Here’s the first announcement of the first First Night® since the last First Night last year. More simply, downtown Springfield once again will celebrate New Year’s Eve with fireworks, crafts, entertainment, and fun for all.

December 31st marks the 35th year the Springfield Area Arts Council has hosted this local celebration of the arts, a family-friendly event enjoyed by tens of thousands since 1987.

“We are proud and excited to offer this event to our capital city again,” said Sheila Walk, Arts Council executive director, adding most activities will take place inside the Hoogland Center for the Arts at 420 South Sixth Street.

Younger folks are invited for artful activities free of charge from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. on New Year’s Eve at the Hoogland. These afternoon events are presented by Creative Reuse Marketplace, Dana-Thomas House, Garvey-Tubman Center, Illinois State Museum, Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Lowe’s, Springfield Art Association, and YMCA. Springfield Dance also will perform. No pre-registration is required.

Friday Night Jazz, free music sponsored for decades by the Arts Council, will take place in early evening at Boone’s, 301 West Edwards (just west of the Illinois State Museum) from 5:30 to 7:30 featuring Stone Cold Band. Boone’s offers drinks and food for sale; there is no cover charge.

First Presbyterian Church at 321 South Seventh Street will host a locally-written play by Robert Davis to mark Watch Night, an African-American tradition. It recalls the vigil leading to January 1, 1863, when Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation freed southern Blacks held in slave bondage. The play will be performed at 6:00 P.M. Also in the church sanctuary, at 7:00 P.M., organist and music historian Paula Romanaux will perform works by modern African-American composers. There is no charge for these First Presbyterian performances, although donations will be accepted.

From 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., many entertainments will roll out inside the Hoogland Center. Those groups already set to perform include Capital City Improv, International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 239, Spencer Films, Springfield International Folk Dancers, Springfield Muni, and the host Arts Council; other performance groups may be added soon. Sangamon Watercolor Society will exhibit members’ work in the gallery. Tickets are $5 for youth and $20 for adults. They may be purchased at the door or in advance by going to Hoogland’s website: www.hcfta.org.

Performances will take place on several stages inside Hoogland’s spacious four floors. Guests will receive detailed schedules upon arrival.

Arena Food Services will provide light refreshments for sale during both afternoon and evening in the Hoogland Center lobby.

First Night Springfield – Dedication

This year’s 35th annual celebration of the arts is dedicated to...

- Carl Steinmacher, the pyrotechnician responsible for brightening the night sky at First Night celebrations for 32 of its 34 years, who passed away in June 2021.
- Robert Dilley, retired police officer and long-time First Night volunteer, who died in July 2021.

“While we are thrilled to bring these talents to our Springfield community, especially after their absence for so many months, we still are mindful of pandemic protocols,” commented director Walk. “We will have masks
91% of Local Arts Agencies maintain at least one partnership with a community agency or organization, and 76% have three or more.

From Americans for the Arts

First Night Springfield
Continued from Page 1
and sanitizer for everyone who needs them and ask our guests to keep one ballet leap apart whenever they can.”

Fireworks will start shortly after the conclusion of activities inside the Hoogland, at 11:15 P.M. People are invited to gather at the intersection of Capitol Avenue and Fourth Street for the show, which will end in time to reach other destinations for the stroke of midnight.

“Springfield can take pride that this family-friendly, alcohol-free, and fully-accessible New Year’s Eve celebration has so many partners,” Walk said. She named the City of Springfield for assisting with the fireworks display, the Abraham Lincoln Association for sponsoring the Watch Night play, and the Hoogland Center for providing rent-free performance space annually for seventeen years. Walk added that the Arts Council will share proceeds from this First Night with the Hoogland Center for providing rent-free performance space annually for seventeen years. Walk added that the Arts Council will share proceeds from this First Night with the Hoogland Center.

Walk also noted the passing in 2021 of two men long associated with this local celebration of the arts. Springfield Police Sergeant Robert “Bob” Dilley worked First Night for years and after his retirement volunteered to staff the event’s operations center in the Arts Council office. Carl “Boom Boom” Steinmacher was lead pyro-technician of all but one of Springfield’s 34 First Nights. “Both these fine people are missed,” said Walk.

