



EXPERIENCE WAUKEGAN THROUGH THE ARTS

waukeganartscouncil.org

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Waukegan Arts Council Members and Friends,

Thank you for your support over the past year. Without you, our members, there is no Waukegan Arts Council. During these unprecedented times, we have canceled our annual meeting on April 2. Thank you to Family Piano for offering to host our meeting, and we hope to be able to schedule a different type of gathering for our membership there in the future.

Board of Directors

First off, we want to thank Amanda Civitello for her time on the board, and wish her well on her new endeavors. We are excited to announce the appointment of two new directors, Roxanne Swanson and Gerardo Gordillo. The Executive Committee remains the same as last year with Sally Foster, Immediate Past-Chair; Cathy Jensen, Treasurer; Patricia Hogan, Secretary; Jane Waller, Vice-Chair; and Ty Rohrer, Chair.

Waukegan Arts Council Artist Emergency Relief Fund

To help local artists during this time, the Waukegan Arts Council has created an Artist Emergency Relief Fund with hardship grants of \$250. We know that many of our visual and performing artists have lost income-generating activities due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) cancellations and closings. You will find the application as part of this packet. Please share with any artists who may be in need of our support.

2019-2020 Year in Review

The Waukegan Arts Council had an active 2019-2020. We brought back our "Members Only Events", and both were very successful and enjoyable. The first event treated members with the dress rehearsal performance of "Wendigo" at Three Brothers Theatre. The second event took members into the brand new upstairs gallery and workspace of Kapheim Studio at 122 Washington Street. Not only were our members the first from the general public to see the new renovation, but artists Thom and Carol Kapheim also shared stories of their passion for art and Waukegan. These Member Only Events fulfilled our goal of showcasing Waukegan artists and venues, while also bringing our members and friends together to network.

We attempted to put on a concert of the Air National Guard Band of the Midwest to celebrate Independence Day with a concert at the Stiner Pavilion, but it was rained out. We were successful in co-hosting the 2020 LunaFest Film Festival at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts with the AAUW Waukegan Branch. LunaFest consists of 8 short films directed by and for women. Our matinee and evening showings were both popular, and we hope to be able to do this again next year.

This past year, our annual Lake County Dance Showcase was held at the Waukegan High School Trapp Auditorium in partnership with the Waukegan Public Schools. This venue and partnership allowed for the

event to be free! Beyond our own Dance Showcase, the Arts Council sponsored the Henry Levy Awards for District 60 Middle School students, and also supported or participated in many other civic events throughout the year.

Looking to 2020-2021

Looking ahead to the next year the Waukegan Arts Council looks to be even more involved in the community through supporting our local artists and art organizations.

We plan to host 2-3 Members Only Events. If you or your venue/organization would like to be considered for a Members Only Event, please reach out to us.

The Cultural Arts Series will be back this year and it will be a part of the city-wide celebration of the Ray Bradbury Centennial. Look for more information on this to come out in the future.

Our annual Dance Showcase will be evolving this year as well as we look to incorporate this event into a downtown ArtWauk, or another Waukegan festivity. The goal is to be able to show dance to new audiences.

The Waukegan Arts Council still plans to be a part of civic events around Waukegan, but we also hope to be able to provide art experience opportunities for Waukegan students through field trip assistance.

Again, thank you for your support of the Waukegan Arts Council. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions so please reach out.

Sincerely,

Ty Rohrer
Chair