



Festival
of the

Arts

20
24



www.brfota.org

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Artworks

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COMMUNITY

Artworks supports over 100 Michigan artists and authors.

CONNECTIONS

Artworks provides unique opportunities to exhibit and sell, offer workshops, and other innovative programming.

COLLABORATIONS

Artworks partners with artists and organizations throughout the state for the many exhibits at The Batdorff and Alley Galleries.

CREATIVITY

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Vitalizing our community through the arts and humanities.

Monday-Saturday • 10am-4pm

artworksinbigrapids.org

106 N Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307





Welcome to Festival of the Arts 2024



Welcome to the 2024 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts! We look forward to sharing another February full the arts with you — our 17th full-month festival. As always, we have a calendar full of concerts, lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops for you to take part in and enjoy — more than 60 events all packed into the shortest month of the year. And other than some workshop fees for materials, all of our events are presented free of charge!

Our programming includes many favorites, such as a concert by the Grand Rapids Symphony, Rod Lawrence’s wildlife drawing workshop, Corewell Health’s heart-healthy diet presentation, Wee Wonders art for toddlers, and FSU’s band, orchestra, and choir Festival-closing concert. And of course there are lots of new events and presenters — the Rollie Tussing Trio, Michigan’s Comic Opera Guild, jazz musicians Cliff Monear and Miguel Gutierrez, author Molly Harper, Chef Lincoln Alexander’s amazing cakes, and much, much more!

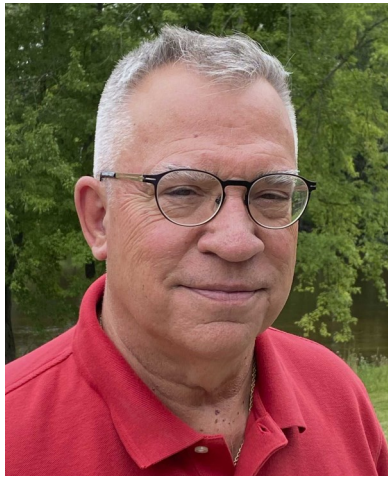
This year we are especially excited to feature several events featuring the talents of some amazing young artists — trumpet virtuoso Morgan Hare, students from Morehead State University’s Kentucky Center for Traditional Music, vocalist, instrumentalists, and actors from the Big Rapids Public Schools, Ferris State University Theatre students, jazz musicians from Michigan State University, award-winning guitarist Matt Thomas, Ferris Esports teams, MSU’s spicy Salsa Verde ensemble, and of course FSU’s band, orchestra, and choir musicians. How wonderful it is to see that the future of the Arts is alive and thriving!

We know that February always has the potential of surprising us with inclement weather, and while we do our best to keep to our schedule, we are also want our presenters and you to be safe! As such, please watch our website, brfota.org, as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages for up-to-date cancellation information.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors who make this festival possible. We are truly blessed to live in a community that is so supportive of the arts. Enjoy this month of celebration — we look forward to seeing you at the 2024 Festival of the Arts!

— 2024 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts Board of Directors:
Mira Brew, Richard Scott Cohen, Roxanne Cullen, Mark Gifford, Jerena Keys, Paul Kwant, Amanda Johnson, Ed Mallett, and Karen Manoski

A Letter from the Mayor



Dear Friends,

As we continue into the new year, let's celebrate the 17th annual Festival of the Arts, from February 2nd to February 25th!

This month-long event showcases a myriad of talents, from visual arts and performances to interactive workshops. It is a unique opportunity for our community to unite, fostering connections and understanding among neighbors. By attending, you support local artists and contribute to the cultural richness that makes Big Rapids a special place to live.

The Festival of the Arts is not just about entertainment — it's about building a sense of community pride and unity. It creates a platform for artists to share their passion, encourages collaboration, and sparks inspiration for both young and old. As we navigate the challenges of today, the Festival of the Arts provides a moment of respite, allowing us to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us and the talent within our community.

I invite each of you to attend the Festival of the Arts this month, engage in the festivities, and embrace the creativity that enriches our lives. Let's come together to make this year's event a memorable celebration of the arts in Big Rapids.

Best wishes,

Fred Guenther

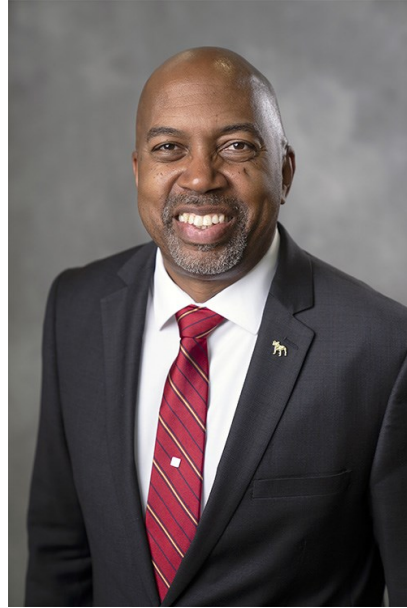
Mayor of Big Rapids



A Letter from the President

Friends!