A Pandemic Pivot: Arts in Education
One of the Arts Council’s longest-running programs is Arts in Education – re-named Penny Wollen-Kriel Arts in Education to honor Ms. Wollan-Kriel after seventeen years of service to the Arts Council. Typically, that money is re-granted to area visual and performing artists as they work directly with students in Sangamon and Menard counties.

Prioritizing artist health during the pandemic, the Arts Council pivoted to giving money directly to fine arts teachers in our service area so they could buy supplies needed for at-home or in-person instruction in art and music.

These are the schools and projects that received funding in 2020-21:
• Cantrall Elementary – for desk easels and mirrors as students created self-portraits
• Cantrall Intermediate – paper, pastels, and colored pencils for varied art projects
• Early Learning Center – for a remote performance by Rachel Rambach to celebrate the Week of the Young Child
• New Berlin Elementary – for air-dry clay used by students learning at home
• Sangamon Valley Intermediate – for additional ukuleles to decrease sharing of instruments
• Sangamon Valley Primary School – tambourines and rhythm sticks for lessons in tempo
• Tri-city Schools – for art supply storage containers used by a teacher who travels among schools

SAAC Thrives with NPR Illinois
Thanks to NPR Illinois for including us as one of the Donate a Day non-profits who were recognized and potentially gifted complimentary on-air spots during their spring pledge drive. The Arts Council received ten complimentary on-air messages from former board member RANDY ECCLES who selected us when he purchased a day sponsorship. You still can support NPR by calling 217-206-9847.

Friday Night Jazz
Friday Night Jazz is the Arts Council’s free performance series, taking place from 5:30 to 7:30 on Friday evenings. Join us at Boone’s, 301 West Edwards Street in Springfield, and start the weekend with outstanding jazz and blues, excellent food and drinks, and great company – all while supporting the Springfield Area Arts Council.
What a Year.

While the pandemic has had its highs and lows, the Arts Council’s work has been productive and constant. I’ve been so busy, in a good way, that I never compiled a quarterly newsletter. Did you notice?

Before we come to the end of 2021, I want to take some time and space to reflect on the year’s programs and events.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held virtually on April 13, 2021, and featured a musical guest, local singer/songwriter Micah Walk (no relation).

Artist on the Plaza

We returned to the space on the south side of the Old State Capitol for outdoor concerts. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day during Tuesday and Thursday noon hours, 99 local performers displayed their great talent before small and diverse audiences.

From unhoused individuals relaxing on a bench to families picnicking on the lawn, from teenagers with their pets to elders sitting in the shade, we were pleased to bring local talent to local people.

Back to the Music

I was thrilled that the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln offered the Arts Council money from an anonymous donor to regrant to area musicians as they set up gigs they felt safe playing. This is exactly the kind of “everyone wins” scenarios I try to create. Musicians got money in their pockets. Venues attracted larger audiences through offering live entertainment at no cost to the venue. Audiences heard live music again after the pandemic pause. And the Arts Council got some good publicity.

Big Read: Sangamon River Project

On a delightful spring Sunday, professional educators led participants in a study of the Sangamon River from biological, chemical, and poetic perspectives while learning about the history and geography of Springfield’s local river. This was the Arts Council’s program offering for THE BIG READ, a county-wide celebration that featured nature exploration, science activities, performances, lectures, book discussions, and more.

Presented by Lincoln Public Library and the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, the activities were hosted by 54 community organizations and took place from March 1 to April 30, 2021.

Riverside presenters included Harry Hendrickson, chemistry – water quality; Cindy Logsdon, biology – benthic macroinvertebrates; and Sheila Walk, language arts – cinquain.

Community Arts Access

Giving away money is a favorite part of my job. Community Arts Access helps me do just that. These project-based grants are awarded to local non-profit organizations so they can enhance their arts programming. See more information on p. 8.

Creators of Art, Music, and Poetry (C.A.M.P.)

