

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

December 2020

First Night Springfield – Coast to Coast

by Lamar Walls

Fly into the New Year with First Night®, from coast to coast! This year's family-friendly event is **online** on New Year's Eve, hosted by the Springfield Area Arts Council. First Night presents music, art, dance, and poetry, along with activities for children. Our celebration of the arts will feature performers not only from the Springfield area but also from Monterey, California, and St. Petersburg, Florida. What better way to see 2020 out than with four hours of quality entertainment from three time zones?

"As the Arts Council approaches its 45th anniversary in 2021, we're giving First Night Springfield to our community at no charge," says Sheila Walk, Executive Director. "To keep artists and audiences safe, several of our programs were cancelled this year, but we're keeping our holiday tradition alive. Our 34th annual festival of the arts will be 'virtual' on Thursday, December 31st, and will be available on YouTube, Vimeo, and Facebook. Find the links on our website at www.springfieldartsco.org. We hope many people join us for all or part of the evening."

Walk adds, "First Night Springfield is not only the Arts Council's signature event, but also it is our biggest annual fund raiser. Our event sponsors help us pay area performers. We'll collect donations securely throughout the four-hour show to make some money."

First Night Springfield will begin at **8:00 PM**, and a fireworks show from St. Petersburg will take the countdown to midnight. This virtual production, created by Brian Crowdson, will be hosted by Springfield actress Aasne Vigesaa.

Lamar Walls, one of the event organizers, notes that "the visual arts will be represented at our First Night celebration. The Springfield Area Arts Council

will give away art kits in partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement and will hold a children's art contest via our social media platforms using **#kidsartsaac** for a chance to win art-themed prizes."

Where: in front of the Hoogland Center for the Arts at 420 South Sixth Street, Springfield

When: Saturday, December 26, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The visual arts also will be part of the New Year's Eve program:

Making a celebration hat and a popper – from Monterey, California

Rock painting – from St. Petersburg, Florida

FIRST NIGHT PERFORMERS

FROM SPRINGFIELD:

Original blues music – James Armstrong

Country blues – Jake Shane

Country music – Britney Long

Cowboy music – Randy Erwin

Musical theater – Legacy Theater

Ballet – Springfield Dance Theatre

Latin Jazz – The Craig Russo Project and

The House Trio

Poetry – Sydney McCabe, Delon James,

Morgan Minsk, and Derick Turner

FROM MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA:

Shinsho Mugen – taiko drummers

MC Lars and Spector Dance – rap

Dirty Cello – bluegrass

Heartstrings – Celtic

Monterey Next Generation –
children's jazz orchestra

FROM ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA:

Underground Cirque – fire dancers

Gio's Typos – holiday poetry

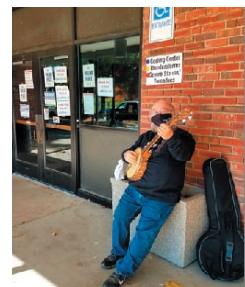
Cal Morris – classical

BoHo Sideshow – roots



Election Day Music

Working with Arts Alliance Illinois, Mike Anderson (local storyteller and musician) joined dozens of other Illinois masked performers to provide a bit of entertainment outside polling places on November 3, 2020.



Says Mr. Anderson, "I leaned against the Illinois Building on the state fairgrounds and played banjo. As I played, people walked by at a fairly consistent rate. Most didn't make eye contact; several caught my eyes and nodded. Maybe one in ten spoke positively, and two voters stopped and talked. Clerk Don Gray came by and gave me one of the goody bags he was distributing to the poll workers. He was very happy I was there and said it was a great idea. Overall, it was a positive experience."

#ShowYourArt2020 : National Arts & Humanities Month 2020 Instagram Challenge *by Emily Page*

October was National Arts & Humanities Month (NAHM). It was launched by Americans for the Arts more than 30 years ago as a month-long celebration of the importance of culture in America.

