

ACCOLADES *For The Arts*

Springfield Area Arts Council

November 2016

First Night® Springfield

Join the Springfield Area Arts Council as we host the 30th Annual **First Night® Springfield** celebration of the arts in downtown Springfield. On December 31, the Arts Council's annual event runs from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. at Springfield High School with FREE, family-friendly art activities and performances. Mark Gifford will perform at 4:15 on the historic Barton organ, and admission is \$5.00. At 6:00 p.m., concurrent performances will be found downtown at six locations, including ten stages. The celebration continues until 11:15 p.m. with the Horace Mann fireworks show at 8:00 p.m. Food trucks and strolling entertainers are new additions to the event. Admission wristbands must be purchased to attend one or all of the performances. The cost is \$18.00 each for Adults (\$20 at the door) or \$5.00 each for Youth (ages 5 through 18). Wristbands may be purchased at the Hoogland Center for the Arts box office or on-line at www.hcfta.org. A complete schedule of acts will be posted on the Arts Council website at www.springfieldartsco.org.

You're invited!

The **Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band** invites you to a special concert on the evening of Sunday, December 4, 2016, in Theatre Three at the Hoogland Center for the Arts.

The Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band is directed by Gary Kerr and Eileen Straeter, retired music educators, and features talented teenaged musicians from the Springfield Area.

It's sure to put you in the Holiday mood. Please come!



The Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band performs at this summer's Artist On the Plaza series. Join them December 4 at the Hoogland Center for a holiday special event!

What Americans think about the arts

In July, Americans for the Arts published the results of a new public opinion poll that shows that Americans are more broadly engaged in the arts than previously understood. The research study, titled "What Americans Believe About The Arts" was conducted with Ipsos Public Affairs.

Arts Experiences 73%

"The arts provide meaning in our lives."

63 percent of the population believe the arts "lift me up beyond everyday experiences," 64 percent feel the arts give them "pure pleasure to experience and participate in," and 73 percent say the arts are a "positive experience in a troubled world."

The poll contains a variety of valuable data points for arts advocates, including the finding that 63 percent of the population believes the arts "lift me up beyond everyday experiences," and 73 percent say the arts are a "positive experience in a troubled world." Nearly 7 in 10 adults (68 percent) attended an arts event in the past year. The study also found that the American public overwhelmingly supports arts education. 88 percent agreed that the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education, and 82 percent believe that the arts should also be taught outside of the classroom in the community. Perhaps most exciting for Arts Action Fund members, the research shows that the public wants more funding for the arts. In fact, Americans are more than twice as likely to vote for a candidate who favors increasing arts spending from the current 45 cents to \$1 per person than to vote against them. Especially in an election year, elected officials are attuned to what their constituents are thinking and feeling. Americans of all demographics feel a strong connection to the arts, and they believe the arts should be more present in our communities.

Source: "Americans Speak Out About the Arts."
2016

National Park Service celebrates 100 years of Arts in the Parks

With its 100th anniversary celebration this year, the National Park Service has been working to highlight the many ways they connect with attendees in their parks. Over the years, the NPS has implemented arts programs as a means to further its mission of preservation and engagement of national parks. Watch the amazing videos at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/arts/100-years-of-art.htm>; take a moment to enjoy how the arts have become a part of the NPS!



Artist on the Plaza finishes summer run

"I so enjoy the variety of people who come to Artist on the Plaza. There are some, of all ages and ethnicities, who come almost every Tuesday and Thursday. There are others who make it a point to have lunch at one of our sponsor's restaurants during a performance at least once a month. There are tourists who are caught by the music as they walk from one historic site to another and decide, on the spur of the moment, to become part of the audience. And there are downtown shoppers and workers in the crowd, too. I love it." So says Sheila Walk, coordinator of the summer performance series.



This year, the Arts Council gave an hour's employment to 26 individuals or groups. Sheila estimates that there were over 2,700 audience members during the season that ran between Labor Day and Memorial Day.



PERFORMERS (in order of appearance):

Airlifter Brass; Monica Hay; Virgil Rhodes; Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band; Edwin Gehlbach; Lowder and Manning; David Alexander; Rachel Rambach; Ed Clark; Ben Bedford; The Dandelion Pickers; Tom Irwin; David Tell; Mark McKnight; Troy Roark; Carole Vetter; Tombé Kemayo, and Frank Parker; Messengers for Christ; Theresa O'Hare Flute Studio; Phil Steinberg; Amy Benton; St. Andrew's Society; Matt Mifflin; Wild Columbine; Route 66 Quartet; Arlin Peebles; Tim Garman; Vonn; and Five Star Brass

SPONSORS

Augie's Front Burner; Bank of Springfield; Cadagin Law Offices; Café Moxo Too; City of Springfield; The Feed Store; Alderman Joe McMenamin; Melotte-Morse-Leonatti-Parker; Myers Commercial Real Estate; Obed and Isaac's; Paul O'Shea;



Amp Up The Arts!

For the last eighteen months or so, the Arts Council has been fund-raising for a portable sound system that can be used for Artist on the Plaza and other events. We met our goal, and the purchase is imminent.

Some of the money came through an online campaign; some came from individual donations. The remaining funds came through the efforts of **Amy Benton** who organized and hosted a concert featuring local legend Tom Irwin and, from Nashville, singer/songwriter Sally Barris. That August 6th event (sponsored by Sheedy Shores Winery and Vintage Designs) was the first of a series of "Stories and Songs" concerts that Benton is arranging, so visit www.amybenton.com for more information.

Thanks to all who donated to the AMP UP THE ARTS campaign!



