

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

April 2017

Illinois agrees: Arts are central to student success

April 3 was a big day for arts education in Illinois.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) submitted our state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plan to the federal government on Monday, April 3. Thanks in no small part to your vocal support and civic engagement, this plan includes the arts as one of only five indicators of K-12 school quality — a major victory for arts education.

Because it includes an arts indicator, Illinois' ESSA state plan upholds the arts as central to student success, and opens the door to new funding opportunities and sources of support for arts learning. The indicator

will also lead to a greater, data-based understanding of the extent of arts education in Illinois and will incentivize schools to make arts learning available to more students.

These incentives will grow even stronger over time. ISBE has set a four-year timeline for crafting the new indicator's specific measurement and to giving it weight but, as stated by ISBE Chairman James Meeks, "We are going to speed up that process." The Alliance will partner with ISBE and other stakeholders to determine the measurement.

Again, your advocacy is what helped make this win possible. Nearly 3,000 comments were submitted in support of an arts indicator — more than all other

comments on other subjects combined. Thanks for your support, and we'll continue to keep you updated on this vital issue.

Source: Arts Alliance Illinois

Artist on the Plaza

Every summer, the Springfield Area Arts Council produces **Artist on the Plaza**, a series of live performances on the Old State Capitol Plaza between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The 2017 season will open with the 144th Army Band's FIVE STAR BRASS on Tuesday, May 30th. Many fine shows will be in that same space every Tuesday and Thursday noon hour all summer long. Check the Arts Council website in mid-May for a season schedule. Please plan to attend several of these free, public shows.



New sound system

It took two years and the effort of many people, but the Arts Council is now the proud owner of a portable Bose sound system for use at Artist on the Plaza and other programs. The system was purchased from local dealer, SUNDOWN ONE, and its premiere was in the Lincoln Home Visitors Center during First Night® Springfield performances.

Grateful recognition goes to summer intern ANDREW PHILLIPS for setting up the GoFundMe campaign; local performer AMY BENTON for organizing a fundraiser that also included performers TOM IRWIN and SALLY BARRIS; board member LYNN SHANKLIN for tracking donations; and these donors: 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition, Ben and Kari Bedford, Sandy Bellatti, Amy Benton, Mary Beth Burke, Katharine Eastvold, Lisa Higgs, Becky Kemp, Craig McFarland, Tom Myers, Victoria Nichols Johnson, Mark and Cheryl Pence, The Pennell Family, Lindsay Record, Kim Villanueva, Craig Williams II, and Penny Wollan-Kriel.

SAAC at Farmers' Market



Building on the long-running success of Artist on the Plaza, SAAC will partner with Downtown Springfield, Inc. and Illinois Stewardship Alliance to bring live, local entertainment to the Old Capitol Farmers' Market.

Musicians interested in performing at the Market on Saturday mornings should email Sheila Walk at programs@springfieldartsco.org.

The Arts Council also will manage artisans who wish to sell at the Farmers' Market. Artisans must be juried before their application can be considered complete and approved. Artisan specific application instructions can be found at www.ilstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ArtisanApplicationInstructions.pdf.

Please do not hesitate to email market manager Lindsay Keeney with questions; you can reach her at lindsaykeeney@ilstewards.org.

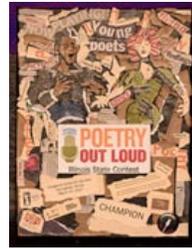
The Farmers' Market is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from May 13 to October 28. Hours are 8:00am to 12:30pm. The location is in Downtown Springfield, on Adams Street between Third and Fifth Streets. The Farmers' Market Premier Sponsor is HSHS St. John's Hospital.

Many thanks from the Arts Council

When a room opened up across the hall from the Arts Council office on the lower level of the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the staff set about the project of moving files of programs past and piles of craft materials from storage on Floor 2.75 into that space. Some able volunteers carried boxes and organized supplies, and we thank them: BRICE BRINKMAN, AARON COOK, EMILY PAGE, CHERYL PENCE, and MARK PENCE.

