

**2/4/2026 | 5:30 PM**

**Bob Crane Community Center, Board Room  
3200 Tremont Road**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Approve August 6, 2025 and October 14, 2025 Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
- 3. New Business**
  - a. 2025 Year in Review
  - b. 2026 Work Plan
  - c. Review Evaluation Metrics for Programs and Events
- 4. Updates & Reports**
  - a. Cultural Arts Division Report
  - b. 2026 Division Calendar
- 5. Adjournment**

**CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION'S 2025 YEARLY REPORT**

**UA Galleries**

Upper Arlington's gallery spaces serve to highlight the City's ongoing commitment to the arts through revolving and diverse exhibits that are educational, engaging, and accessible for all residents and visitors.

**Concourse Gallery**

Goals:

- Provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to exhibit their work in a community focused space through a formal selection process
- Enrich the community's cultural experience by offering diverse exhibitions that expose residents and visitors to a wide spectrum of artistic styles, perspectives, and cultural traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation for arts and culture.
- Foster an inclusive, accessible and educational space for the community to gather
- Create fun experiences to engage with art to draw people in that wouldn't normally explore a gallery or museum

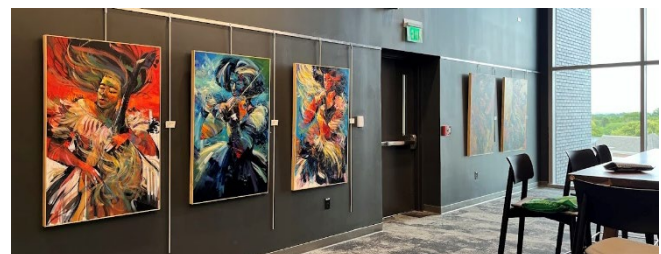
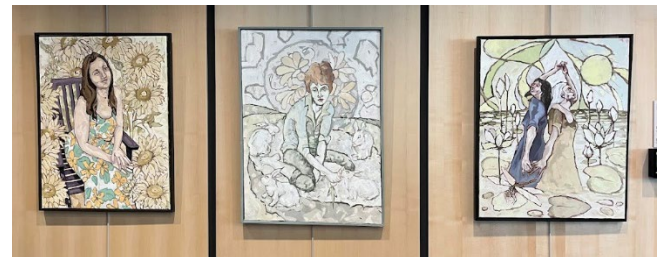
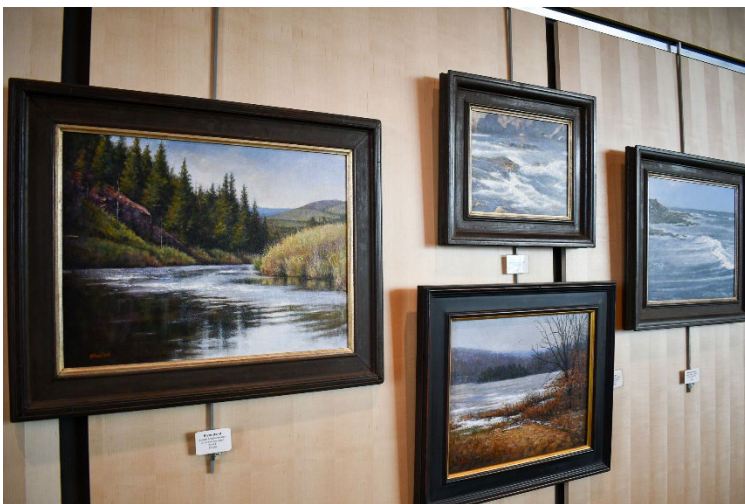
Exhibit	Dates	Reception Attendance	Gallery Guide Distribution	Sales	Artists funded and/or supported	Engagement Activities
Elementary School Students	February	300	350	NA	150	
Middle School Students	March	150	150	NA	100	
High School Students	April	150	100	\$0	150	
William Kolok: Sculpting Timeless Forms	May 7 – July 3	NA	100	\$360	1	
Portrait of Columbus	July 9 – September 12	15	100	\$2,857	1	Exhibit extended through November 14 – Party on the Plaza cancelled which reduced the attendance for reception
Inseok Choi	Sept 7 – Nov 14	Cancelled due to family emergency				
Paul Rienzo	Nov 19 – Jan 30	NA	100	\$0	1	
<b>2025 Totals</b>		615	900	\$3,217	403	
<b>2024 Totals</b>		1,215	1,200	\$3,875	427	
<b>2023 Totals:</b>		840	910	\$4,080	573	