RSM US LLP; Recycled Records; Scott and Scott, P. C.; Security Bank; Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau; Wm. Van's; Wyndham City Centre; and Z Bistro-Udder Hut

In-kind: Prairie Archives, Robbie's Restaurant, and Uptown Garages



Poetry Off the Page

The Springfield Area Arts Council has hosted the Central Illinois regional and Illinois state contests in each of the dozen years of Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for high school students.



In Illinois last year, 45 high schools were part of Poetry Out Loud. 110 teachers. 3,673 students! Mark your calendar for this season's contests to be held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts on February 23 (regional) and March 10 (state).



Central Illinois Regional Contest, February 2016

Representatives Hall, Old State Capitol

Troy Roark (board president, Springfield Area Arts Council), Aleeya Reed (runner-up, Decatur Eisenhower High School), Mariah Brooks (winner, Springfield Southeast High School)

Photographer: William Richards

What does the SAAC do?

Simply put, the Springfield Area Arts Council provides individual artists and local arts organizations the resources they need to keep Springfield and the surrounding area a vibrant art community.



Join us today, and together we can:

- ♦ Continue to employ over 500 local artists a year
- ♦ Deliver arts programming to over 5,000 elementary students a year in Sangamon and Menard counties through the Penny Wollan-Kriel Arts in Education Program
- ♦ Bring quality performances to the Springfield area by hosting events: First Night® Springfield—Illinois' longest running New Year's Eve celebration; Uptown Friday Night—the region's best jazz at Robbie's Restaurant; and Artist on the Plaza—our summer lunchtime performance series
- ♦ Support area performing arts organizations through grants that help with their operating expenses

Can you help?

The Arts Council recently has expanded its office footprint on the lower level of the Hoogland Center for the Arts, and we're creating a room in which to host small meetings that will alleviate some of the crowding in the current office. We're seeking a used conference table in good condition that could seat a dozen or more individuals. We already have a set of sturdy, hardwood vintage armchairs. Can you help us? If so, please contact Jon Austin at 753-3519 or at director@springfieldartsco.org. As a gift to a non-profit organization, the value of the table may offer tax benefits to the donor.

- ♦ Provide opportunities to local residents to showcase their creativity through The Mayor's Arts Awards and On My Own Time exhibits
- ♦ Encourage high school students to compete in the Poetry Out Loud regional and national contests

Your \$8.33 in a small but very important way will help us enrich the community through the arts. Together we can do this!

Why \$8.33? It doesn't seem a lot to do so much.

It's not. \$8.33 is an amount of money that nearly anyone can give on a regular basis. As it happens, \$8.33 a month turns into \$100 a year. Now, you can see that you can make a real difference for our community, without feeling like you're giving much at all.

If you've never given to SAAC (or any arts organization before) now is the perfect time to give. It's easy, and it's inexpensive; however, the reward to over 5,000 students, 500 artists, and the entire community is immeasurable. Thank you for giving!

Visit our website www.springfieldartsco.org or www.833ToTheSAAC.org to donate today.

Arts in Education program

The Penny Wollan-Kriel Arts in Education program got off to a quick start this year at Enos Elementary School on October 7th. Magician Richard Landry performed for students there who had earned a reward for "making good choices," and he tailored his act to fit that theme. The students and teachers participated well and



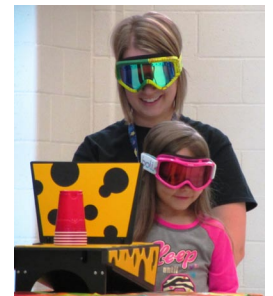
12 Organizations get City Arts grants

Funds from the 2016 – 2017 City Arts grants will be presented to twelve area arts and social service organizations this year.

City Arts grants are funded by the City of Springfield and the Springfield Area Arts Council. The grants totaled \$7,750 for this year's recipients.

An Artist Residency program at Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. will fund their Senior Services Arts Class.

Rental Subsidy grants were given to eleven organizations to assist with their rental of space for rehearsals, performances, exhibits, and/or classes. Organizations receiving these awards were Illinois Prairie Pastel Society, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Land of Lincoln Barbershop Chorus, Menard County Singers, the Route 66 Film Festival, Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, Sound Celebration Chorus, Springfield Art Association, Springfield Ballet Company, Springfield International Folk Dancers, and Vachel Lindsay Association.



were particularly cute because it was Pajama Day at the school.

Funding this year comes from a \$5,000 grant from the **Susan Cook House Educational Trust**. That money already has been requested by schools in Sangamon County. The Arts Council would like to serve even more students and is looking for sources of additional funding, so please contact the office if you can help find them.

Springfield Area Arts Council – Enriching the community through the arts



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partially supported
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Calling all First Night supporters

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you've read that plans for First Night are progressing as we prepare for our 30th anniversary event. In past years, individual members and local businesses have provided financial support to defray event expenses and to support the Arts Council's primary annual fund-raiser. All donors will be acknowledged in printed materials, through social media, on our website, and in press releases. Donors at higher levels also receive acknowledgment on the event poster and printed schedule, announcements from the podium, stage posters, etc. Won't you consider a contribution today?



Uptown Friday Night

Now in its 21st year, 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.

November 4
November 11
November 18
November 25

December 2
December 9
December 16
December 23
December 30

Jazz by Footprints
Ed Clark trio
Vibe Tribe
Closed – Thanksgiving

Gus Pflugmacher Trio
Jones and Chase
Soldiers of Swing
Closed – Christmas
Closed – New Year

Accolades for the Arts

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

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.



Arts in Education program at Enos School,
sponsored by the SAAC