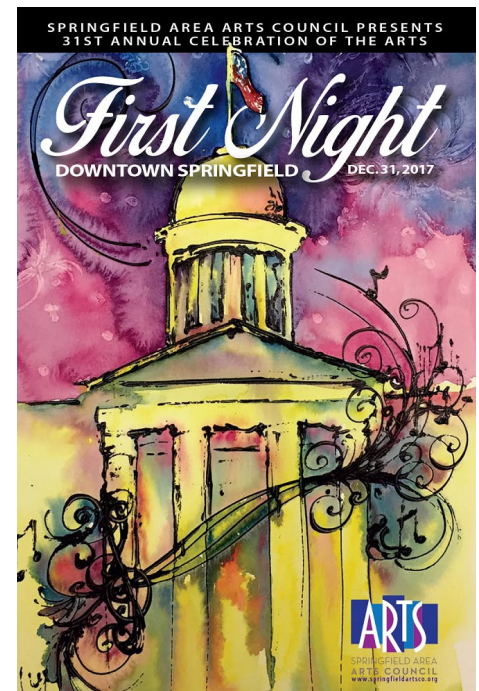
Justin Angel  
Mike Anderson  
Black Magic Johnson  
Central Illinois Irish Dancers  
Classical Indian Dancers  
Debbie Ross Band  
Rick Dunham  
Mark Gifford  
Glower  
Monica Hay  
Hope Learning Academy  
Damien Kaplan  
Jess Knight and Brandon Carnes  
Richard Landry  
Last Acre  
Lowder and Manning  
Becky McKnight  
The Muni  
Ocean State  
PJ Baby  
Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company  
Jack and Morgan Rogers  
Andrew Shackelford  
Hannah Songer  
Springfield Ballet Company  
Springfield Dance Theatre

Springfield Poets and Writers  
Springfield Theatre Centre  
Springfield Youth Performance Group  
Top Hat Tellers  
Ian Wick

The Arts Council is proud to employ so many talented local artists for our signature event. Since First Night Springfield also is our biggest fundraiser, this year we added a silent auction to the evening and are grateful to all who donated items we could offer to willing buyers.

Event sponsors were Bunn, Bank of Springfield, Black Sheep Café, Horace Mann, Maynerich Financial, and NPR Illinois.

Planning soon will begin for the 32nd First Night Springfield, and we’re hoping for warmer weather and good crowds.



## Economic impact of the arts

**The total economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations in Illinois is \$4.03 billion.**

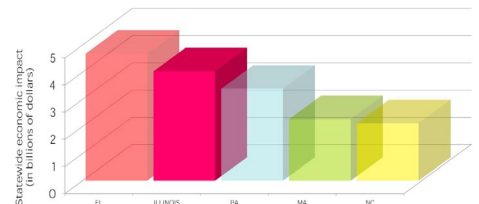
Conducted every five years, *Arts & Economic Prosperity* (AEP) studies tell an important part of the story of the dollar value of the creative sector, namely the economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations. AEP5, the study’s fifth iteration, gathered 250 lead partners nationwide, representing 341 cities, counties, and other study areas. Americans for the Arts designed the study and partnered with other organizations to implement its components at the state level. Across the board, AEP5 numbers surpass those generated by the previous AEP study, released in 2012.

Among the new findings we’re excited to share, we can report that:

- The total annual economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations in Illinois is **more than \$4 billion**. Among the five most populous states surveyed for AEP5, **Illinois ranks second overall in total economic impact**.
- Nonprofit arts organizations and their programs support **more than**

**111,000 FTE (full-time-equivalent) jobs in Illinois.**

- Those who participate in cultural events spend an average of **\$35 per person**, above and beyond the direct cost of attendance (i.e. ticket purchases).
- **92% of Illinois resident audience survey respondents voted in the 2016 US presidential election**, far above the 63% participation of eligible Illinois voters as a whole.
- The more than 66,000 volunteers who support the work of Illinois arts organizations contribute 3.2 million working hours each year — **donated labor valued at approximately \$75 million**.



