

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

July 2018

We Painted the Street!



Artists Lillian Stevens (right) and Amanda Wayman (left) made their mark on behalf of the Springfield Area Arts Council at Paint the Street 2018. The design promoted our annual fundraiser, First Night Springfield, set for December 31, 2018.

Paint the Street is an annual event that benefits the Springfield Art Association.

Art Bits

Wynton Gage, 2018 Poetry Out Loud state champion, recited two poems for a working group of the Illinois State Board of Education on June 22. Those in attendance also asked Gage to explain the impact arts education has had on his life. Gage's parents, Hewitt and Tracy, accompanied him and participated in a discussion of the Every Student Succeeds Act Arts Indicators. The SAAC Interim Executive Director, Sheila Walk, also participated in that discussion and explained the structure and benefits of the Poetry Out Loud program.

Grant Applications are Available!

Applications for Community Arts Access grants are now available. Check out these opportunities at <http://www.springfieldartsco.org/community-arts-access/>.

Thank You For Your Contribution!

On February 16, 2018, a dear friend to the SAAC passed away. Robert Pence was a supporter of many SAAC programs. Mr. Pence requested that memorial donations be made to the Springfield Area Arts Council. With the help of those contributions, the SAAC is able to continue many programs such as Artist on the Plaza, First Night Springfield, and Robert's favorite: Uptown Friday Night.



Additionally, the Springfield Area Arts Council thanks **Sundown One** for their donation of a microphone, the **Springfield Tracy Fund** for their donation of \$2,000 for general operations, storyteller **Brian Fox Ellis** for gifting a vast collection of poetry books, **Arlington's** for allowing their space to be used for Adult Prom, and the **Illinois Arts Council Agency** for funding Summer Youth Employment in the Arts. Every bit of generosity is appreciated by the SAAC.

Accolades for the Arts

Accolades for the Arts is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Content and design by Lillian Stevens. 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.

Adult Prom was Totally Tubular!

Yo, did you hear about Adult Prom? It was totally rad. Co-chairs and 2015 Adult Prom Queens, Kari Bedford and Courtney Wick, threw a kickin' tribute to the 90s at Arlington's on June 29th. The beats were phat; the couples were stylin'; and the dance moves were MAD fresh.

Along with those wicked jams, attendees enjoyed photos, dancing, 90s themed decorations, cash bar, and costume contest.

Each couple on prom court competed to raise the most moolah, which all went to the benefit of the SAAC. Of the nine couples nominated to prom court, Bailee Brinkman and Anna Benoit raised the most money (\$1,862.00!) and were crowned Adult Prom 2018 Queen and Queen. Overall, Adult Prom raised over \$6,000 for the SAAC. Oh, SNAP!



Photo by Kari Bedford

Ten simple things you can do to support your favorite nonprofit **WITHOUT SPENDING A SINGLE DIME**

1) Tell someone. Word of mouth is one of the most powerful forms of advertising. Tell one new person each month about your organization (time estimate: 5 minutes/month)

2) Email signature. In your custom email signature, add a tagline noting your support of your favorite nonprofit, including a hotlink to the group's website. Show your nonprofit pride with each email! (time estimate: 5 minutes)

3) Like, share and comment. If you spend time on Facebook or other social media, engage online. Like and comment on their posts and share those of most interest to you with others. (time estimate: you choose)

4) Forward emails. If you get your favorite group's e-newsletter, forward the emails to a friend or two who might like to know about one of the topics in that issue. Be sure to include a personal note! (time estimate: fewer than 5 minutes/month)

5) Participate. Help with a community outreach booth, at a special event, or at a fundraising event. Be an organizational ambassador by embracing your group's goals and helping to advance them. (time estimate: 2-5 hours/year)

6) Carry brochures. Leave your favorite nonprofit's brochures at grocery stores, doctor's offices, libraries, government buildings, etc. (time estimate: 2 minutes/month)

7) LTE. Write a letter to the editor. Tell others how you feel about your favorite nonprofit and the impact it has. Choose your own angle and write with passion. (time estimate: 30 minutes)

8) Don't recycle. The last newsletter issue your favorite nonprofit mailed to you? Don't recycle it when you're done. Instead, pass it along to someone you think might want to learn more about what the group does. (time estimate: 5 minutes)

9) Bling! Does your favorite nonprofit have t-shirts? Magnets? Bumper stickers? Other bling? If so, wear it – or display it – with pride where others can see it. (time estimate: none)

10) Thank. Those working at your favorite nonprofit work hard. They spend long hours helping others for not a lot of pay. Brighten their day by sending a thank you note for their dedication and hard work. (time estimate: 5 minutes/month)

Your favorite nonprofits still need your financial support. Add in these 10 extra things to make your donations – and their impact – go even farther!