## Community Gallery by Loanne Crane

### Goals:

- Provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to exhibit their work in a smaller setting.
- Support and elevate artists and groups residing and working in Upper Arlington and surrounding regions, providing them with opportunities for recognition and growth within the community.
- Enrich the community’s cultural experience by offering diverse exhibitions that expose residents and visitors to a wide spectrum of artistic styles, perspectives, and cultural traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation for arts and culture.
- Foster an inclusive, accessible and educational space for the community to gather in the Bob Crane Community Center.
- Create fun experiences to engage with art to draw people in that wouldn’t normally explore a gallery or museum

Exhibit	Dates	Reception Attendance	Sales	Artists funded and/or supported	Engagement Activities
City of Upper Arlington Permanent Collection	March 24 – April 26	NA	NA	20	
Marcia Armstrong: A Preview	April 30 – May 9	30	NA	1	Artist Talk at Soundwaves at the Center
Joseph Angelo Anastasi	May 12 – July 18	30	\$2,205	1	
Greg Strouse	July 23 – September 19	20	\$0	1	
Said Oladejo-Lawal	September 24 – November 7	NA	\$0	1	
UAHS Designing with Materials Class	November 12 – January 9	30	\$0	36	
<b>2025 Totals</b>		110	\$2,205	60	



## UA Performance Series

### Goals:

- Bring a diverse and accessible concert series to Upper Arlington that appeals to the interests of the community
- Unite people of differing life experiences and promote understanding across cultural boundaries through music
- Provide a welcoming space in Upper Arlington for families and friends to come together to share performing art and culture experiences

Event	Date/Time	Attendance	Artists funded and/or supported
<b>Black History Month Celebration: Honoring Black Labor Through the Arts</b>	February 12   2-4 pm	311	16 Performing Artists 1 Visual Artist
<b>Bob Crane Community Center Opening</b>	April 1 – 6	1,600	35 Performing Artists
<b>Soundwaves at the Center</b>	May 1   6-8 pm	60	5 Performing Artists 1 Visual Artist
<b>Arts on Arlington</b>	June 12   6-9 pm	1,200	10 Performing Artists 15 Visual Artists
<b>Party on the Plaza (CANCELLED due to weather)</b>			
<b>Music at the Amelita Mirolo Barn</b>	October 16   6-7:30 pm	200	5 Performing Artists
	<b>2025 Totals:</b>	3,560	66 Performing Artists 17 Visual Artists
	<b>2024 Totals:</b>	4,900	117
	<b>2023 Totals:</b>	3,750	89



City of **Upper Arlington**

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## **Labor Day Arts Festival**

### Goals:

- Provide a sustainable event that attracts a wide range of people from Upper Arlington and surrounding areas
- Enhance the quality of life of Upper Arlington residents and attendees by creating a fun, free and inclusive experience
- Support artists through exposure and sales of their high quality and diverse art forms
- Demonstrate the City’s commitment to the arts in all its forms while fostering and encouraging creativity in children and adults

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total Estimated Attendance (Placer.ai Data)	10,200	12,700	9,900
Average Duration of Visit (Placer.ai Data)	85 minutes	73 minutes	75 minutes
Volunteers	52	79	63
Total Volunteer Slots	146	106	87
Total Volunteer Slots Filled	76	100	77
Total Artists Engaged or Funded	305	310	293
Marketing Impressions	950,129	961,735	Not tracked
Marketing Engagement	6,615	21,645	Not tracked
Expense	\$51,241	\$53,489	\$65,533
Revenue	\$36,875	\$34,879	\$33,669

### **Artist Survey:**

Overall, artists expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the festival and noted strong public engagement. Key themes emerging from the survey include the importance of clear communication, logistics support (load-in/load-out, booth layout), marketing and attendance quality, and amenities for artists. These insights point to targeted adjustments that can enhance the artist experience and strengthen the festival’s reputation.

### **46 Responses**

- 78% of artists are repeat vendors, indicating strong retention and sustained trust
- 81% of artists price their work in the lower to mid-range (\$50-\$500), suggesting the festival attracts buyers looking for accessible, collectible art.
- 80% of artists reported sales at or above \$1,000, demonstrating meaningful economic impact for participating artists.
- Overwhelmingly positive ratings indicate that event operations and staff and volunteer support are a major strength of the festival.
- Strong satisfaction with layout suggests current site planning is working well and should largely be maintained
- Zapplication and word-of-mouth are the primary ways artists learn about the event.

