boone county arts council news

February 2020

Fifth Grade Arts Festival

The 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of October found students from District 100, Immanuel Lutheran and St. James Catholic schools gathering at the Community Building for the annual Fifth Grade Arts Festival. The day-long event enables students to explore different areas of the arts.

The day begins with a musical session by Mark Dvorak, touring musician, songwriter and teacher. "Old Songs and New People" leads students through an interactive and educational journey examining the roots of American Folk Music. Marc says, "folk music is the bearer of our history and culture. Songs help us remember who we are and are a great entry point into the arts." Then the group breaks up into individual classes and move through the day to Dance, Junk Art, Photography, Theater and Puppetry.

Mary Reed hopes to promote a healthy, active lifestyle through dance. Dance games engage students with some creative skills such as jumps and turns. The class concluded with learning some of Michael Jackson's "Thriller".

Norm Knott is an internationally known recycle artist. The students created Save the Planet bumper stickers that expressed ways to recycle that could create useful and beautiful objects of art that would reuse rather than discard.

One Photography Sessions was taught by Bill Eklund, a Belvidere native who was "bitten by the photography bug in Belvidere High School's Photography class." He hopes that through photography the students will see things in a way they've never seen it before.

Jeremy Schulz is an artist and educator who specializes in photography, video, visual effects and motion graphic design. His lesson focused on how to create dynamically interesting photos and some tricks to use with cellphone cameras and cellphone apps.

The Theater offering was Improvisation taught by Dan Holmes. During the session students participated in theater games and ensemble scene work.

Puppetry was taught by Gary Tate, a master puppeteer and mime. Using puppets allows students to express themselves freely.

The Boone County Arts Council has produced the Fifth Grade Arts Festival since 2011 during Illinois Arts and Humanities Month. The program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Generous funding by District 100 Foundation for Excellence in Education, The Boone County Community Foundation, the Rockford Area Arts Council, the IOU Club of Belvidere and Dick and Kathy Curlee enables the Arts Council to provide this experience. We also appreciate the hours of hard work of many volunteers.

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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

The programs of the
Boone County Arts Council
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ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY

A New Year

As I was preparing the Agenda for the BCAC first board meeting of the new year I started to think about the fact that I have served on the board of directors for nearly 20 years. Serving as a board member has been interesting and rewarding as we work to fulfill the Boone County Arts Council's vision of enriching our community through the arts. Personally, continuing to serve, also, lies in the fact that I look forward to meeting and working with creative, enthusiastic, caring and dedicated community minded executive board members from all walks of life. They are deserving of recognition, many thanks to them for giving their time and talent to "enhance the quality of life for the people throughout Boone County by promoting the endowment, development, and enjoyment of the arts". Welcome to Heidi and Gary Thacker, our newest board members.

Please join us for all the events and activities we are offering this year. We always look forward to seeing you.

Maria Werchowec, President

Troy Yunk, BCAC board Member, was asked by the Chamber of Commerce to create the 2019 Hometown Christmas print. Troy chose the iconic Funderburg family mansion, on North State Street in Belvidere, as his subject. His painting brings life and warmth to the long unoccupied family home with smoke curling from the chimney over holiday lights and wreaths, and a snowman, in the yard, welcoming the Christmas tree tied on the roof of the family station wagon. And life there will be at the mansion since the Funderburg family recently donated the home to the Boone County Museum of History and the Boone County Historical Society. The 8,000 square foot craftsman style Funderburg Mansion will be converted to a historic house museum and community gathering place.

GRANTS RECEIVED FORE 2020 FIFTH GRADE ARTS FESTIVAL

The BCAC is pleased to announce that two grants have recently been received to fund the 2020 Fifth Grade Arts Festival. The Boone County Community Foundation has granted the organization $2000.00. The Rockford Area Arts Council has also granted $600.00 for the Festival through their Community Access Program. This year's Fifth Grade Arts Festival will take place on October 19, 20, and 21 at the Community Building in Belvidere.

The Boone County Community Foundation "exists to improve the quality of life in Boone County for today, tomorrow and the future by building a culture of giving in our community and by connecting donors with the causes they hold dear." The Rockford Area Arts council " supports, promotes, and develops the arts for everyone in Northern Illinois." We appreciate the financial commitment that these organizations have made to the BCAC.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS GRANT RECEIVED FOR 2020 MURAL PROJECT

The Boone County Arts Council is proud to announce it has received a $5,000 grant for the American House Mural Project. The grant was awarded by the Dr. Louis and Violet Rubin Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois' Community Grants Program.