I enjoyed working with local musicians Tom Irwin and Jamie Meredith and local videographer Brian Crowd- sen to create a virtual series highlighting these three art forms. You can still watch the shows at www.facebook.com/creatorsartmusicpoetry.
See additional information on p. 8.

Friday Night Jazz

Uptown Friday Night was on a long Covid-caused hiatus but in November re-started as Friday Night Jazz at Boone’s in downtown Springfield. I am happy to see so many people who frequented the series at Robbie’s Restaurant as well as newcomers, and I continue to value the long partnership with owner Archer Bailey.

HeArts for the Arts

February brought the first ever Valentine’s Day Dinner, a board-organized fundraiser. Delicious meals from Nelson’s Catering were distributed from Creative Reuse Marketplace. See more information on p. 5.

Levitt AMP Springfield

Our second live season brought so many highlights. People dancing in the rain to the bluegrass music of Hen- house Prowlers. Tito Puente, Junior, talking with children from Guatemala. The long parade of audience members who followed the New Orleans Jazz Ramblers from the Y block to Buzz Bomb Brewing. The enthusiastic response of a reggae crowd to Gizzae. The flags of many Latin American countries waving from the crowd during Fulanito’s performance.

Mayor’s Awards for the Arts

2022 marks the return of another popular program, Mayor’s Awards for the Arts. Penny Wollan-Kriel, retired Arts Council executive director, will coordinate the effort in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office.
See more information on p. 8.

Music at the Market

Saturday morning concerts at the Old Capitol Farmers Market downtown again were Covid-canceled.

Continued on page 4
On My Own Time

Rod and Rosemary Buffington coordinated the program wonderfully. 87 artists exhibited 186 works of art at 12 workplace exhibits in October, and a large crowd attended the awards reception at the Springfield Art Association gallery.

Many thanks to our judges Bryon Hartley, Mary Ellen Strack, and Roger Williams for their artistic expertise and for volunteering their time. We appreciate the following participating employers: Chatham Area Public Library; City of Springfield; Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois State Museum; Illinois State Police; Lincoln Land Community College; Office of Inspector General, Illinois Healthcare and Family Services; Office of the State Appellate Defender; Springfield Public School District #186; and The Wardrobe.

Congratulations to Susan Wilham of the Office of the State Appellate Defender, for winning the People’s Choice award for her entry Scarves.

Penny Wollan-Kriel Arts in Education

Grants from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust and from the Judith G. Stephens Chairperson’s Fund allowed us to send money to schools to help them adapt arts instruction to remote learning. Please see the article on p. 2 for more details.

Grants totaled $2,653 for 106 teachers benefiting 2,004 students in the following educational institutions:

Cantrall Elementary and Intermediate, Early Learning Center, Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center, New Berlin Elementary, Sangamon Valley Primary and Intermediate, and Tri-City.

For 2021-2022, the Susan Cook House Foundation is funding visual and performing artists’ work with students in area schools.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is my favorite program. I first became involved with it as a teacher at Ursuline Academy and then became a judge and volunteer with the program at the Arts Council. You’ll find more information about it in an article on p. 6.

I missed having the high school contestants here in person in 2021, but I was happy to have reason to interact with them and their teachers to structure successful virtual competitions.

Summer Intern

Leia Philbrick was hired as an intern in the summer to help with the two concert series.

Other Invitations that Came to the Arts Council:

Advocacy

When I read the Arts Council’s mission statement when I began work here 9 years ago, I realized that arts advocacy was part of it. So this year, I willingly joined with statewide efforts to ensure artists and arts organizations received a fair portion of Covid-19 relief funding.

Arts Alliance Illinois’ Arts-Vacc Campaign

I was proud to support Arts Alliance Illinois’ new campaign to involve artists statewide in pro-vaccination campaigns. The Alliance recognized that getting communities vaccinated was important for safely getting back to in-person arts activities. Artists in 24 regions across Illinois created 72 pro-vaccination projects this summer ranging from street concerts to video projects to poster campaigns.