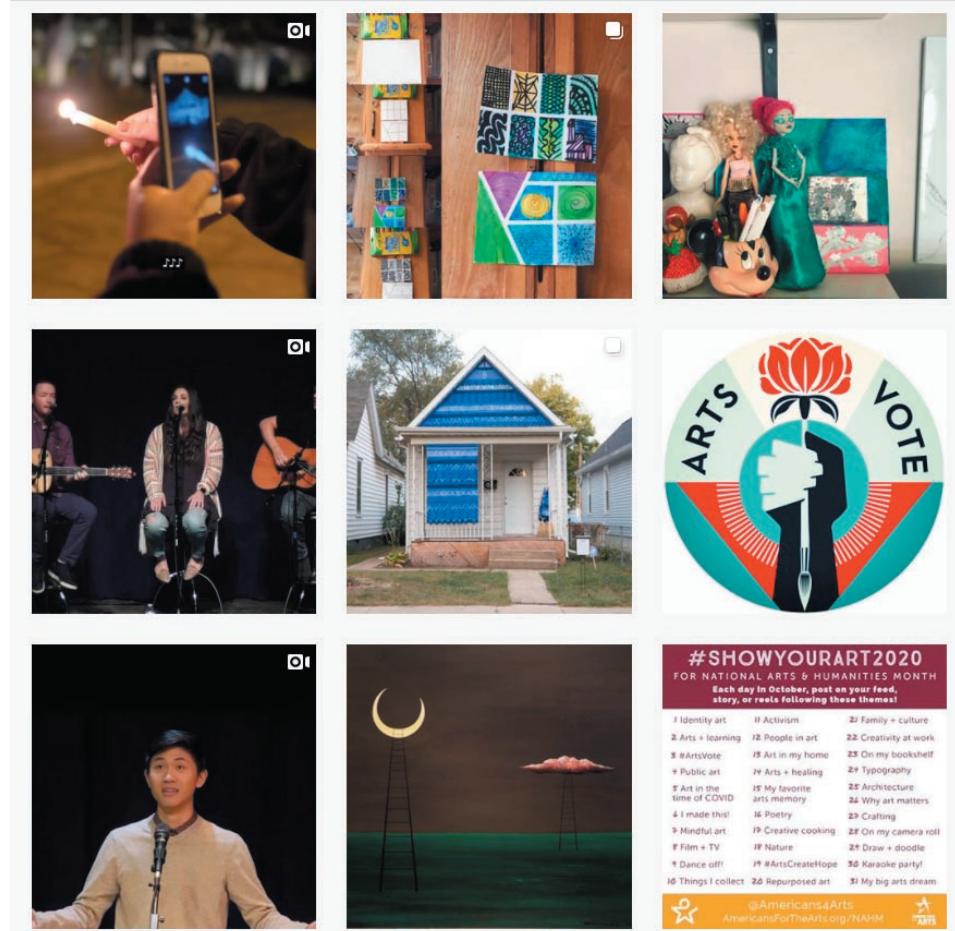
As part of the celebration, Americans for the Arts released a set of daily prompts for a 31-day Instagram challenge. The Arts Council took on the challenge with the goal of engaging our followers with the arts during this tumultuous time.

One of the themes of this year's challenge was #ArtsCreateHope, and that was the guiding idea throughout the challenge. We wanted to shine a spotlight on local artists and arts organizations to show how vital their work is to our communities now more than ever.

Over the course of the month, we featured everything from visual arts to performing arts, from film to poetry. We reminded our followers about the wonderful live events of prior years and made them aware of arts opportunities that still were happening. And our audience responded positively.

During the course of the month, the SAAC Instagram surpassed the milestone of 800 followers and continues to grow.

If you do not already follow us on Instagram, find us @SpringfieldArtsCo.



#SHOWYOURART2020 FOR NATIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH

Each day in October, post on your feed, story, or reels following these themes!

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Identity art | 11 Activism | 21 Family + Culture |
| 2 Arts + learning | 12 People in art | 22 Creativity at work |
| 3 #ArtsVote | 13 Art in my home | 23 On my bookshelf |
| 4 Public art | 14 Arts + healing | 24 Typography |
| 5 Art in the time of COVID | 15 My favorite arts memory | 25 Architecture |
| 6 I made this! | 16 Poetry | 26 Why art matters |
| 7 Mindful art | 17 Creative cooking | 27 Crafting |
| 8 Film + TV | 18 Nature | 28 On my camera roll |
| 9 Dance off! | 19 #ArtsCreateHope | 29 Draw + doodle |
| 10 Things I collect | 20 Repurposed art | 30 Karaoke party! |

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AmericansForTheArts.org/NAHM

Finding New Homes

For the last several weeks, the Arts Council has been collecting musical instruments; some are pictured here.



Soon they will go to talented young people who are taking lessons through First Try Sessions, Garvey-Tubman Center, and

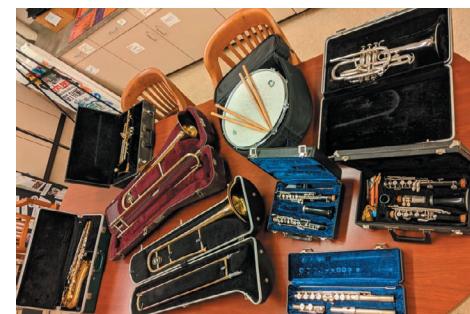
Illinois Youth Symphony Orchestra. This effort is part of the Arts Council's work on Levitt AMP Springfield. All 2020 Levitt AMP grantees around the country postponed their summer outdoor concert series until 2021 due to COVID-19.