Laura Huth-Rhoades,
DoGood Consulting

Local Art History: The Journey of a Sign



Recently, a previously-functional neon sign of the word "ART" was discovered in storage at the Springfield Area Arts Council. Through the help of the Sangamon Valley Collection, Dennis Bringuet of Ace Sign Company, and a few Facebook connections who recognized it, the history of this sign has been uncovered. The ART sign began its life as a part of the marquee for the Cinema Art Theatre. This theater opened on May 26, 1971, in the place of the State Theater which closed nearly ten years prior. Although it is one of the lesser-known theaters in Springfield's history, Cinema Art still has its fair share of notoriety and distinction.

While the theater itself was under construction, rumor of Cinema Art's unique and mature focus spread and gained local attention. As it turned out, the rumor proved to be true once the Cinema Art Theatre opened as the town's only adult theater. This theater would continue to gain local attention throughout its life by sparking controversy over the mature films shown.

When Cinema Art Theatre closed its doors, the ART sign came into the hands of Ace Sign Company. In 1989, Ace Sign Company formed a connection with Springboard, the organization that would become the Springfield Area Arts Council, through a project that resulted in banners on poles throughout downtown Springfield. Later, these two organizations collaborated again in a Springfield Lake Beach House neon art exhibit, where the ART sign, along with other neon sculptures, were displayed. After the conclusion of the exhibit, the ART sign was transferred to the Springfield Area Arts Council and was displayed in the lobby of its former office. After the SAAC moved into the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the sign was used for several consecutive years at First Night until it no longer functioned as a neon sign. The ART sign has been handed over to Ace Sign Company once again to be repaired and displayed in its museum at 2540 S. 1st Street in Springfield. By today's standards, a sign like this one would cost \$900-\$1,000. Ace is currently constructing an LED sign for the SAAC's office windows.



**Thank you, Carey Smith,
for decluttering the SAAC
Annex!**

Meet the Summer Staff at Springfield Area Arts Council!



When you live in Springfield, getting involved with the arts seems to be as easy as hitting a pot hole with your car. Sprinkled generously through this town lie many opportunities to

contribute to the artistic culture—so much so that you might not even realize how involved with the art scene you may have become after a few years. Being a Springfield native, I've been a part of my fair share of performing arts in this town. As a younger child, I was surrounded by music a la my parents' bands and musician friends. Growing up, I fit in with the band kids, even without playing an instrument. Throughout high school, I performed in every musical that my school did (*Hairspray*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Ragtime*, and *Footloose*) and attended every performance I could, be it the fall plays or the spring jazz band concerts at Springfield High and Southeast. I also stepped out of my comfort zone and stuck a toe into Springfield's community theatre scene by performing in my first Hoogland show in 2017. Through these experiences, I developed a sense for the fine arts and made a prolific reputation for having appreciated local arts. In fact, my love for Springfield and the performing arts had become such a defining characteristic of mine that I was hardly surprised when my literature teacher emailed me about an internship opportunity with the Springfield Area Arts Council. Despite not getting that internship, I was still able to accept a part time position as an office assistant, which goes to show how accessible this field can be.

Becoming a part of the Springfield Area Arts Council has truly been a wonderful

experience and I am glad to have been able to contribute to Springfield's artistic culture before leaving for college.

Lillian Stevens
Office Assistant



My passion for art started as most other things do: in my childhood. As a child, I enjoyed drawing in coloring books, finger painting, and sculpting with Play-Doh. As I grew up, my love for the

arts grew, too. I now love listening to music, despite the fact I don't know a single note; painting with acrylics, oils, and watercolors; and acting in miniature productions. In junior high, I signed up for every session of PAVE theater camp and continued that for three years. [PAVE is still offered in the summertime, located in the basement of the Hoogland.] PAVE gave me the opportunity to fall in love with acting, dancing, singing, and drawing. Even if I wasn't the best at everything I did, the summer camp showed me the importance of the arts in everyday life. During my junior high and high school career, I tried to take every art class I could get my hands on, joining art clubs and completing projects I often found increasingly difficult. My art teacher, Mr. Rex, allowed his students the freedom of choice and expression when it came to their artwork. Mr. Rex pushed his students to perform to the best of their ability and to challenge themselves. With this challenge and constant drive, I've discovered how much I've improved as an artist and how my definition of art has changed over the years. Art allows the actor, the musician, or the artist to create something beautiful, inspirational, and awe-inspiring out of inherently nothing. When I heard of the internship with the Springfield Area Arts Council, I became instantly aware of the opportunity and knowledge this internship could bring. I knew I had to apply. I needed a résu-