### **Recurring themes from open ended responses:**

- Artists value timely, clear instructions before and after festival
- Load-in/load-out efficiency, booth spacing, and site layout were commonly mentioned
- Requests included improved access to water and restrooms
- Artists noted the importance of attracting buyers who are interested in purchasing art
- Many respondents expressed interest in returning, indicating a generally positive experience



## Permanent Collection

### **Weaving Between the Branches**

Following the 2019 Arts and [Cultural Master Plan](#), the Cultural Arts Division and Commission have established formal policies and processes for bringing public art to all areas of Upper Arlington. This project brings public art to the northern part of Upper Arlington, an area identified as lacking such installations. The City released a Request for Qualifications for artists and/or artist teams to submit their qualifications to envision, produce and exhibit a unique, surprising and inclusive temporary sculpture in naturalized areas at Burbank Park and/or Northwest Kiwanis Park that connects visitors to nature and celebrates the natural beauty of Upper Arlington.

#### **Goals:**

- Inspire visitors to engage with nature and art to evoke reflection and conversation
- Bring a temporary art installation to Upper Arlington that celebrates the natural beauty of the community.
- Educate the community on the artist’s process of creating and installing a work of art.
- Bring awareness to naturalized areas in Northwest Kiwanis Park and/or Burbank Park

**Budget:** \$10,000

#### Project Timeline:

Request for Qualifications issued	February 23, 2024
RFQs reviewed by Artist Selection Panel (18 submissions)	April 15-May 1, 2024
Top 3 Artists selected to submit Proposals (Marcia Armstrong, Carrie Elvey, and Laura Oldham)	May 15, 2024
Finalists prepare proposals	May - September, 2024
Proposals Due – Artist present proposals to Selection Panel	September 2024
Recommendation to Cultural Arts Commission	October 2024
Contract finalized with Marcia Armstrong	December 2024
Design details finalized by artist	April 2025
Willow tunnel installed at NW Kiwanis Park	April 2025
Art in Community Education – Marcia visits Summer Day Camps	June/July 2025
Installation of nests at NW Kiwanis Park	August 2025
Nests moved to Bob Crane Community Center	September 2025
Photo documentation of original installation displayed outside art room at BCCC	October 2025
Artist Reception	October 2025

#### Selection Panel:

**Anna Talarico | Public Art Coordinator, Designing Local**

**Ava Morgan | Public Art Manager, Dublin Arts Council**

**Robie Benve | Art Coordinator, The Ohio State University Faculty Club | Upper Arlington Resident**

Kristan Hastrich | Cultural Arts Commissioner (non-voting member)

Sam Simmons | Parks & Forestry Superintendent (non-voting member)

#### Community Engagement

Marcia involved the community in the process of this installation through the following methods:

- Artist Talk at Soundwaves at the Center | May 1, 2025
- Marcia Armstrong: A Preview exhibit in the Community Gallery by Loann Crane | April 30–May 9, 2025
- Collaboration with City Staff and volunteers to install the willow tunnel at the entrance to the installation.
- Collaboration with Upper Arlington Parks & Recreation summer campers to create ceramic tiles made with natural materials to include in the exhibit.



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## **About the Artist**

Marcia Armstrong is a dynamic artist whose career has spanned a range of disciplines, from ceramics to interdisciplinary installations that merge art, science, and environmental studies. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University and additional studies in EcoArt and digital media, Armstrong’s work emphasizes the intersection of the natural world and human experience. Her installations have been showcased in venues like the Smithsonian and Renwick Galleries and more recently in naturalized spaces such as Chadwick North Arboretum. Through her art, she seeks to foster connections between people and the ecosystems that sustain them, creating works that inspire reflection and conversation.

## **About the Installation**

### **Trailhead:**

Visitors enter the experience through a willow tunnel located at the north end of the trail. Built from dried willow branches, the tunnel measures approximately 10 feet long and 5 feet wide, with a height that accommodates the average adult. Two split logs serve as footers, with drilled holes that anchor the willow branches and form the arched structure.

Designed as a tactile threshold, the tunnel signals a transition into a reflective space that invites curiosity and engagement. It was created in collaboration with willow artist Howard Peller of [Living Willow Farm](#) and constructed on-site with assistance from City Staff and volunteers. This tunnel was installed in April 2025.

### **Nests (from the perspective of original installation location):**

Following the trail from the willow tunnel, viewers encounter nine large, bowl-shaped nests installed at intervals along the wooded path. Each nest is cradled in a tree tripod, creating distinct “territories” that reference long-term homesteading behaviors observed in certain avian species. The consistent mold used across all nests reflects a shared species identity, while variations in surface treatment (handmade paper, window screening, textile fragments, ceramic bark impressions) speak to the cultural adaptations of each group.