These three artists from Springfield received stipends:

- Julio Barrenzuela – Salsa Dance Party and Vaccination Clinic
- Reggie Guyton – Original Spoken Word Poetry and Video and Public Performances
- Idle Oath – Original Song with Animated Video. You can view the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luRRuRYWVo4

House Testimony

I was invited by the State House of Representatives to give testimony at their redistricting committee meetings. I spoke first from a citizen’s perspective then from an arts administrator’s perspective. Here is some of what I said.

“Boundaries define legislative districts. They also define communities. The arts reflect communities. Artists and musicians and actors not only can help identify those communities, but also they can bridge boundaries among communities. When the legislative lines have been drawn, let performers and visual artists help create a sense of the new place.

“The arts are dynamic, apolitical, non-partisan. Let Illinois’ working artists help build belonging and identity.”

Local Arts Network

I’ve participated in virtual retreats geared toward re-invigorating a local arts network in Illinois. We have created a comprehensive plan that includes clear goals and strategies. Some work already has been done with more to accomplish in 2022.

Continued on page 5
Director’s Note Continued

The Next 10
I had another opportunity to work with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Twice I spoke, once live and one virtually, to groups who are laying the framework for making ours a culturally rich community. The Next 10 is a community visioning project for the Greater Springfield area. Details available at [tn10.org].

University of Illinois at Springfield First-Year Seminar
My teacher’s heart warmed to an invitation from Craig McFarland, former Arts Council board president. For the last few weeks, I’ve been working with a small group of students to create additional publicity for the upcoming First Night Springfield.

I’ve rambled long enough. I’ll end with this sincere invitation. The Arts Council needs new board members in the new year. Please help continue our good work for the arts! You could be part of our run-up to 50 years’ serving residents of and visitors to Sangamon and Menard Counties.

#ShowYourArt2021
By Emily Page
“The arts and sciences [are] essential to the prosperity of the State and to the ornament and happiness of human life.”

–George Washington, 1781

This quote was shared by President Joseph Biden in a proclamation which called for national observation of October as National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM).

NAHM was launched by Americans for the Arts more than thirty years ago as a month-long celebration of the importance of culture in America. Part of that celebration is an Instagram challenge called #ShowYourArt2021. Thirty-one prompts were released for the challenge such as “International artists” and “Sustainable art” which called on arts organizations and their followers to share and engage with new ideas about the importance of the arts in our world.

This year’s challenge focused on the arts in lesser-discussed sectors such as public health, infrastructure, and environmental justice. This challenge highlighted how the creative sector will help us build more inclusive, harmonious, and sustainable futures for our communities.

At the end of last year’s NAHM Instagram challenge, our follower count was just over 800. This year, we are over 1,000 strong.

If you do not already follow us on Instagram, then please join us @SpringfieldArtsCo.

HeArts for the Arts
By Adena Rivas
For Valentine’s Day 2021, the Springfield Area Arts Council decided to think “outside-the-box” during the pandemic to hold a safe-distanced fundraiser that would both support the arts and provide a hearty holiday meal.

The Arts Council board put together their first HeArts for the Arts Dinner Drive-Through fundraiser. This event was held on Valentine’s Day and hosted at the Creative Reuse Marketplace (located at 122 South Fourth Street). Catered meals were provided through Nelson’s Catering, and each meal came with a hand-woven upcycled paper heart basket filled with sweet treats. Over 70 meals were sold priced at $25 each. We hope to repeat the fund-raiser in February 2022.

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.
The pandemic has left uncertainty in many areas of our lives. Poetry Out Loud (POL) is no exception, and administrators and performers of the program have adapted accordingly.

POL is a national recitation contest, with high school students from every state and territory reciting poetry from established classic and contemporary poets included in the online POL anthology. Contests begin at the school level, with those champions advancing to regional contests. There are eight regions in Illinois, reaching every area of the state.

The 2021 POL season was held virtually, with SAAC adapting to a virtual format for regional and state competitions. The national competition also was held virtually.

Regional champions competed in two rounds in a state-wide contest held in March. The top five scorers competed in a third and final round to determine the winner and runner-up. The winner, Catherine Herrera (Taft High School, Chicago), advanced to compete in the national semi-final contest.

