

boone county arts council news



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April 2023

“The Arts...Share the Vision”

Walmart Mural Project

The Boone County Arts Council (BCAC) assisted the local Walmart during their recent remodel in November 2022. Troy Yunk connected with a local artist, Aurelia Tauscher, who completed the mural in the Walmart vestibule in time for the winter holidays. During the festive dedication of the mural and remodel of the store, members of the Arts Council graciously accepted a \$500 check from the Belvidere Walmart.

Congratulations to Aurelia Tauscher, a local artist, BNHS graduate, and a past recipient of the Heidi Benzel scholarship award. Keep doing great work! Be sure and check out the mural.



Pictured: Troy Yunk, Jean Twyning, Karrie Frazier-Pace, Debbie Carlson and artist Aurelia Tauscher

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boone county arts council
P. O. Box 311
Belvidere, IL 61008
815-544-6242
www.boonecountyarts.com

Newsletter masthead created by
Beth Luhman and Gary Simon

From the President

Can you imagine what the world would be like without music? I can't. Music is part of what makes us human. It helps us deal with our emotions and evokes its own emotions. It brings us together and gives us joy. It relieves stress, nourishes the human spirit, and teaches us discipline, problem solving, creativity, and basic life skills. I personally like Kahlil Gibran's description of music, "Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife."

The Arts Council is proud to incorporate music into its programs, such as the Fifth Grade Arts Festival and the Summer Concerts in the Park series. Planning has begun on both events for 2023. We also look forward to our newest initiative aimed at expanding creative opportunities to the youth of our communities by offering art classes, projects, and events. In addition to these endeavors, we will continue to bring you the Student Art Show, Paint on State, and various mural projects.

At this point, I wish to thank our volunteers, who helped make our 2022 Fifth Grade Arts Festival a success, and Kit Scheidenhelm, who graciously agreed to exhibit his paintings in our gallery in the Funderburg House. And of course, I offer a special word of thanks to all our members who help make the Arts Council a success. It has been said before: we can't do it without you. Please enjoy our newsletter.

Heidi Thacker

The programs of the Boone County
Arts Council are partially supported
by the Illinois Arts Council Agency
and the National Endowment for the
Arts



Grants Received

Boone County Community Foundation Grant

The Boone County Arts Council has received grants for the 2023 Fifth Grade Arts Festival. The Boone County Community Foundation has granted the festival \$3,000 for this on-going workshop for all fifth grade students in Belvidere.

Rockford Area Arts Council Grant

The Rockford Area Arts Council has also generously given \$900 for the 2023 Fifth Grade Arts Festival

General Mills Grant

The Boone County Arts Council has recently received \$15,000 from the General Mills Foundation Hometown Grantmaking Program. The Belvidere Plant employees have an active role by nominating local charities as well as organizing volunteer projects. We thank all of the employees who voted for BCAC to receive these funds and look forward to the expanded programming the funds will provide for our community. General Mills provides philanthropic support to select local organizations in the communities that are home to company manufacturing plants and offices.



Upcoming Events

Student Art Show

Boone County History Museum, Belvidere, May 2-6, opening reception, May 2nd 2:30 – 5:30

Summer Concerts in the Park Series

Baltic Mill Stage, Belvidere Park, (see forthcoming schedule for county locations) Sundays, June 4th – July 23rd.

Paint on State

Downtown Belvidere, June 24th

**Share the Vision!
Become a member
today!**

Teen Paint & Snack



Teen Paint & Snack was held on Saturday, March 4th in conjunction with the Boone County Museum of History.

Each of the students were provided with a canvas, paint, brushes, and other materials. During the event, students were invited to create a painting using whatever subject matter they would like. We saw a variety of work from shooting stars to cats to swirls. Throughout the student's time participating in the event, facilitators received positive feedback. With that, the Teen Paint & Snack will serve as a foundation for more teen-centered art events in the future.