The inspiration for this work draws on research by biologist Dr. Maria Cristina Tello-Ramos of the University of Hull, who studied the white-browed sparrow weaver (*Ploceus mahali*). This species builds nests in tightly knit social groups and often inhabits the same tree for up to a decade. Over time, these long-term nesting behaviors give rise to cultural variations in nest architecture, even among groups in the same environment. In her two-year study of 450 nests, Dr. Tello-Ramos found that nest styles varied significantly between territories—not because of material availability, but due to socially transmitted learning and architectural “traditions” (Tello-Ramos et al., 2021).

These findings challenge the long-standing belief that nest-building is purely instinctual. As far back as the 19th century, naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace suggested that birds may build nests through learned behavior. Modern studies support this idea, showing that nest construction can be experience-dependent and shaped by associative learning (Breen et al., 2000). Imaging analysis has even shown that individual weaverbirds develop their own distinct construction styles (Bailey, n.d.).

Through these sculptural forms, *Weaving Between the Branches* gives material shape to the invisible but powerful forces of social learning and cultural diversity in the non-human world. The nests were installed using non-invasive methods, tied, woven, and nestled into place, respecting the living trees that support them and adhering to Leave No Trace principles.

Recordings were made of the natural sounds present in this naturalized area and placed onto a soundboard. As walkers pass by a sensor is triggered, amplifying these woodland sounds. Interspersed are the bird songs of the avian species who inhabit the park.

Visitors are invited to engage with the installation both territorially and holistically. Viewed individually, each nest-territory reveals a distinctive use of materials and approach to construction. Viewed as a whole, the installation reflects a species-wide identity and shared structure—an artistic parallel to the way birds build differently based on inherited knowledge and local experience.





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## 2026 Cultural Arts Division Annual Work Plan

The City of Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Division provides and promotes a diverse, lively, accessible arts environment that advances the cultural assets and enriches the quality of life of the community. The Division provides a variety of arts and culture programming throughout the year and is also responsible for managing the City’s extensive collection of interior and exterior public art. Arts programming includes a public gallery featuring an annual schedule of exhibits at the Municipal Services Center, educational programming, summer outdoor concerts, and the City’s signature special event—the Labor Day Arts Festival. The City’s art collection includes many inspiring and creative permanent installations located in parks and public grounds throughout the City, as well as an extensive collection of interior art pieces installed in public buildings.

Housed within the Parks & Recreation Department, the Division is advised and supported by the Cultural Arts Commission. The Commission is a seven-member group that is appointed by City Council for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the development and preservation of arts in the community. As part of the 2019 Arts and Culture Master Plan, the following Mission and Vision Statements were developed to provide clarity and direction for the Division:

<b>MISSION</b>
We provide and promote a diverse, lively and welcoming arts environment that enriches the lives of all.
<b>VISION</b>
Our vision is a future where art is integrated throughout the community, diverse in medium and content and accessible to all residents and visitors to Upper Arlington.

## 2025 Accomplishments

### Key Event Successes

#### UA Performance Series

- Delivered a highly successful slate of performances, including featured artists for the Bob Crane Community Center soft and grand opening.
- Strengthened relationships with Mallway-area businesses by partnering with Economic Development staff to enhance *Arts on Arlington*.
- Implemented Placer.ai technology to improve accuracy and consistency in event data collection. Attendance captured for 2025 events included:
  - Soundwaves at the Center: 60 (estimate)
  - Black History Month: 311 (door count)
  - Arts on Arlington: 1,200
  - Party on the Plaza: *Cancelled due to weather*
  - Labor Day Arts Festival: 9,100
  - The Martini Affair at The Barn: 200 (estimate)

#### Labor Day Arts Festival

- Integrated the **Arts in Community Education** program into the festival, offering youth meaningful opportunities to engage in the creative process. Guest artists included Richard Duarte Brown, Malik Carrington, Christine Abbott, and staff from the Ohio Craft Museum.
  - Christine Abbott demonstrated printmaking techniques and guided attendees to create their own art using various techniques.
  - Ohio Craft Museum walked attendees through wet felting techniques to make their own felted flowers.
  - Richard Duarte Brown and Malik Carrington connected with youth attendees as they created figures from pipe cleaners, beads and yarn.