Of her accomplishment, Herrera states: “Although I was extremely surprised I won, I felt like after a while I could understand and be proud of myself because I have been doing Poetry Out Loud since my sophomore year. It made me realize how much progress I have made.”

“Poetry Out Loud and Chicago Youth TheatreFest were some of my favorite experiences in high school because it wasn’t about the winning portion — it was about my ability to perform in front of these audiences,” she said. “In performing, it allows you to be this vulnerable person and let your emotions out. That’s not something you get to experience every day.”

The runner-up for the state competition was Riley Tomes (Wheaton-Warrenville South High School, Wheaton).

Round out the top five were Madden Delaney (Franklin High School), Candice Epps (Rolling Meadows High School), and Liesl Schrag (Champaign Central High School).

Sheila Walk, SAAC’s executive director said of the 2021 virtual competition, “I missed attending school contests, and I missed gathering all the students in Springfield for regional and state competitions, but the important thing is that the program continues. I still enjoyed working with teachers and students and giving them the opportunity to express their appreciation for and understanding of classic and contemporary poetry.”

We are busily preparing for the 2022 POL season. It has been announced that the national and state competitions again will be held virtually. Whether the regional contest will be held virtually or in-person will be decided in the coming weeks.

As a program assistant, my job mostly centers on detail-oriented tasks and assisting on the big days of in-person competitions. However, I am also a poet myself and have performed at open mics. One thing that has really struck me about the in-person events of the last few years is how much the students enjoy being with each other. It doesn’t feel like a competition, but a support group of young people all trying their best. Shy people are approached and included. Students who did not advance are hugged and told how well they did. The encouragement vibes are so strong with these kids that it gives me much hope for the future.

Poetry Out Loud was started by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2005 as a pilot program, taking place in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. Susan Dickson, Program Director at the Illinois Arts Council Agency, explained how POL got its start. Former NEA Executive Director Dana Gioia, a nationally-recognized and well-credentialed poet, as well as a former poet laureate of California, conceived of the idea and approached the Poetry Foundation as it was about to re-assert its national presence. “It was a marriage made in heaven,” remarked Dickson. “One of the best things they’ve ever done. It was a wonderful arts-in-education tool, and it helps sow the seeds for a lifelong love of poetry and other literary arts,” states Dickson. “That’s what we hope for everybody, that they stay invested in the arts for the rest of their lives.”

Indeed, as poet Morgan Parker in a recent New York Times Style article states: “Access is all you need. People just don’t know that they like poetry.”

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.
I began working for the Arts Council in 2018 as an archivist, thinning and organizing 40 years of accumulated papers and materials. Even skim-reading papers, two main themes caught my eye. One is that funding the arts is always a struggle. The other is, it’s always worth it.

In the 45 years since the Arts Council has been in existence, originally as an organization called Springboard, there have been desperate financial times. Like in October of 1999, when the treasurer reported at a board meeting that the Arts Council could not make payroll the following day. Or in July 2009, when in the fallout of the financial crisis, a line of credit was investigated just to keep the doors open. In August 2012, the numbers showed a negative net income due to zero fundraisers and low membership dues. A closer look revealed an ongoing deficit budget. And as recently as April 2016, the treasurer reported a difference of $12,500 from the prior year’s income in corporate and individual support, likely because of state budget uncertainty.

As the Arts Council has had its low moments, it’s also had some glories. A membership drive in 1986 brought in $12,460. First Night 1992 had a net income of $27,000. In 1993, the Arts Council mustered 532 members contributing over $23,000. In 1996, the Arts Council received a $40,000 grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. In June 2001, the Arts Council received a $45,000 grant from the city. In 2005, the treasurer announced at the annual meeting that the Arts Council was in better financial position than the previous year for the fifth consecutive year. And in 2006, the budget increased from $226,000 to $250,000.

Beyond the struggle of funding the arts, the archives provide a glimpse into the arts scene itself. In 1993, the On My Own Time panel of judges juried 910 works of art. Free summer art camps were held at the Boys and Girls Clubs. A wearable fashion show showcased fabric and jewelry artists. A sculpture exhibited with one piece of touchable art morphed into PLEASE TOUCH!, a rare opportunity for visually-impaired adults and children to participate intimately in the art experience.