mé, a letter of interest, and a letter of recommendation, which I received from my amazing art teacher. After I submitted all of the documents to Sheila Walk, the interim executive director of the Springfield Area Arts Council and my current boss, I received another email a couple days later. The email was from Sheila, asking me to interview for my current position. I was ecstatic by the news but was nervous about the interview. After going through the whole process, I was offered the job which I eagerly accepted. I have now been working for the Springfield Area Arts Council for almost eight weeks and the job itself, as well as the experiences, already have exceeded my expectations. I produce events such as Artist on the Plaza, Music at the Market, and Uptown Friday Night. These programs work to further enrich the community through the arts by hiring local talent to perform for the residents and visitors of the Springfield area. Every day I work, I learn new things, meet more people, and am constantly amazed by the local talent. I have been blessed this summer with a fabulous job, boss, and the chance to relish in the arts all over again.

Amanda Wayman
Intern

Songwriting Sessions

Are you an aspiring songwriter, unsure of where to start? Are you an established songwriter looking to develop your skills? Look no farther than our newest program, Songwriting Sessions! Local musician Tom Irwin, in collaboration with the SAAC, is holding a series of four two-hour sessions in September at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. Tom has been writing and performing original music for over thirty-five years, and is perhaps the most notable local artist that Central Illinois has to offer. These sessions will take place on September 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th at 6 pm. There is a \$100 fee to attend this series.

Interested? Learn more about Tom Irwin at tomirwinmusic.com, email office@springfieldartsco.org, or call (217)753-3519.

Donate to the Springfield Area Arts Council by visiting our website!



420 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 217-753-3519
Email: office@springfieldartsco.org
Website: springfieldartsco.org



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

Music at the Market

A free live music performance series at the Old Capitol Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings from 10:00-12:00 sponsored by HSHS St. Johns.

Aug 4: Square of the Roots
Aug 11: Tim Garman
Aug 18: Last Acre
Aug 25: Peaches and Bacon
Sept 1: Arlin Peebles and Erin Darnell
Sept 8: Tom Irwin

Sept 15: Mike Anderson
Sept 22: Mista Smyth
Sept 29: Larry Stevens
Oct 6: Dennis Darling
Oct 13: Dan Grover
Oct 20: Michael Butler

Uptown Friday Night

Jazz up your Friday nights with Uptown Friday Night, a free-to-attend performance series held at Robbie's Restaurant on Old State Capitol Plaza South from 5:30-9:30.

June 1: Johnnie Owens and Friends
June 8: Ed Clark Trio
June 15: Kevin Hart and the Vibe Tribe
June 22: West of Staley
June 29: Jones and Chase with Friends
July 6: Dan Rivero Band
July 13: Chahrm with Ada Lou

July 20: Ocean State
July 27: Frank Parker and Friends
Aug 3: Bossa Azul
Aug 10: Denise LaGrassa Quartet
Aug 24: The Hip Replacements

Artist on the Plaza

Join us on the south lawn of the Old State Capitol at noon every Wednesday this summer to enjoy a different local artist each week.

May 30: Monica Hay
June 6: Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band
June 13: Carole Vetter
June 20: Tater Tot
June 27: Phil Steinberg
July 4: Elvis Himselvis
July 11: Matt Mifflin

July 18: Britney Long
July 25: Casey Cantrall
Aug 1: Saint Andrew's Society
Aug 8: Springfield Dance Theatre
Aug 15: Rowdy Dawson
Aug 22: Route 66 Quartet
Aug 29: Mary Bryant Home Singers

Sponsors for Artist on the Plaza: Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport, Ace Sign Co., Arlington's, Augie's Front Burner, Development Services Group, Eck, Schafer & Punke, La Piazza Cucina Italiana, Alderman Joe McMenamin, Merchant House, Merrill Lynch, Myers Commercial Real Estate, Obed and Isaac's, Paul O'Shea, RSM US LLP, Security Bank, Springfield Downtown Parking, Don Tracy, Visit Springfield, WindSolarUSA, Wm. Van's Coffee, Wyndham Springfield

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