### Strategic Master Plan Achievements

- Completed a fair and transparent artist selection process for the Concourse Gallery and the Community Gallery, significantly expanding visibility and access to exhibition opportunities.
- Executed the Art Acquisition Policy to commission artist **Marcia Armstrong** for a temporary public art installation now successfully completed and installed.
- Worked with Marcia to inform the public about her installation through a gallery exhibit, artist talk, opening reception and project website detailing her process.
- Created goals for the **Arts in Community Education** program.
- Activated the Arts in Community Education program by bringing artist Marcia Armstrong to summer day camps, where she shared her creative process with hundreds of campers and guided them in creating clay tiles originally envisioned as part of her installation at the park
- Accepted a donation of three art prints from Pizzuti Solutions for the Bob Crane Community Center, valued at **\$9,600**, following all required Art Acquisition Policy procedures and expanding the Art in Work Spaces collection.



## 2026 Work Plan

### CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

Goal/Strategy	Action Items	Target Start Date	Target Complete Date	Completed
Implement Art in Community Education Program	Commission artists to facilitate engaging art activities to inspire lifelong engagement in the arts.	4/2026	9/2026	
Review Arts and Culture Master Plan	Review goals, strategies and accomplishments from the Arts and Culture Master Plan and prepare for the future of arts in UA.	4/2026	12/26	

### LABOR DAY ARTS FESTIVAL

Goal/Strategy	Action Items	Target Start Date	Target Complete Date	Completed
Ensure continued success of the Labor Day Arts Festival	Strengthen volunteer recruitment, training, and retention.	5/2026	8/2026	
	Expand outreach prior to event to highlight emerging and exhibiting artists.	8/2026	8/2026	
	Commission local artists to facilitate hands on art experiences that expand attendees' knowledge and appreciation of diverse art forms.	4/2026	9/2026	
	Feature a diverse lineup of established and emerging (youth) performers that supports artists' development and delivers an engaging experience for attendees.	1/2026	9/2026	

### UA PERFORMANCE SERIES

Goal/Strategy	Action Items	Target Start Date	Target Complete Date	Completed
Ensure continued success	Curate a high-quality, diverse lineup through a formal selection process.	11/2025	12/2025	
	Create welcoming, accessible experiences that encourage repeat attendance.	1/2026	12/2026	
	Work with communications team to develop marketing and communication plans to grow and retain audiences.	1/2026	5/2026	
	Review evaluation metrics and gather data to guide future programming.	1/2026	2/2026	



## PERMANENT COLLECTION

Goal/Strategy	Action Items	Target Start Date	Target Complete Date	Completed
<b>Implement Collection Management and Maintenance Policy</b>	Review artwork that does not align with Guiding Principles and make recommendation to Commission for any deaccessions	12/2025	4/2026	
	Implement deaccession process for any selected artwork	4/2026	6/2026	
	Determine maintenance needs for 2026	4/2026	6/2026	
<b>Implement Policy for Acquisition of Public art for the Bob Crane Community Center</b>	Post RFQ for Community Center Commission	3/2026	3/2026	
	Form an Art Selection Panel	1/2026	3/2026	
	Art Selection Panel to review RFQs	5/2026	5/2026	
	Up to 3 artists selected to submit proposals	6/2026	6/2026	
	Proposals reviewed by Art Selection Panel and recommendation made to Commission	9/2026	10/2026	
	Phase 1: Design	11/2026	2/2027	
	Phase 2: Fabrication	3/2027	9/2027	
Phase 3: Installation	9/2027	12/2027		
<b>Enhance public access to Permanent Collection</b>	Acquire updated images of all artwork and upload to artist management database	10/2026	11/2026	
	Link database to City's website for public access	12/2026	12/2026	
	Remove all artwork from storage by determining semi-permanent locations for Art in Work spaces pieces in City facilities.	12/2025	2/2026	
	Install artwork in new locations	2/2026	2/2026	

## GALLERIES

Goal/Strategy	Action Items	Target Start Date	Target Complete Date	Completed
<b>Create diverse exhibits that are educational, engaging, and accessible for all residents and visitors</b>	Collaborate with Community Affairs to develop marketing strategies to reach a wider audience.	1/2026	3/2026	
	Promote Call for Artists to attract diverse and high-quality submissions.	2/2026	5/2026	
	Form selection panel to curate exhibits that represent a wide range of artistic disciplines, perspectives and cultures.	2/2026	5/2026	
	Schedule 2027-2028 Concourse and Community Gallery exhibits.	5/2026	6/2026	
	Incorporate engaging artist talks, demonstrations, and performances into gallery receptions.	1/2026	12/2026	