One of the recitation judges at the Central Illinois Poetry Out Loud Regional Contest donated books he acquired during his work as a storyteller in Ireland. Thank you, PATRICK RYAN, for giving the Arts Council the following resources to share with area high school students: *All Through the Night: Night Poems and Lullabies* (Marie Heaney, editor); *Everything to Play For: 99 Poems about Sport* (John McAuliffe, editor); *Poetry Ireland Review* (Vona Groarke, editor).

MICHAEL WALL, a professional painter, has agreed to paint the Arts Council office suite at a discounted rate. THÉA CHESLEY, accuracy judge for both the Central Illinois Regional and the Illinois State Poetry Out Loud Contests, returned her well-earned stipends to the Arts Council. Coincidentally, the amount of her donation matches the cost of painting, so that work will happen in April. SAAC is grateful to Michael and Théa for brightening its work space.



A local artist designed the award given to the state Poetry Out Loud champion. JIM EDWARDS, thanks for sharing your talent. (Photo by William Richards)

One more thank you to BEN BEDFORD, local singer-songwriter, who helped with the unpacking and initial set-up of the Arts Council's new portable sound system.

\$8.33 really helps!

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

A donation of \$8.33 will help us enrich the community through the arts.

Why \$8.33? It doesn't seem like very 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.

Save the date: Prom Gone Mad is May 20

Adult Prom is back! The SAAC fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 7:00 to 11:00PM at The Remedy Bar, 9 West Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield.



This year's theme is "PROM GONE MAD – A Mad Men 50s & 60s Prom". We encourage clothing and accessories appropriate to the period.

Tickets are \$25 each. Call the SAAC office at 217-753-3519 or visit www.springfieldartsco.org for more information.



Arts Action Fund urges support for arts programs

March 28, 2017

Earlier this month, we reported that the White House had proposed eliminating all funding to the National Endowments for the Arts (NEA) and the Humanities (NEH) for next year's FY 2018 budget. Today, the White House took yet another brazen step and proposed that Congress cut \$18 billion immediately from a targeted list of federal domestic programs out of the current year's FY 2017 budget, with only six months left in the fiscal year. The stated purpose of the new cuts is to offset higher proposed defense and border security spending.

Specifically to the arts, today's White House proposal attempts to cut \$15 million each from the NEA and NEH, which would wreak havoc in being able to administer pre-scheduled grants to nonprofit and governmental arts agencies at the local and state level.

Top Republican appropriation leaders in Congress reacted hesitantly to the proposal as a whole, stating the cuts were too big and too late in the fiscal year. They gently reminded the President that it's Congress who writes the appropriation bills to determine how to spend taxpayers' money.

Here are the actions that you can take right now to tell Congress to stop any last minute attempts to retroactively cut funding to the arts in the current fiscal year:

1. Take two minutes to send a customizable message to your elected representatives in Congress and urge them to oppose any attempt to cut funding to the NEA and NEH.
2. Post on Facebook and Twitter to help rally national support to #SaveTheNEA. There is strength in numbers and your social media friends can help.
3. Contribute to the Arts Action Fund PAC to help ensure we have the resources to support pro-arts Congressional candidates who will help us save the arts in America.

Thank you,
Nina Ozlu Tunceli
Executive Director, Arts Action Fund

Mariah Brooks wins Poetry Out Loud title

For a poem to be recited to a living audience is its big break in show business. A poem in the air is not the same poem as it was on the page – the drama and charm of its unfolding is completely, particularly alive and intimate as it passes from one body into another. And the excitement of hearing a good poem in such a way is like a rollercoaster ride — I can't wait to see what is going to happen next.

These lines, from Tony Hoagland, were written in the program for the Illinois State Contest of the **Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest**. The competition was held on Friday, March 10, at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield. **Mariah Brooks** from Southeast High School (Springfield) was declared the winner. She will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C., in early May.