The American House Mural is one of the original 10 murals that were created for the 1997 Wall Dog Festival. It is one of the largest murals that was painted during the event. The mural is located at 212 North State Street in Belvidere. The American House, built in 1842 was one of the most well known stage coach stops on the Chicago-Galena route. A historical marker is placed near where the hotel was located.

The mural will be restored during the Belvidere Heritage Days Festival on June 26 - 28, 2020 in downtown Belvidere. Mural Project Chairman Jay Allen said that this mural is in dire need of work and he is pleased that the original artist, Elaine Wallis, will lead the restoration team on the project. He is delighted that this grant will permit the project to go forward.

The mission of the Boone County Arts Council is "to enhance the quality of life for people throughout Boone County by promoting the endowment, development, and enjoyment of the Arts."

We thank the Community Foundation for funding this project through their mission "to serve as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for current and future needs of Northern Illinois. Since its founding in 1953 CFNIL has granted over $73 million for charitable purposes. Learn more at cfnil.org.

ROCKFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

BOONE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Woman's Club Mural Dedication
December 6, 2019

Our toes may be cold but our hearts are warm because the Boone County Arts Council is pleased to present another mural to the City of Murals.

The Boone County Arts Council and the Belvidere Woman's Club have been friends for a very long time.

In 1997 they teamed up with Pillsbury Green Giant and sponsored the Walldog Rendezvous Wall-to-Wall Arts Festival which started the Public Art Movement in Belvidere.

The following summer, building on the success of the Walldog event, on the same weekend of the Woman's Club's 35th annual Art Show in Big Thunder Park, they teamed up again and presented an Art Weekend.

During that Festival "The Art Show" Mural sponsored by the Woman's Club and designed by local art teacher Kit Scheidenhelm was painted on the Locust Street wall of the building housing O'Brien and Dobbins Drug Store by local art students. That was 21 years ago. The Mural had been refurbished a couple of times but was showing its age again. So the Woman's Club sponsored the creation of a new mural created by the Arts Council.

The New "Art Show" Mural dedicated tonight was designed by local art teacher Troy Yunk and painted by local art students. It celebrates both the Woman's Club's annual Art Show that filled Big Thunder Park for nearly 40 years and the 100th year of the Belvidere Woman's Club.

In the spring the banner will be removed so that the building can be repaired for the permanent placement of the mural.

Art Down Under

BCAC Board member (and Walldog) Jay Allen returned from 2 weeks 'down under' in mid-December. Jay and 2 other Walldogs from across North America were invited to create Public Art murals in Mount Barker, Western Australia (WA) as part of an ongoing 'Year of Reconciliation' program created to acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginals - and as a means of reparations for past inequalities toward the indigenous Australians. He worked with an Aboriginal artist named Thomas Dimer who is part of an Emerging Leaders group that is seeking to better the Aboriginal tribes and bring them into modern times.

The story told in the mural is about the founding and naming of Mount Barker, WA by Dr. Thomas Braidwood Wilson, a ship's surgeon in the British Navy in the early part of the 19th Century. Wilson's friend, Capt. Collett Barker, discovered the area earlier but was killed by hostile Aboriginal tribes. Dr. Wilson was escorted by a man known in Aboriginal history as 'Mokare' - the Man of Peace'. Both images were used in the mural - with prominence given to Mokare'. Dimer created a symbolic version of the same story told in the mural - but in Aboriginal symbols.

As with all our Walldog gatherings, locals were so inspired by the success of the project that they are doing another Walldog mural festival in late November of this year. Welcome back, Jay!

Snow Sculpting Competition

"Foul Weather Friends" earned both Artist Choice and First Place for high school entries at the 34th annual Illinois Snow Sculpting competition in Sinnissippi Park. Congratulations to our ladies team from Belvidere North!

Pictured here with their winning sculpture are: Grace Ozark(Jr) Valeria Walters(Soph), Elizabeth Hare(Sr) and Isabella Kazluski(Sr).

Their advisor is art teacher Edith Obenchain.

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After a ten-year absence, "Chaos in the Camp" has been restored and re-located to 1006 W Lincoln Ave just east of the Belvidere Park District office. Local artist and former BCAC board member Jon Critchfield created the original carvings. Jon and Michael Bihlmaier worked on restoration of the sculptures which had been severely damaged by the flood waters of the Baltic Mill Race. The Mesquaki and Potawatomi Native American Indians families are trading furs and meat for vegetables and wares. The scene shows them as they cook, play and enjoy the day in an area along the banks of the Kishwaukee River.