## 2026 Tentative Cultural Arts Commission Work Plan Agenda Items

<b>February 4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize 2026 Work Plan</li><li>• 2025 year in review</li><li>• Review Evaluation Metrics for Programs and Events</li></ul>
<b>April 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art in Work Spaces: Review of artwork that does not align with Guiding Principles</li></ul>
<b>June 3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BCCC Public Art Finalists Update</li><li>• Discuss Maintenance needs for Permanent Collection</li></ul>
<b>August 5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Election of Officers</li><li>• Annual review of the by-laws</li><li>• LDAF Updates</li></ul>
<b>October 7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BCCC Public Art: Artist Selection Panel Recommendation</li><li>• Review Goals, Strategies and Accomplishments from the Arts and Culture Master Plan</li></ul>
<b>December 7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft 2027 Work Plan</li></ul>



CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION'S MONTHLY REPORT  
February 2026

## UA GALLERIES

Upper Arlington's gallery spaces serve to highlight the City's ongoing commitment to the arts through revolving and diverse exhibits that are educational, engaging, and accessible for all residents and visitors.

### Concourse Gallery

#### Elementary Student Exhibit

February 4-27, 2026

Reception: Thursday, February 12 | 5-7 pm

#### Middle School Student Exhibit

March 4-27, 2026

Reception: Sunday, March 8 | 2-4 pm

#### High School Student Exhibit

April 1 – May 1, 2026

UAHS National Art Honor Society Ceremony: April 23

### Community Gallery by Loann Crane

#### From the Inside Out | Healing the Inner Child

Erin Smith Glenn

January 31 – March 13, 2026

From the Inside Out | Healing the Inner Child presents a body of work by Erin Smith Glenn rooted in personal transformation, wellness, and self-worth. Inspired by a pivotal moment of breaking and healing, the exhibit invites reflection, meditation, and interaction—encouraging viewers to nourish their inner child and recognize healing, especially mental health, as an essential part of becoming whole.

#### When the Details Fade

McKenzie Gilbert

March 18 – May 15, 2026

Explore loss, memory, and the experience of grieving alone through the expressive paintings of McKenzie Messer Gilbert. Inspired by the loss of loved ones, Gilbert's dreamy, softly rendered works capture emotional imprints of memories, small moments and life stories shaped by absence, inviting viewers into a quiet, reflective space of remembrance.



*A Sacred Moment* by Erin Smith Glenn

# 2026 UA PERFORMANCE SERIES

260 performers applied for this year's series. Staff is currently in the process of securing contracts with performers.

Thank you to our Selection Panel Members:

- Daisy Danziger | Community Events Coordinator
- Corey Oancea | UA Parks & Rec Staff
- Sarah Krosse | UA Parks & Rec Staff
- Bri Reading | UA Parks & Rec Staff
- Martin Spencer | Former Cultural Arts Commissioner
- Devon Oser | Cultural Arts Commissioner
- Cheryl Smoot | Cultural Arts Commissioner

## Black History Month 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration

Saturday, February 21 | 2-4 pm

Bob Crane Community Center | Level 5 | Event Center

Celebrate a century of remembrance of Black history through music, art and voices that honor legacy and lived experience. Through dynamic performances and vibrant visual expression, this celebration reminds us how art keeps history alive.

## Arts on Arlington

Friday, June 5 | 6-9 pm

Mallway Park | 2096 Arlington Ave

Join us for the return of this award-winning and favorite summertime event in Upper Arlington. Celebrating 5 years of bring local, talented artists, artisans, and musicians to The Mallway. Explore vendor booths, support local businesses, listen to great music, and savor delicious food and drinks for a vibrant celebration of art and community!

## Arts on the Block at The Bob

Friday, July 24 | 6-9 pm

Bob Crane Community Center | Street between The Bob and Coventry | 3200 Tremont Road

Join us for a free, family-friendly outdoor event celebrating creativity and community. Enjoy live music, food trucks, drinks, and hands-on art activities for kids and adults in front of the Bob Crane Community Center.

## Labor Day Arts Festival

Monday, September 7 | 10 am - 5 pm

Northam Park | 2850 Tremont Road

Since 1966, Upper Arlington Labor Day Arts Festival has celebrated and shared the arts with the community. Each year, visitors flock to UA on Labor Day to immerse themselves in hands-on art activities, live music, and the opportunity to explore and purchase fine art.

## Jazz at the Barn

Thursday, October 8 | 6:30-8 pm

Amelita Mirolo Barn | 4395 Carriage Hill Lane

Bring your chair and enjoy an evening of live jazz and blues on the lawn at the Amelita Mirolo Barn. Relax under the autumn sky, savor the music, and connect with your community in this casual, outdoor performance.

## The Spoken Verse: A Poetry and Art Experience

Thursday, November 19 | 6-8 pm

Bob Crane Community Center | Level 5 | Community Gallery by Loann Crane

Join us at the Community Center Gallery for an inspiring evening of live poetry readings and spoken word, complemented by the artwork of Ann Corley Silverman. Explore the intersection of words and visual art in a welcoming, creative space where timeless stories and human experiences come to life.



# LABOR DAY ARTS FESTIVAL

Artist Applications deadline: February 22, 2026

[https://www.zapplication.org/event-](https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=14127&fbclid=IwY2xjawPKHW9leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFCcig3SWxqcGgyTG94RIFKc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTC4ODIwMDg5MgABHqbw3IKH4khs9wNH3vrZ6CMr8ABIFQUmYf_mG22of7)

[info.php?ID=14127&fbclid=IwY2xjawPKHW9leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFCcig3SWxqcGgyTG94RIFKc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTC4ODIwMDg5MgABHqbw3IKH4khs9wNH3vrZ6CMr8ABIFQUmYf\\_mG22of7](https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=14127&fbclid=IwY2xjawPKHW9leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFCcig3SWxqcGgyTG94RIFKc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTC4ODIwMDg5MgABHqbw3IKH4khs9wNH3vrZ6CMr8ABIFQUmYf_mG22of7)

**LABOR DAY  
ARTS FESTIVAL**  
Monday, September 7 | Upper Arlington, Ohio  
*Artist Applications Now Open*  
ZAPP Application Deadline | February 22, 2026

Ryan Gardner 2025 Best in Show

PARKS & REC  
City of Upper Arlington

## 2026 Jurors:

**Ryan Gardner** is an Ohio-based metalsmith and jewelry artist with extensive experience exhibiting, teaching, and evaluating fine craft. A graduate of Bowling Green State University, Ryan spent nine years apprenticing and partnering with master metalsmith Michael Boyd at the Colorado Center for Metal Arts, where he refined his skills in metal and stone. He now operates Ryan Gardner Designs and teaches workshops nationally and online. Ryan was awarded Best of Show at the 2025 Labor Day Arts Festival.

**Paul Rienzo** is an award winning artist in Cincinnati, Ohio. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including an article in American Artist's Watercolor Magazine. He has shown around the US, including a solo exhibition in New York City's Soho district. His work is found in numerous collections, including the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Plaza in La Paz, Bolivia. Paul is also an experienced juror and three time author.

**Char Norman** is an accomplished fiber artist specializing in papermaking and fiber sculpture. She received a Master of Fine Art from Claremont Graduate University and a Bachelor of Art from Scripps College. She has lectured and exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. She has developed and conducted workshops for all ages, worked as a consultant to area schools and community arts organizations, held the positions of Associate Provost and Dean of Faculty at Columbus College of Art & Design and has returned to the studio as a full time professional artist.



City of **Upper Arlington**

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# PERMANENT COLLECTION

## Bob Crane Community Center Public Art Call for Artists

The City of Upper Arlington Parks and Recreation Department invites artists and/or artist teams to submit their qualifications to design and install a site specific sculptural or three-dimensional artwork for the Bob Crane Community Center (BCCC). The selected work should define a gathering space within the BCCC, fostering a welcoming environment that supports health, wellness, and connection.

### Project Goals:

- Install a sculptural or 3D artwork that gives the Bob Crane Community Center a strong visual identity and sense of place.
- Define a gathering space at the Bob Crane Community Center by installing artwork that fosters a strong sense of community.
- Reflect the character, values, and aspirations of the Upper Arlington community. The design should thoughtfully reflect the Bob Crane Community Center as a hub for health, wellness and connection.

### PROJECT TIMELINE:

The tentative timeline is listed below. This is subject to change as necessary.

DATE	PROCESS
March 2	RFQ Issued
May 1	RFQs due
May 11 – May 29	RFQs review by Artist Selection Panel
June 3	Cultural Arts Commission Meeting
June 5	Artists notified if selected to move to the next round - Selected artists must submit a detailed proposal for the project
June/July	Site visit to Bob Crane Community Center
September 4	Proposals from selected artists due
September 7-26	Proposals reviewed - Proposal presentation to Artist Selection Panel
October 7	Artist Selection Panel recommendation to Cultural Arts Commission
October 9	Artist notified of selection
October	Contract executed
November 2025 – February 2026	Phase I: Design documentation including final design Installation details Fabrication budget and timeline
March – September 2026	Phase II: Fabrication
Fall 2027	Phase III: Installation