The Levitt Foundation then created a Levitt AMP Bridge Grant opportunity

so that each city could support a unique community-building effort during 2020.

Springfield's Levitt AMP Bridge Grant application looked to strengthen partnerships ahead of its 2021 season to be presented by PNC Bank. "Constructing our 2020 project in this way allows us to spread the love to a

wider array of organizations and causes, while spreading the good news that Levitt AMP Springfield will be back in 2021," said Lisa Clemon Stott of Downtown Springfield Incorporated, one of the local Levitt Foundation partners along with Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation.



Thanks to Our Donors

The Arts Council's staff and board thank all who supported our work during fiscal year 2020.

Tom Ala
Aldi's
AmazonSmile Foundation

Bailey's Place, Inc.
Bank of Springfield
Mary Beaumont
Christine and Steve Bedford
Sandra Bellatti
Deborah and Harry Berman
Blanca and Mick Bernasek
Diane and Scottie Bevill
Erin and Donald Biggerstaff
Elaine Birtch
BJ Grand Salons, Inc.
Irene and Steve Boyer
Scott Brandt
Norma Brantley
Sarah Buening
Rod Buffington
Adam and Kathryn Bulava
By-Pass Auto Body

Anne and Ray Capestrain
Casey's General Stores
Caroline Cavalier
Delinda Chapman
Carmen Chase
Phyllis and Richard Cheaney
Thea Chesley
Citizens for Jim Langfelder
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Cassandra Claman
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Dennis Darling
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Sandra and Peter Dobberfuhl
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Carolyn and Dan Dungan
Linda and Lanie Eagleton
Randy Eccles
Don Ecklund
Frank Kimball "Kim" Efird, Jr.
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Phyllis Eubanks

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John and Kibber Miller
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Nancy Simpson
Porcia Sledge
Steve Soltys
Springfield Dance Inc
Springfield Poets and Writers
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Starcrest Cleaners
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James Wilkins
Jamie Williams
Cheryl and Peter Wise
Karen and Randy Witter
Penny Wollan-Kriel
Lynn and Emil Zadkovic
Nancy and Mike Zimmers

CAMP It Up

by Doug Kamholz

It's time to gather 'round the C.A.M.P. fire and feel warmed by Springfield talent as cold and COVID keep us home. So tune in to www.facebook.com/creatorsartmusicpoetry at 6:00 P.M. on January 9, 2021, for six live recorded acts that are not just blowing smoke.

Yes, it's show two from Creators of Art, Music and Poetry (C.A.M.P.), the new local arts promoter that is happy to deliver to you, free of charge, homegrown words and music brimming with thought and beauty.



January's show theme is indie. Local poets Liz Huck and Vertrell Yates will read original works. Local band Looming will offer its full and polished sound featuring lead vocals by Jessica Knight. Musical duo Idle Oath is on the program with Ren Nickerson and Mark Beanblossom playing handmade music shaped by life in Central Illinois. This show's solo musical artist is the inviting voice and strong guitar of Kate

Laine. Crossing over from music to talk about his visual works is Jeff Williams. He became known as part of the band NIL8 and now puts his creativity on canvas.

It is rare to hear painters or sculptors discuss their work. C.A.M.P.'s first show featured Bill Crook, a leading and longtime local artist talking about what catches his eye and how he captures scenes with pen and brush.

Pandemic times call for extra layers of labor to bring performing arts to the public. "It was an honor to be asked to contribute to the inaugural CAMP show," said singer-songwriter Amy Benton of her performance on show number one, citing hurdles for creating entertainment without an audience. "I felt a sense of accomplishment being able to put my hands to work with fellow residents in the city where I live."

C.A.M.P.'s shows remain available on their Facebook page. To learn more, you also may use www.instagram.com/creatorsartmusicpoetry or www.twitter.com/creatorshows.

Mission statement: Creators of Art, Music and Poetry (C.A.M.P.) is a non-profit promoter of those very words: Art,

Music and Poetry. Our C.A.M.P.-fire mission is lit by local talent, igniting words and works for warmth and beauty in our Springfield community.

Partners: Tom Irwin, Jamie Merideth, Springfield Area Arts Council.



Springfield Area Arts Council board member Adena Rivas devised a new program to serve dual purposes: raise a little money for the Arts Council and give local visual and performing artists a new platform on which to display their talent. This online competition fit perfectly with our mission to provide opportunities to participate in the arts and was sponsored by Ashley Coker of the Real Estate Group and OSF Health Care \ Children's Hospital of Illinois.