Illinois Arts Council Agency Visit



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY



Pictured: Karen Shifo, BCAC Treasurer, Encarnacion Teruel, IACA Deputy Director, Heidi Thacker, BCAC President

On Wednesday March 8, the Boone County Arts Council hosted a community roundtable conversation with the Illinois Arts Council Agency during their Listening Tour throughout the State of Illinois.

Along with members of the board, individuals from Boone County organizations and city government, including Mayor Clint Morris, joined the gathering. The discussion was productive, as various board members spoke about BCAC's current programs and events, community attendees added to the conversation, and the IACA offered useful information. High school student Zoe Hart contributed by speaking about Paint on State. Her inspiring and youthful voice was a welcome addition to the meeting.

After the sit-down discussion, the IACA was treated to a trip around the community to see the murals, the Funderburg House, and the Pettit Chapel. A number of board members joined the IACA on the mini-bus, which was generously supplied by the Belvidere Park District.

The day served to remind us how proud we should be about our community, with everyone coming together to support each other. The conversation was lively and upbeat and truly gave the IACA an idea of how this is a community who cares about the arts.

If you have an idea for an arts focused program or project you would like to see in our community, please reach out! www.boonecountyarts.com or 815-544-6242

Funderburg House Gallery



A partnership between Boone County Arts Council and Boone County Museum of History

“The selecting and collecting of the paintings for this show enabled me, for the first time, to look at them as a group. Unintentionally it became surprisingly apparent that there seemed to be a theme of change and even loss...”
Artist statement, Kit Scheidenhelm, 2023

Currently on display at the Funderburg House Gallery are the paintings of local artist Kit Scheidenhelm. The works included in this exhibit poignantly capture Kit’s attunement to place and reflect on how those places are formative to our identities over time.

The show is on display through May 1st and can be visited during open hours of the Funderburg House.

For hours and information:

www.funderburghouse.org or 815-544-8391

Tours of the Funderburg House are available for \$10 per person. Please call the museum at 815-544-8391 to arrange a tour.



Art—A—Rama!

The Boone County Museum of History wishes to announce its latest community outreach project. In collaboration with the Boone County Arts Council, the museum will be distributing free art supplies to local families who may not have these materials at home. As an offshoot of the Art-A-Rama, free and low-cost, guided art projects will soon be offered to people of all ages.

We are now accepting donations of new and gently used art supplies, which may be dropped off at the museum at 314 S. State Street, during the hours of 9AM to 5 PM on Tuesday through Friday, or 9AM to 3 PM on Saturday.

For further information, please call the museum at 815-544-8391, or the Boone County Arts Council at 815-544-6242.



Fifth Grade Arts Festival

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain one when you grow up" P. Picasso



Inspired by the hope that all children will carry the arts with them as they grow, the Fifth Grade Arts Festival has been hosting Boone County's fifth grade students since 2011.

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, we were so excited to be back at the Community Building Complex in October of 2022! Over three days we hosted hundreds of fifth grade students from Belvidere's District 100 schools.



Returning this year were a number of our dedicated artist/instructors, including Chicago area folk musician, Mark Dvorak; Improv and Puppetry teachers, Dan Holmes and Gary Tate; and award-winning Rockford area Re-use artist Norm Knott. Phairra Jones and Terry Williams with Rockford Dance Company (pictured above), beloved local artist Gary Simon teaching watercolor, and recent arrival to our community Paul Brown teaching photography.

Planning has already begun for this year's event! If you are interested in getting involved, please contact committee organizer, Joanna Dowling, Joanna.dowling@gmail.com



Community Building Complex
of Boone County

A special thank you to Julie Koeller, Director, Community Building Complex, and her staff for their dedication to this event. We could not do it without you!

We also offer a deep thank you to our tireless community volunteers, inspiring teachers and generous sponsors. The success of this event is truly a community effort. **Thank you!**

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Boone County Museum of History, 815-544-8391 or www.boonecountyarts.com