The Springfield Area Arts Council is pleased to announce the return of the On My Own Time program in 2019. This biennial visual arts program gives employees of participating organizations, businesses, government agencies, and medical and educational institutions an opportunity to showcase their creativity and accomplishments through artwork completed outside working hours.

Eligible artwork includes paintings and drawings, fiber and needlework, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, metal, wood, and paper.

The deadline for organizations to commit to participate is May 15. Each participating organization hosts an in-house exhibit; those begin on September 9. Judging occurs from October 14 to 25.

Based on a city-wide standard, the artwork from each participating organization will be judged by a panel of specialists and awarded a First, Second, or Third Place. First Place-winning artwork is displayed in the City-wide Exhibit to be held November 6–23, 2019, at the Springfield Art Association (700 North Fourth Street).

Arts Council volunteers Rod and Rosemary Buffington are coordinating the 2019 On My Own Time program. For further information about participating in this program, please call or email the SAAC at 217-753-3519 or director@springfieldartsco.org.

Wondering how to use your voice to create change in politics? Don’t know where to begin with a political campaign? Artist Campaign School recruits, trains, and mentors artists and arts administrators for public service.

This May, Artist Campaign School is holding a two-day training in Chicago for approximately 100 artists and administrators. Thanks to generous support from The Joyce Foundation, selected Illinois participants are provided travel and room and board at no cost.

To apply, contact Arts Alliance Illinois Program and Membership Manager Tony Santiago at santiago@artsalliance.org.

Accolades for the Arts

Accolades for the Arts is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Your comments are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.
**Community Arts Access Grants 2018–19**

The Community Arts Access program offers funding for public arts programming and audience development projects of community arts organizations and local not-for-profit organizations.

This program is funded by the Illinois Arts Council Agency’s Community Arts Access grant and matching funds from the Springfield Area Arts Council through a grant from the City of Springfield.

Grants from this program are available to organizations in Sangamon and Menard counties and provide partial support for:

- New projects
- Ongoing arts programming
- Artistic and/or professional personnel
- Promotional and audience development projects

**Grantees and Projects**

- African-American History Foundation: Middle Passage Exhibit
- Garvey-Tubman Center: The Power of Art
- Hoogland Center for the Arts: Production of 1776
- Illinois State Museum Society: Music at the Museum
- Illinois Symphony Orchestra: Around the Town Performance Series
- Johnson Study Guild: African-American Read-in Land of Lincoln Chorus: Music of the Silver Screen Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony: Starter Strings Program Scholastic Art Awards: Honors Day Supplies and Artist Stipends
- Springfield Ballet Company: Community Outreach

**Panelists**

- Linda Claussen (chair), Roseann Haven, Craig McFarland, Kathy Olesen, Susie Risser

**Total Awarded**

$8,100.00

**Uptown Friday Night**

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**

- 12 Mud Bugs
- 19 Frankly Speaking
- 26 Frank T. Quartet

**MAY**

- 3 Ocean State
- 10 Michael Taylor Trio
- 17 Johnnie Owens and Friends
- 24 CLOSED
- 31 Virgil Rhodes and Footprints

**JUNE**

- 7 Denise LaGrassa Trio
- 14 Best of Both Worlds
- 21 Mojo Cats
- 28 Brian Choban Jazz Quintet
Committed to Words and Memory

2019 Poetry Out Loud Regional and State Contests  by Carey Smith

Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation program created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, began with a pilot program in 2005 in Chicago and Washington, D.C., then launched nationally in 2006. Fourteen years later, more than 3.8 million students and 60,000 teachers from 16,000 schools across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud, with participants from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Poetry Out Loud begins in the classroom with teachers across the country working with students to learn poetry for recitation. Schools hold their own contest; two students from each school advance to a regional competition. [Illinois has eight Poetry Out Loud regions: Central, Chicago-City, Chicago-Metro, Eastern, Northern, Southern, Southwestern, and Western. The organizers of the regional contests are Lisa Janssen, Carbondale Community Arts; Sharon Nesbit-Davis, Rockford Area Arts Council; Timothy Rey, Chicago Poetry Center; Amy Brockman, Southwestern Illinois College; Sheila Walk, Springfield Area Arts Council; Kelly White, 40 North/88West; and Tracy Alan White, Quad City Arts.]

The Central Illinois regional contest held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in February showcased 18 students. The first-place winner, Cassandra Bradbury, and the second-place winner, Cole White, were both from Pawnee High School and coached by Dan Barham. Bradbury recited “Cartoon Physics, part i” by Nick Flynn and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” by Robert Frost. White delivered “Abandoned Farmhouse” by Ted Kooser and “Nocturne” by Li-Young Lee. Both advanced to the Illinois state contest. Third-place winner Sara Kennedy of Springfield Southeast High School was named the alternate and recited the “warm up” poem at the state contest.

The Springfield Area Arts Council is pleased to host the state contest as well, which was held in March. A total of 16 students from around Illinois competed in a festive atmosphere of fellowship and mutual support. Justine Haka, program manager at the Poetry Foundation in Chicago, was on hand to say a few words about the program and its process, as well as to announce the winners.

Scottlynn Ballard of Edwardsville High School, coached by Heather Haskins, came in first with resounding renditions of “Worth” by Marilyn Nelson; “Self-Help” by Michael Ryan; and “Ode” by Arthur O’Shaughnessy. The second-place winner, Alyssa Argent of William Howard Taft High School in Chicago, was coached by Barbara Newton and Allison Taylor. She recited “Slant” by Suji Kwok Kim; “Very Large Moth” by Craig Arnold; and “Amor Mundi” by Christina Rossetti.

Rounding out the top five at the state contest were Nico Chiligiris, Central High School, Champaign; Charles Hsu, Deerfield High School, Deerfield; and Bushra Khan, Maine East High School, Park Ridge.

As winner of the Illinois State Contest, Ballard received a cash prize of $200 along with an all-expenses-paid trip with a chaperone to travel to Washington, D.C., to compete for the national championship. Edwardsville High School will receive $500 to buy poetry resources for the school library. Argent, who serves as alternate, was awarded $100, and Taft High School will receive $200 for poetry resources.

Scottlynn will travel to Washington, D.C., in late April to compete over three days with the top finishers from each state and the above-named territories. A total of $50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded to the top twelve finishers at the National Finals.

This year in Illinois, a total of 45 high schools, 249 teachers, and more than 11,000 students participated in Poetry Out Loud.

A lasting impression of these contests was articulated by Cole White: “The most memorable thing about Poetry Out Loud competitions is the spirit of camaraderie among the contestants. Obviously we’re all competing, but all the competitors offer encouragement and consolation to everyone else. It’s this pleasant atmosphere that makes Poetry Out Loud so distinct from other competitions I’ve participated in (and what makes me happy to be there).”

Contestants in the Illinois State Contest, Poetry Out Loud.
This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

SAAC Annual Meeting is May 16—see page 1