In partnership with ILLINOIS TIMES and the City of Springfield, entries were submitted in these categories:

Kids – Vocal, Performance Arts
Young Adult – Vocal
Adult – Vocal, Visual Arts,
Performance Arts, Musical

After a period of online voting and a discussion among Arts Council board members, winners were declared. We congratulate Glen Aylward, Marsha Grant, Annaliese Hofner, Becky Kunken, Kayleigh Paris, Evelyn Vinzant, and Melanin Neamii Yeppea. Runners-up were Elsie Hagan, Ben Paoletti, Prairie Winds Flute Ensemble, Layne Rivas, and Merle Steinert.

Thanks to all who participated, and be on the lookout for our next contest.

Director's Note

by Sheila Walk, Interim Executive Director

Oh, what an unusual year this has been. Never again will we take 'normal' for granted. I have found a few 'silver linings,' though. More time at home to work on some projects and more telephone conversations with extended family. Like you, I am eager to gather with friends and relatives again and to hear live music and to see live dance and theater performances again. I miss being part of an audience.

Although we couldn't produce all the concerts and events we had scheduled this year, we were able to sponsor safely two new series with two new partners, Café Moxo (Artist on Adams) and Always After Five (Sunday Sessions).

As the year continued, I found funding sources for local artists and musicians and sent arts resources to Arts Council supporters weekly. I worked with two good summer interns whom you met in our

summer newsletter. And I applied for even more grants than usual.

One of our annual fund-raisers, Adult Prom, was COVID-cancelled, as was our annual membership meeting. Our other annual fund-raiser, First Night Springfield, will be staged virtually on New Year's Eve.

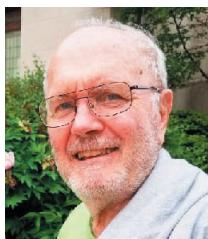
To save some money while the Arts Council feels the impact of the pandemic, I have combined the fall and winter issues of this newsletter. And, rather than using a separate mailing, I'm including the end-of-year giving appeal in this edition.

I continue to be grateful to Arts Council members and donors for their continued support and to staff and board members for their dedication. Next year, the Arts Council marks its 45th year. I hope you will help us start the anniversary celebration by contributing now. Stay safe and well.

Passings

Jon Austin ably served as the Arts Council's executive director for three years (2015-2018). Alongside his family and friends, we grieve his untimely passing on November 24, 2020.

Jack Kriel, a loyal Arts Council volunteer and husband of retired executive director Penny Wollan-Kriel, died in late October. We extend sympathy to his friends and family.



Henry Miles – an Arts Council supporter and a talented musician – died in early December. Although he left Springfield several years ago, his legacy remains, and we are saddened by his loss.



We also grieve with Emily Page who maintains our website and manages our Twitter and Instagram accounts. Her mother **Margaret Page** passed away on October 19.



The Arts Council is grateful to the children of **Robert and Phyllis Pence** for directing memorial tributes for their parents to the Arts Council, but we will miss seeing Bob and Phyllis at Arts Council programs. They were unfailingly enthusiastic and supportive, and they were warmly appreciative of local visual artists and performers.



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Recommitment to Equity

In the sweep of pandemic and protest, the Springfield Area Arts Council renews our commitment to encourage, embrace, and celebrate diversity. The Arts Council affirms our pledge not to discriminate in any way by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, income, mental/physical ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression and to listen to those who know better than we do where discrimination lingers in our society.

The visual, performing, and literary arts in the greater Springfield area should encompass all creative efforts. Therefore, the Arts Council stands ready to ally with those who seek to educate and to find community-led solutions. As the Arts Council nears our 45th anniversary, we will endeavor to help the community imagine, engage, heal, and move forward.



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 \$8,050 among area non-profit organizations with the goal of giving the community more access to the arts.

Fiscal year 2021 grantees and projects:

Downtown Springfield, Inc. –

Transforming Vacant Storefronts

Illinois State Museum Society –

Ancestral Threads

Illinois Symphony Orchestra –

Sunday at Six

James Weldon Johnson Study Guild –

We Join Hands

Menard County Singers – Space Rental

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery –

Art Experience

The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space – Emerging Artists

Scholastic Art Awards – Program Booklet

Springfield Ballet Company –

Dancing through the District

We thank our grant panelists: James Bockmier, Louise Hale, Jeff Hoffman, Molly Mathewson, Anastasia Lindsay (chairperson), and Ryan Cannon (ex officio).

Signature Project



Arts Council interns are required to create something lasting for the Arts Council. This summer's interns, Leah Philbrick (pictured) and Shelby Hodel (photographer), decided to combine photos taken in downtown Springfield with quotations about art. The framed version is in the Arts Council office.



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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.

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. Design by Mark Pence.

First Night Springfield – Online and Coast to Coast!

See Page 1 for details of our New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts

