

boone county arts council news



March 2019

To nurture the talent of our young people is to nurture the talent of the future. As part of BCAC's passion to share the vision of the arts we strive to support the artistic talent and interest of our youth. In this issue of the newsletter we are sharing the wonderful creativity of our local young people.



5th Grade Arts Festival



Every October the Boone County Arts Council hosts the 5th Grade Arts Festival, a three day creative fest held at the Boone County Community Building. Over the course of three days 700 students from all six of the District 100 schools, Immanuel Lutheran and St. James Catholic were immersed in a creative environment of learning and exploration facilitated by local professional artists.

Mark Dvorak, teacher at the Old Town School of Music in Chicago, offered an interactive program on The History of American Folk Music. Mary Reed of the Rockford Dance Company had the students dancing. Norm Knott, internationally known recycle artist, shared his passion and expertise for everything reusable, the students made their own small collages from upcycled materials. Students returned to school with the pieces and the challenge to create a 'quilt' that would bring all of their designs together. Belvidere High School retired theater teacher Dan Holmes and Gary Tate retired fifth grade teacher, led the students in exercises of improvisation and puppetry, respectively. New this year, photographers Jeremy Schulz and Bill Eklund gave inspiring demonstrations on a variety of photographic techniques.



During the lunch hour Dan Foster lead the Belvidere High School and Belvidere North High School bands, offering the students an interactive musical extravaganza to entertain and recruit future players. It is a privilege to witness the creativity and enthusiasm that the students bring with them each year, and surely a privilege to help inspire the future of the arts. We offer a heartfelt thank you to the talented teachers, generous donors and dedicated volunteers who make this event so successful.

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

Newsletter masthead created by
Beth Luhman and Gary Simon

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A Letter from the President

A sure cure for cabin fever is a dose of planning warm weather projects involving the youth in our community. And we have been busy. In the spring we will be selecting one senior from Belvidere HS and one from Belvidere North HS, who are college bound art students and awarding each a \$500 Scholarship from the Paint on State Fund. The Belvidere Student Art Show and Awards Reception will again take place early in May. This activity is well attended by Elementary and High school student artists, family and friends. And late in June the very popular Paint on State will give artists of all ages the opportunity to create their personal masterpieces. As you read a recap of the 2018 Fifth Grade Arts Festival event in this issue, know that the FGAF committee is already working on 2019 October festival.

Looking forward to seeing you at our up coming events. Stay warm!

~ Maria Werchowec



Dedicating the Pettit Chapel Mural

In September we were excited to dedicate the Pettit Chapel mural, another beautiful addition to downtown Belvidere. The event was held in the parking lot of 319 & 323 S. State where the mural joins the 2017 mural of Jeannie Gang. More than 200 people enjoyed a free evening of celebration and community that included live entertainment by Pat Glass Rock It 88 and Timothy Totten a Frank Lloyd Wright storyteller and art making by Troy Yunk and his BNHS art students. Generous contributions were made by Hoffman House, Belvidere Cemetery, Gary Simon, Seth Peterson Cottage, Moscato's Pizza and Jay Allen. Thank you to our great committee and our great community for your ongoing support of the mural project.



Belvidere High School Lunchtime Connection



On February 20, the Arts Council “took the show on the road” to Belvidere High School Lunchtime Connection. In 1990 BHS Art teacher, Kit Scheidenhelm, and English teacher, Kathy Calwell, created a student-to-student exchange project in collaboration with the Ukrainian Sister Cities group in Rockford.

Following the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown and the aftermath many children were hospitalized with radiation poisoning. Belvidere students drew and painted pieces to be sent to children in Brovary, Russia (Ukraine was part of the USSR at that time) to cheer them up. In return, students in Brovary painted pictures and wrote letters and sent them to Belvidere High School. The Arts Council has those pieces of art and the translated letters and displays them to keep the history and tell the story of how art bridges the gap between people



Boone County Arts Council President, Maria Werchowec (who was named after her Ukrainian grandmother) talks with BHS Art



Creative Kids

Owl be Home for Christmas was the theme for this year’s snow sculpting competition

In early February students from Belvidere North High School lead by art teacher, Edith Obenchain, spent a day and a half braving sub-zero windchills to create their whimsical winter snow owl.



Belvidere High School art students paint a mural at Boone County History Museum

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Recent Grants



The Boone County Arts Council is pleased to announce several recent grant awards.

The Boone County Community Foundation has awarded the BCAC with a \$2,000. grant for the 2019 Fifth Grade Arts Festival that will take place on October 22, 23, and 24, 2019. That grant is funded by the Wilbur and William Cummings Fund and the Melvin and Mildred Banks Funds.

The Rockford Area Arts Council has also awarded an Access Grant for the Festival in the amount of \$700.

The Illinois Arts Council Agency has awarded the BCAC a FY2019 Operating Grant for Local Arts Agencies in the amount of \$4000. All three of these grants are very important to the programs of the Boone County Arts Council.