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Poetry Out Loud in Illinois is a collaborative project of the Illinois Arts Council Agency and seven arts agencies, each of which hosts a regional contest. The Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through analysis, memorization, performance, and

competition. The National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation, in conjunction with state arts agencies, support this nation-wide program with participants from all fifty states plus Washington, D.C., the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

To win the competition, Brooks recited “The Song of the Feet” by Nikki Giovanni, “Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday” by Robert Hayden, and “On Virtue” by Phillis Wheatley.

Amber Price, Maine East High School (Park Ridge), was named runner-up.

The Illinois State Contest featured recitations by the top two students from each of eight Poetry Out Loud regional contests in the state: Belleville, Carbondale, Champaign, Chicago – City, Chicago – Metro, Rockford, Rock Island, and Springfield. Those students included Tamoor Baig, Taft High School (Chicago); Nicole Bulmer, Agape Christian School (Marion); Isabella Cooper, Danville High School (Danville); Samantha DePauw, Annawan High School (Annawan); Leah Draper, Clay City High School (Clay City); Wynton Gage, Southeast High School (Springfield); Maeve Heumann, Edwardsville High School (Edwardsville); Symone Howell, Central High School (Champaign); Hanna Jacobsen, Annawan High School (Annawan); Gina Kostovetsky, Niles West High School (Skokie); Jayde Lickenbrock, Freeburg Community High School (Freeburg); Olyvia Micko, Jefferson High School (Rockford); Mayson Rogoway, Metropolitan Schoolhouse (Chicago);

Nathan Weimerskirck, Thomas Jefferson High School (Rockford). In Illinois this year, 7,640 students representing 48 high schools and 164 teachers were part of Poetry Out Loud.

Special guests at the contest were Willard Bunn, III, of Lake Forest, a Poetry Foundation trustee, and Susan Dickson from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

“Among the benefits of the Poetry Out Loud program is that it helps young women and men find something they’re good at. These students are so talented and insightful,” said Sheila Walk, contest organizer, during the post-contest reception.

Sheila and the Springfield Area Arts Council hosted both the Central Illinois regional contest on February 23 and the state competition on March 10.

Mariah Brooks will go on to represent Illinois at the national Poetry Out Loud competition. She and the other winners of State contests will vie for the national award in Washington, D.C., on April 25 – 26.



For the second time, Mariah Brooks (Southeast High School, Springfield), was both Central Illinois winner and State winner of the Poetry Out Loud competition.



Contestants in the Illinois State Contest, Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, held March 10, 2017. Left to Right: Tamoor Baig, Mariah Brooks, Nicole Bulmer, Isabella Cooper, Samantha DePauw, Jayde Lickenbrock, Olyvia Micko, Amber Price, Leah Draper, Wynton Gage, Mayson Rogoway, Maeve Heumann, Nathan Weimerskirck, Symone Howell, Hanna Jacobsen, and Gina Kostovetsky. Photographer: William Richards





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

SAAC Annual Meeting Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Hoogland Center for the Arts
 420 South Sixth Street,
 Springfield
 Board Room, Third Floor

- Summary of our last year
- Election of new board members and officers
- Recognition of retiring and past board members
- Transaction of any business that comes properly before the membership

Wanted: Conference Table

The Arts Council is looking for a new conference table. The one currently being used has peeling wood and its height is not a good match for the still-useful chairs. Please relay any donor leads to Jon Austin at director@springfieldartsco.org.

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 and suggestions are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

Uptown Friday Night

Now in its 22nd 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.

APRIL

- 14 Johnnie Owens and Friends
- 21 Ocean State
- 28 Briggs Houchin Trio

MAY

- 5 Brian Pryor Trio
- 12 Ed Clark Trio
- 19 TBA
- 26 HOLIDAY – CLOSED

JUNE

- 2 Denise LaGrassa Quartet
- 9 Soldiers of Swing
- 16 Jazz by Footprints
- 23 TBA
- 30 TBA