## 2026 Cultural Arts Division Calendar

January 2026		
January 1-30	UA Performance Series	Contact top scoring performers and schedule performances – process contracts
January 11   4-6 pm	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	UAHS Designing with Materials Closing Reception
January 31 – March 13	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	Erin M Smith Glenn
February 2026		
February 4 – 27	Concourse Gallery	Elementary Students Exhibit
February 2-27	Public Art	Form an Art Selection Panel for BCCC Public Art Installation
February 4	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 Year in Review</li> <li>2026 Work Plan</li> <li>Evaluation Metrics for Programs and Events</li> </ul>
February 5   5-7 pm	Concourse Gallery	Elementary Student Reception
February 21   2-4 pm	UA Performance Series	Black History Month 100 <sup>th</sup> Year Celebration
February 22 @ midnight	LDAF	Artist Application Deadline
March 2026		
March 1	Public Art	RFQ Issued for BCCC Project
March 4	Concourse Gallery	Open applications for UA Artist Gallery Exhibit
March 4 – 27	Concourse Gallery	Middle School Students Exhibit
March 8   2-4 pm	Concourse Gallery	Middle School Student Reception
March 9 – 22	LDAF	Jury
March 10	UA Performance Series	Artist and Artisan Vendor Applications Open for Arts on Arlington (OpenGov)
March 18 – May 15	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	McKenzie Gilbert
April 2026		
April 1 – May 1	Concourse Gallery	High School Students Exhibit
April 1	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation to deaccession artwork that does not align with Guiding Principles</li> </ul>
April 13	City Council Meeting	CAC Update to Council (15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent Collection</li> <li>BCCC Art Installation</li> </ul>
April 15	LDAF	Artist Notification
April 30 @ Midnight	UA Performance Series	Artist and Artisan Vendor Application Deadline for Arts on Arlington
May 2026		
May 1	Public Art	RFQs due
May 3	Concourse Gallery	Deadline to apply for UA Gallery Exhibit
May 6 – July 10	Concourse Gallery	Jong-un Choi
May 11 – 29	Public Art	RFQs reviewed by Artist Selection Panel
May 12 – 14	Professional Development	Arts Impact Ohio Conference
May 20 – July 17	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	America's 250 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Exhibit

### Events and Meetings

June 2026		
June 1	Concourse Gallery	Notify artists of acceptance into UA Artists Exhibit
June 1 – August 7 (skip June 19 and July 3)	Art in Community Education	Summer Day Camp: Thompson North and Reed Road
June 1 – July 31 (skip June 19 and July 3)	Art in Community Education	Summer Day Camp: Tremont and Barrington
June 3	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Art RFQ Finalists shared</li> <li>Maintenance needs for Permanent Collection</li> </ul>
June 5	Public Art	Artist Notification – Finalists to submit RFP
June – July	Public Art	Site visit to BCCC for art finalists
June 5   6-9 pm	UA Performance Series	Arts on Arlington
July 2026		
July 15 – September 11	Concourse Gallery	UA Artists Exhibit
June 15	LDAF	Full Payment Due for Booth Space
July 15	LDAF	Deadline to cancel and receive full refund (minus jury fee)
July 22 – September 18	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	Robie Benve
July 24   6-9 pm	UA Performance Series	Arts on the Block at The Bob
August 2026		
August 5	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of Officers</li> <li>Annual review of by-laws</li> <li>LDAF Updates</li> </ul>
September 2026		
September 4	Public Art	Final Proposals due from artists
September 7   10am-5pm	UA Performance Series	Labor Day Arts Festival
September 7 – 25	Public Art	Proposals reviewed – proposal presentation to Artist Selection Panel
Sept 16 – November 27	Concourse Gallery	Miles B. Jordan
Sept 23 – November 13	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	Lizzi Aronhalt
September 29 – October 1	Professional Development	CODASummit Conference
October 2026		
October 7	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artist Selection Panel recommendation for BCCC Public Art Process</li> <li>Review Goals, Strategies and Accomplishments from the Arts &amp; Culture Master Plan</li> </ul>
October 8   6:30 – 8 pm	UA Performance Series	Jazz at the Barn
October 9	Public Art	BCCC Public Art – Artist notified of selection
October	Public Art	Contract executed with BCCC artist
November 2026		
November – February	Public Art	BCCC Installation Phase I: Design
November 18 – January 8	Community Gallery by Loann Crane	Ann Corley Silverman
November 19   6-8 pm	UA Performance Series	The Spoken Verse: A Poetry and Art Experience
November-December	Public Art	Acquire updated images of all artwork and upload to collection management database – link to City website
December 2026		
December 2 – January 29	Concourse Gallery	Keith D Buswell
December 7	CAC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft 2027 Work Plan</li> </ul>

**Events and Meetings**