Welcome to the Festival 2024! I am excited about this year's event, and for several reasons. First, this is my second FOTA as President of Ferris State, and while I am not an "old pro" at this yet, I have already developed a strong appreciation for the festival and the many people who work hard to build a wonderful event for our community to enjoy. I thank those who have worked on planning the month's activities as well as all of the artists who will grace us with their talents. I am a firm believer in the statement that "it takes a village to raise a child," and that holds true in efforts like the FOTA. It truly takes a team, and I appreciate each of you who are a part of that team!



Second, I love the relationship between the Festival and the university! I wouldn't want it any other way. There is a strong importance in the partnership we have with the Festival. It not only gives our campus community an opportunity to be participants, but it shows off the relationship between a university and a community, which brings me to my third and final reason...COMMUNITY!

One of my favorite quotes from our founder Woodbridge Ferris was his meaningful expression that we "correlate all the work of your school to the work of the community in which you live." I love that idea! I am focused on how Ferris State exists not only IN the community, but as a PART of the community. There is a big difference. I firmly believe that this community can be a shining example of how a university in a rural community can be a partner, collaborator, resource, and friend to the community in which it exists. My predecessors started this focus, and I am determined to build upon it! If "a threefold cord is not quickly broken," imagine what we can All do...together in community!

So, on behalf of the great faculty, staff, and students of our university, I extend a Bulldog welcome to you! I hope you will enjoy the incredible things that await you, and while you explore, make sure you take time to truly enjoy the experiences. Take the time, and I'm sure you will benefit from the experience!

Go Dawgs!

Bill Pink

President, Ferris State University

Chronological Calendar



2024 Festival of the Arts Month-long Exhibits

- 2024 Public Art: Train Sculpture _____ p. 12
- Artworks: Telling Our Stories: The Old Settlers ___ p. 13
- FSU Fine Art Gallery: Much Ado About Barbie ___ p. 14

2024 Festival of the Arts Events

- Friday 2** Vintage 78 Record Listening Session _____ p. 15
- FOTA Opening Concert with Rollie Tussing Trio __ p. 16
- Saturday 3** Artworks Artist Demonstrations _____ p. 17
- Quilts of Valor National Sew Day _____ p. 18
- Evangeline _____ p. 19
- Sunday 4** An Afternoon of Jazz Piano and Percussion _____ p. 20
- Tuesday 6** Harmonicas in Class _____ p. 22
- Knitting Workshops _____ p. 23
- Creativebug Art & Craft Workshop _____ p. 21
- Heart-Healthy Diet _____ p. 24
- A Grand Western Adventure _____ p. 25
- Wednesday 7** MoSO Writing Workshop _____ p. 26
- Solo and Ensemble Performances _____ p. 27
- Thursday 8** An Afternoon with Angela Lansbury _____ p. 28
- Rozeck's "Believe It Or Not" _____ p. 29
- Author In Progress: From Idea to Finished Work __ p. 30
- Friday 9** Game On! — Lego[®] in the Library _____ p. 31
- Flamenco Guitar Workshop _____ p. 32
- An Evening of Classical Brass _____ p. 33
- BRHS One Acts _____ p. 10
- Saturday 10** Wildlife Drawing Workshop _____ p. 34
- An Evening of Scenes and Songs _____ p. 35
- BRHS One Acts _____ p. 10
- Sunday 11** Artworks Salon Series: Part 1 _____ p. 38
- MSU Jazz Octets with Jazzmeia Horn _____ p. 39
- Monday 12** Schindler's List - Movie and Panel Discussion ____ p. 40
- Evening with an Author: Tirzah Price _____ p. 41



Chronological Calendar

Tuesday 13	Harmonicas in Class _____	p. 22
	Knitting Workshops _____	p. 23
	Creativebug Art & Craft Workshop _____	p. 21
	Grand Rapids Symphony Concert _____	p. 42
	BRHS Band Concert _____	p. 11
Wednesday 14	Great Lakes HummerNet Project _____	p. 43
	Open Mic Writers' Night _____	p. 44
	BRMS Band Concert _____	p. 11
Thursday 15	Novel Tea _____	p. 45
	FSU Fine Art Gallery Exhibit Opening _____	p. 14
	BRHS Choir Concert _____	p. 11
	FSU Winter Jazz Concert _____	p. 46
Friday 16	Game On! — Lego [®] in the Library _____	p. 31
	Easy as Pie: A Baking Workshop _____	p. 47
	Romance is Just Around the Corner _____	p. 48
Saturday 17	“Strings and Things” Workshop _____	p. 49
	Mountain Music Ambassadors Concert _____	p. 50
Sunday 18	Matt Thomas Concert _____	p. 51
Monday 19	Barbie _____	p. 52
	Art In Your Pocket: A Coin Collecting Workshop _____	p. 53
Tuesday 20	Harmonicas in Class _____	p. 22
	Knitting Workshops _____	p. 23
	Creativebug Art & Craft Workshop _____	p. 21
	What Makes the Beatles So Fab? _____	p. 54
Wednesday 21	Floral Arranging Workshop _____	p. 55
	Night at the Museum: Art Institute of Chicago _____	p. 56
	FSU Esports Demo and CVL Tour _____	p. 57
Thursday 22	The Art of Cake Design _____	p. 58
	Taking Smarter Photos with your Smartphone _____	p. 59
	MEBA Student Performance Showcase _____	p. 60
Friday 23	Game On! — Lego [®] in the Library _____	p. 31
	MSU Salsa Verde Concert _____	p. 61
Saturday 24	Wee Wonders Art Workshop _____	p. 62
	Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience _____	p. 63
Sunday 25	FSU Band, Orchestra, and Choir Concert _____	p. 64