Go to [www.artsalliance.org/aep5](http://www.artsalliance.org/aep5) for more information about the Illinois and Chicago AEP5 studies.

*from Arts Alliance Illinois*



# Illinois students lend their voices to Poetry Out Loud

Teachers, family, friends, and poetry enthusiasts gathered to watch sixteen students from across Illinois compete in the Illinois State Poetry Out Loud contest on March 9th, 2018 at the Hoogland



Cole White

Center for the Arts. Each of the sixteen contestants recited two poems from memory. The top five competitors from the first two rounds recited a third poem in the final round. The students represented ethnic, gender, and neurological diversity, but they shared a unifying commitment to the mastery of their recitations.

The competition was judged by professionals from across Illinois including poet and mathematician Rodrigo Carraminana, storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis, poet and educator Quraysh Ali Lansana, and professor emerita Maurine Magliocco.

Wynton Gage of Springfield Southeast High School was named the Illinois

State Champion and will advance to the National Finals in Washington, D.C., in late April joining 52 other competitors representing every U.S. state and territory. Maeve Huemann of Edwardsville High School was named Runner-Up. Poetry Foundation trustee Willard Bunn III awarded the winners.

The competition began in the students' classrooms and advanced through school and regional contests. Eight regional competitions were held throughout Illinois in February and the top two performers from those competitions advanced to compete in the state finals. The process taught them the power of words and the purpose of their voice.

In his opening comments Willard Bunn III spoke about the persistence of a poem once memorized, saying that a poem taken on in youth can be carried throughout one's life. "I'm sure," he addressed the contestants, "that these poems will stay with you."

The contestants in alphabetical order: Haifa Ali (Jefferson High School, Rockford); Varya Bazalev (Wheaton-Warrenville High School, Wheaton); Samantha Churovich (University of Illinois Laboratory High School, Champaign); Kenzie Clerk (Community High School, Carbondale); Dalin Eap (Mather High School, Chicago); Brandon Fien-

hold (Agape Christian High School, Marion); Wynton Gage (Southeast High School, Springfield); Brett Harris (Community High School, Freeburg); Maeve Huemann (Edwardsville High School, Edwardsville); Charles Hsu (Deerfield High School, Deerfield); Zach Kline (Orion High School, Orion); Asher Malitsky (Metropolitan Schoolhouse, Chicago); Lauran Miller (Central High School, Champaign); Ana Plankenhorn (Jefferson High School, Rockford); Grace Sturtewagen (Annawan High School, Annawan); Cole White (Pawnee High School, Pawnee).

Emily Page  
Program Assistant



Willard Bunn and State Champion Wynton Gage

## On My Own Time

The On My Own Time program was created to encourage and display artwork of talented employees whose work is created "on my own time," not at the workplace. It makes the otherwise unnoticed artistic talents of individuals visible to fellow employees and the community.



L to R: Tap Hefley, IEPA; Michelle Smith, ISP; 2017 On My Own Time Co-chair Rosemary Buffington; Greg Walbert, LLC; Co-chair Rod Buffington



Contestants in the Central Illinois Regional Contest, Poetry Out Loud . Photographer: William Richards



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This program is  
partially supported  
by a grant from the  
Illinois Arts Council Agency

## Uptown Friday Night *Six Strings, Six Weeks*

Uptown Friday Night is the Arts Council's free performance series, taking place from 5:30 to 7:30 on Friday evenings. Join us at Robbie's Restaurant on Old State Capitol Plaza South and start the weekend with outstanding jazz and blues, excellent food and drinks, and great company – all while supporting the Springfield Area Arts Council.

### APRIL

- 6 Steve Adleman Quartet
- 13 Lowder, Manning & Cook
- 20 Chris Camp & His Blues Ambassadors
- 27 Emerald Underground

### MAY

- 4 Debbie Ross Band
- 11 Jazz by Footprints
- 18 Sam Crain Quartet
- 25 HOLIDAY – CLOSED



Participants in adult guitar lessons with instructor Ben Bedford (seated)

## SAAC Annual Meeting is May 10—see page 1