And then there’s the office life for the Arts Council staff. In 2013, the Executive Director reported shredding at least 400 pounds of papers after going through files, with an estimated 400 pounds to go. And that’s good, because in July 2014, she reported that most of the month was spent mitigating flood damage in the office.

There are mysteries. Though the Arts Council’s history begins in 1976 with Springboard, meeting minutes from 1970 and 1971 have been found, bearing the name “Springfield Area Arts Council.” It appears this organization was an umbrella group, and after searching for office space and a typewriter, in July 1970 they organized a children’s festival in Douglas (now Duncan) Park called “Ring Around the Arts.” What happened to this organization after 1971 was not revealed.

According to the Illinois Secretary of State, the Arts Council’s incorporation date is January 21, 1976. The date on its Articles of Incorporation is April 13, 1976. This makes 2021 the Springfield Area Arts Council’s 45th year. The Board discussed many ideas for celebrating our 45th anniversary; alas, given the time limitations of the single staff member and the lingering pandemic, no celebration was held.

But because of the generosity of talented local artists, the Arts Council donated five original artworks to one Menard County and four Sangamon County institutions:

- Lincoln Library, Springfield’s Public Library – “The Essence of Life” by Azia Donovan
- Petersburg Public Library – “Midnight Moth” by Olivia Green
- The Northside Children’s Community Library – “Frankie” by Misti Shereda
- Memorial Health System’s Cancer Center – “Love Lightens” by Jeff C. Williams
- HSHS St. John’s Cancer Center – “I Believe in Pink” by Sonya Sanders Dilley

Additionally, Kathleen Alcorn donated a ceramic sculpture, “Savanna’s Act – We Are Not Invisible,” which will remain with the Arts Council.

Your financial and institutional support has meant much to the staff of the

Continued on page 8
Year-end Appeal

You likely already have received a separate mailing about our year-end appeal. You also can donate through our website (www.springfieldartsco.org).

While the adage “no gift is too small or too large” may be trite, it is true. Any amount will help us pay the rent (literally).

Mayor’s Awards for the Arts 2022

These awards are based on nominations from the public and will recognize Springfield artists, arts educators, arts organizations, businesses that support the arts, and volunteers. A commissioned artist will design the awards presented to each winner. Nomination material will be available on our website (www.springfieldartsco.org) in the new year.

Community Arts Access Grants

With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Springfield Area Arts Council was able to split $7,875 among area non-profit organizations with the goal of giving the community more access to the arts.

FY 2022 grantees and projects:
- Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center – Garvey Tubman Music Program
- Hoogland Center for the Arts – Disney’s Descendants
- Illinois State Museum Society – NOIR: Art Exhibition
- James Weldon Johnson Study Guild – Life and Contribution of James Weldon Johnson
- Land of Lincoln Barbershop Chorus – Barbershop N Country
- Menard County Singers – Rehearsal and Performance Space Rental
- The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space – Emerging Artist Program
- Scholastic Art Awards – Honors Day
- Senior Services of Central Illinois – Senior Art Classes (Acrylics)
- Springfield International Folk Dancers – Rehearsal Space and Costume Storage
- Springfield Urban League – After-school Art Academy
- Theatre in the Park – Pre-shows
- Voices of Love, Peace, and Joy – 46th Annual Jessie May Finlay Musical Scholarship Contest

We thank our grant panelists: V. June Chappelle - Historian and Writer; David Farrell - Director of Public Affairs (Retired); Laurie Farrell - Teacher (Retired); Steve Myers - Budget and Fiscal Officer (Chairperson); Paula Romanaux - Organist; Adena Rivas - Manager of Public Works (Ex officio); Sheila Walk - Arts Administrator (Coordinator)

Creators of Art, Music, and Poetry (C.A.M.P.)

