Thirty-three years. That’s how long ago Springfield’s annual CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS began. It was the first one west of the Alleghenies and remains the longest-running in Illinois, and the quality of entertainment offered is as great as ever.

Please venture downtown on New Year’s Eve to enjoy a fine and varied array of performing and visual arts. The celebration begins at Springfield high School from 1:00 to 3:00. Free children’s crafts and performances will be offered. In the school’s auditorium at 4:15, Mark Gifford will perform on the Barton Theatre Organ ($5 admission or First Night wristband).

Five o’clock marks the start of the evening’s entertainment on multiple stages at the Hoogland Center for the Arts and the Lincoln Home Visitors Center. A display of youth art will open on the lower level of the Hoogland Center as part of our All-Inclusive Space. At 7:00, performances will begin at Dumb Records on Monroe Street. Sky-painting First Night fireworks will begin at 8:00 at Fourth Street and Capitol Avenue. The display is designed by Nostalgia Pyrotechnics under the direction of Carl Steinmacher. Following the fireworks, another round of First Night® performances will begin at Dumb Records, Hoogland Center and the Lincoln Home Visitors Center.

CALL TO YOUNG ARTISTS!

The Dining Room on the lower level of the Hoogland Center for the Arts provides an All-Inclusive Space from 5:00 to 7:00 on New Year’s Eve. Children and teens are welcome to bring their art and/or their musical act. Family-friendly. For people of all abilities, call the Arts Council office (217-753-3519) to let us know you’re coming.
Center for the Arts, and Lincoln Home Visitors Center.

The celebration concludes at 11:15 so that attendees can get home or to a favorite spot to ring in the New Year.

Sheila Walk, Arts Council interim executive director, notes, “During all those years I enjoyed attending First Night® Springfield with friends, I never imagined that one day I’d help to organize the Arts Council’s signature event. There are so many moving parts, from city permits to publicity to program design, from piano tuning to performer contracts to parking... there is no way one person could manage it all. I am so grateful for the help of summer interns, board members, and volunteers. Courtney Wick contacted entertainers and arranged the schedule. Misty Hagstrom is laying out the event program. Sue Shaw and Lindee Hall are managing the silent auction and (new this year) raffle. Ronda Brinkman is handling the afternoon at Springfield High. The board is selling program ads and finding sponsors, essential since this is our annual fund-raiser. Yes, it’s hard work – but it’s important to provide the community with a family-friendly, alcohol-free, handicapped-accessible way to bring 2019 to a close. I’m proud that the Arts Council can continue to fulfill its mission to enrich the community through the arts in such a fine and festive way.”

First Night® Springfield admission wristbands: For adults, $18 when purchased by December 30 or $20 on December 31. The cost is $5 for children ages 5 through 18. Under age 5 is free. Wristbands are available in-person at the Hoogland Center for the Arts box office or online at www.hcfta.org.
In partnership with Poetry Foundation, Brooks Permissions, and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Illinois Humanities announces the opening of the fourth annual Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards competition celebrating young poets in kindergarten through twelfth grade across the state. Illinois Humanities currently is accepting submissions and will continue to do so until April 30, 2020. Continuing the tradition started by Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate herself in 1970, the Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards encourage submissions of original poetry from young people throughout Illinois that exemplify what Ms. Brooks looked for when she ran this contest: “vitality, language surprises, bright contemporaneity, technical excellence, evidence of suitability for the ‘long haul.’”

Please encourage a young person or a group of young people you know to write and share what is unique to them – their stories, their experiences, their worldviews, their voices. Poems may be submitted at https://poetryfoundation.submittable.com/submit.

In 2020, Illinois Humanities will offer a series of youth poetry-writing workshops facilitated by teaching poets from Poetry Foundation that will run from February through April and be held on the West and South Sides of Chicago and in Champaign-Urbana as part of the effort to encourage as many young people as possible to submit their poems to the contest.

The Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards will continue the tradition started by Ms. Brooks of honoring winning poets from all grade levels at a ceremony on the University of Chicago’s campus (now held at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts) on Saturday, August 1, 2020, from 1:00–3:00 PM. For more information, please contact Mark Hallett, Program Manager, Grants, at 312-374-1555 or at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org.

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**Community Arts Access Grants**

With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Springfield Area Arts Council is able to split $8,100 among area non-profit organizations with the goal of giving the community more access to the arts.

**Fiscal year 2020 grantees and their projects:**
- Marcus Garvey-Harriet Tubman Center, The Power of Art (summer art camp)
- Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Around the Town (concert series)
- James Weldon Johnson Study Guild, African-American Read-in (and book donation)
- Land of Lincoln Chorus, Barbershop and Country (concert)
- Menard County Singers, Space Rental (rehearsals)
- Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery, Art Experience (art supplies)
- The Pharmacy Gallery, Project 2020 (exhibit)
- Scholastic Art Awards, Honors Day (art supplies)
- Senior Services Center, Art Classes (for senior citizens)
- Springfield Ballet Company, Education Community Outreach (in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs)
- Theatre in the Park, Pre-shows (summer)

**Grant Award Panelists:**
- James Bockmier
- Louise Hale
- Jeff Hoffman
- Molly Mathewson
- Lindee Hall (chairperson)
- Ryan Cannon (ex officio)
So many opportunities to help the organizations you care about arrive in your electronic and postal mailboxes during this season. We know that. Now here we are, offering another. What can your Arts Council say to set our appeal apart?

Do we help children? Yes, through our Penny Wollan-Kriel Arts in Education program – paying visual and performing artists to work with students in Sangamon and Menard County public and private schools.

Do we help teenagers? Yes, by offering them the opportunity to compete in a state-wide literary contest, Poetry Out Loud, and by having arts-oriented teens as summer interns.

Do we help senior citizens? Yes, through Community Arts Access grants.

Do we help populations that sometimes have difficulty accessing the arts? Yes, through City Arts grants.

Do we help visual artists? Yes, through On My Own Time.

Do we help performing artists? Yes, through Artist on the Plaza and Music at the Market and Uptown Friday Night.

Do we help the greater Springfield area? Yes, through Mayor’s Awards for the Arts, First Night® Springfield, and Levitt AMP Springfield.

Do we help you? Yes, by carefully using your generous donations to do all of the above!

Can we do more? Yes. By raising enough money at year’s end to increase our capacity. How? To hire someone, part-time, to work on marketing and membership.

Please say yes to this request. Navigate to the WAYS TO GIVE portion of our website [springfieldartsco.org] to make a secure one-time or monthly contribution through PayPal or mail a check to us [420 S. 6th St.; Springfield, IL 62701].

Yes, we are grateful for all support.

On My Own Time: A biennial visual arts program sponsored by the Arts Council

Participating organizations:
- Capital Development Board
- City of Springfield
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Department of Revenue
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois State Museum
- Illinois State Police
- Lincoln Land Community College
- Sikich
- Springfield District #186

Judges:
- Betsy Dollar, artist and Springfield Art Association executive director
- Bryon Hartley, artist
- Marianne Stremsterfer, artist and teacher
- Arts Council volunteer Rosemary Buffington coordinated the 2019 On My Own Time program.

On My Own Time helps local businesses, state agencies, and educational and medical institutions identify and celebrate the artistic talents of the people they employ.

In-house Exhibits were held in all locations during October. A panel of judges awarded first, second, third, and honorable mention ribbons in all categories at each site. First-place artwork qualified for the City-wide Exhibit, hosted by the Springfield Art Association’s M. D. Nelson Family Gallery in November. Artwork in the City-Wide Exhibit was also awarded a first, second, third, or honorable mention ribbon.

Best of Show – Peg Lonson Award:
  Kathi Lee, Springfield School District #186 – “Rooster Carpe Diem”

Best of Show – Special Mention: Adena Rivas, City of Springfield – “What a Waste”

People’s Choice: Michelle Burger, Lincoln Land Community College – “Primpin’ Ain’t Easy”

Categories:
- Digital art
- Drawing
- Fiber / Fabric / Needlework
- Glass
- Jewelry
- Mixed media / Collage
- Other
- Painting
- Photography
- Pottery / Ceramics
- Printmaking
- Sculpture (wood, metal, stone)

Best of Show – Peg Lonson Award: “Giraffe” by Greg Walbert, LLCC

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Mayor’s Awards for the Arts

The Office of the Mayor and the Springfield Area Arts Council announce the nomination period for the 20th Mayor’s Awards for the Arts. These awards recognize outstanding talent in and dedication to the arts in Sangamon and Menard counties, the area served by the Springfield Area Arts Council. The seven award categories include Individual Visual Artist; Individual Performing/Literary Artist; Arts Organization; Arts Volunteer; Arts Educator; Arts Student; and Business Committed to the Arts.

The deadline for nominations is 5:30 PM on Monday, December 30, 2019. Nomination forms for the Mayor’s Awards for the Arts are available now at the reception desk in Municipal Center West, Hoogland Center for the Arts box office, Lincoln Library (Springfield’s Public Library), Petersburg Public Library, and online at springfieldartsco.org and springfield.il.us. They also can be requested via e-mail (programs@springfieldartsco.org). There is no cost.

The awards selection committee, appointed by the mayor, will review the nominations and select the award recipients in the designated categories. The recipients will receive artwork created by a commissioned Sangamon or Menard county artist.

Since the first presentation in 1985, 94 awards have been presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 5:30 PM in the LRS Theater at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. You are invited to attend that ceremony and the reception following. For additional information, please call the Arts Council office (217-753-3519).

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, and state and jurisdictional arts agencies.

Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 3.8 million students and 60,000 teachers from 16,000 schools in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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.

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.

December

6 Angel Brown’s Smooth N’ Blue Band
13 Stone Cold Blues Band
20 Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
27 CLOSED

Poetry Out Loud provides free curriculum materials, including an online poetry anthology, a comprehensive teacher’s guide, videos of student performances, lesson plans, and promotional and media resources. There is no charge to participate in or to attend the contests. More information is available at www.poetryoutloud.org.

Springfield Area Arts Council is proud to have become a state and national leader in this joyous and empowering program.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL CONTEST

Thursday, February 13, 4:00 PM
Hoogland Center for the Arts (Theater Three)

ILLINOIS STATE CONTEST

Monday, March 2, 10:00 AM
Hoogland Center for the Arts (LRS Theater)

Please contact Sheila Walk at the Arts Council if you know of a central Illinois school that would like to join the program this year.

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First Night Springfield – December 31, 2019

See Pages 1 and 2 for details!

First Night Springfield
Admission:

Adults
$18.00 in advance
$20.00 day of the event

Youths aged 5–18
$5.00

Under age 5
Free

Purchase wristbands at the Hoogland Center for the Arts box office or online at www.HCFTA.org