This virtual series featured local talent – musicians performing original songs, poets reading their original works, and artists discussing their original pieces. Local musicians Tom Irwin and Jamie Meredith and local videographer Brian Crowdson and designer Res Nickerson (Crowdson Creative) worked together to create a virtual series highlighting these three art forms.

You can still watch the shows at facebook.com/creatorsartmusicpoetry. Many thanks to the artists, musicians, and poets who participated.

Artists
- Bill Crook
- Ginny Lee
- Barb Ohlinger
- Michelle Smith
- Jeff Williams

Musicians
- After-school Special
- Amy Benton
- Tom Beverly
- Buckhart Road
- Ella Gibson
- Idle Oath
- Tom Irwin
- Jessica Knight
- Kate Laine
- Greg “Lucky” Patterson
- Rhodes and Battles
- Stuart Smith
- Thornhill
- Micah Walk
- JD Wilson

Poets
- James Bockmier
- Lillie Brown
- Thëa Chesley
- Josh Graff
- Liz Huck
- Anastasia Lindsey
- Ted Morrissey
- Carey Smith
- Vertrell Yates
- Reverend Zemmi
The Arts Council’s staff and board thank all who supported our work during 2021:

AmazonSmile Foundation
Arena Food Service
Bank of Springfield
Joanne Barrow
Mary Beaumont
Christine and Steve Bedford
Brent and Erica Beeman
Sandy Bellatti
Deborah and Harry Berman
Erin and Don Biggerstaff
Elaine Birtch
Irene and Steve Boyer
Norma Brantley
Julie Brown
Rod and Rosemary Buffington
Sara Camp
Kari Catton
Caroline Cavalier
Delinda Chapman
Margaret Charlton
Théa Chesley
Susan Childress
City of Springfield
Thomas Clark
Melissa Clarke
Crowdson Creative
Dennis Darling
Ashley Davis
Carol Davis
Donna Davis
Gary and Karen Davis
Donald Dorrough
Robert Ducker
Carolyn and Dan Dungan
Linda and Lanie Eagleton
Michelle Eccles
Randy Eccles
Don Ecklund
William and Barbara Engel
Phyllis and George Fairchild
Laurie and David Farrell
Barbara Ferrara
Roger and Julie Finnell
Patrick Foster
Daniel and Sherry Frachev
Julia Frevert
Phil Funkenbusch
Denise Garceau
Joan Gardner
Erin Gasiel
Patricia and Luke Gleason
Gus and Claire Gordon
Misty Hagstrom
Steve and Jeanette Hassebrock
Sharon Hayes
Susan Henson
Hoogland Center for the Arts
Horace Mann Insurance Company
Annette Hunsaker
Jim Allan Huston
Lisa Irving
Jera Josserand
Doug Kamholz
John Dale Kennedy
Bernard and Barbara Killian
Gary King
Sherry Knight
Karl Kohlrus
Susan Bramlet Lavin
Jill Leka
Peter and Ivan Levin
Kathy and James Loux
Michael and Linda Luepke
Deborah Magerl
Stephanie Martin
Mark Mathewson
Joe and Lynn McMenamin
Monica Melton
Vaughn Morrison
Nelson’s Catering
Network for Good
Old State Capitol
Paul O’Shea
Patricia Pardie
PayPal Giving Fund
Mark and Cheryl Pence
Chip Piper
Polly Poskin
Steve and Libby Rambach
Christine Ramirez-Campbell
Adena Rivas
Troy and Heather Roark
Craig Russo
Michelle Sabath
Stephen and Stephanie Shields
Gabriella Shufeldt
Sheila Stocks Smith
Irena Sorrells
Heather Southwell
Francie Staggs
Lisa and Stephen Stone
Eileen Straeter
Robin Timm
Don and Wanda Tracy
Bart and Penny Troy
UMedia
Thomas M. Vaught
Kim Villanueva
Roberta Volkman
Dennis Walk
Sheila Walk
Don and Barbara Walker
Lamar Walls
Lynn Whalen
Jamila Wicks
Louise Wienenkowksi
Susan Wilham
Karen and Randall Witter
Penny Wollan-Kriel
Christine Zelle
Join us on New Year’s Eve!

See page 1 for details!