Events by Genre



Architectural Arts

Game On! — Lego[®] in the Library _____ p. 31

Cinematic Arts

An Afternoon with Angela Lansbury _____ p. 28

Schindler's List - Movie and Panel Discussion _____ p. 40

Barbie _____ p. 52

Culinary Arts

Heart-Healthy Diet _____ p. 24

Easy as Pie: A Baking Workshop _____ p. 47

The Art of Cake Design _____ p. 58

Cultural Arts and Humanities

Artworks: Telling Our Stories: The Old Settlers _____ p. 13

FSU Fine Art Gallery: Much Ado About Barbie _____ p. 14

Vintage 78 Record Listening Session _____ p. 15

Quilts of Valor National Sew Day _____ p. 18

A Grand Western Adventure _____ p. 25

MoSO Writing Workshop _____ p. 26

Rozek's "Believe It Or Not" _____ p. 29

Artworks Salon Series: Part 1 _____ p. 38

Schindler's List - Movie and Panel Discussion _____ p. 40

Mountain Music Ambassadors Concert _____ p. 50

Art In Your Pocket: A Coin Collecting Workshop _____ p. 53

What Makes the Beatles So Fab? _____ p. 54

Night at the Museum: Art Institute of Chicago _____ p. 56

FSU Esports Demo and CVL Tour _____ p. 57

Floral and Horticultural Arts

Floral Arranging Workshop _____ p. 55

Literary Arts

MoSO Writing Workshop _____ p. 26

Author In Progress: From Idea to Finished Work _____ p. 30

Evening with an Author: Tirzah Price _____ p. 41

Open Mic Writers' Night _____ p. 44

Novel Tea _____ p. 45

Musical Arts

Vintage 78 Record Listening Session _____ p. 15

FOTA Opening Concert with Rollie Tussing Trio _____ p. 16

Evangeline _____ p. 19

An Afternoon of Jazz Piano and Percussion _____ p. 20

Harmonicas in Class _____ p. 22

Solo and Ensemble Performances _____ p. 27

Flamenco Guitar Workshop _____ p. 32

An Evening of Classical Brass _____ p. 33

Artworks Salon Series: Part 1 _____ p. 38

MSU Jazz Octets with Jazzmeia Horn _____ p. 39

Grand Rapids Symphony Concert _____ p. 42

BRHS Band Concert _____ p. 11

BRMS Band Concert _____ p. 11

BRHS Choir Concert _____ p. 11

FSU Winter Jazz Concert _____ p. 46



Events by Genre

Musical Arts cont.

Romance is Just Around the Corner _____	p. 48
Strings and Things Workshop _____	p. 49
Mountain Music Ambassadors Concert _____	p. 50
Matt Thomas Concert _____	p. 51
What Makes the Beatles So Fab? _____	p. 54
MEBA Student Performance Showcase _____	p. 60
MSU Salsa Verde Concert _____	p. 61
Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience _____	p. 63
FSU Band, Orchestra, and Choir Concert _____	p. 64

Natural Arts

Artworks Artist Demonstrations _____	p. 17
Wildlife Drawing Workshop _____	p. 34
Great Lakes HummerNet Project _____	p. 43

Photographic Arts

A Grand Western Adventure _____	p. 25
Taking Smarter Photos with your Smartphone _____	p. 59

Sculptural Arts

2024 Public Art: Train Sculpture _____	p. 12
Artworks Artist Demonstrations _____	p. 17

Textile Arts

Artworks Artist Demonstrations _____	p. 17
Quilts of Valor National Sew Day _____	p. 18
Knitting Workshops _____	p. 23

Theatrical Arts

Evangeline _____	p. 19
BRHS One Acts _____	p. 10
An Evening of Scenes and Songs _____	p. 35

Visual Arts

Artworks: Telling Our Stories: The Old Settlers _____	p. 13
FSU Fine Art Gallery: Much Ado About Barbie _____	p. 14
Artworks Artist Demonstrations _____	p. 17
Creative Bug _____	p. 21
Wildlife Drawing Workshop _____	p. 34
Night at the Museum: Art Institute of Chicago _____	p. 56
Wee Wonders: Marvelous Mixing _____	p. 62

Workshops

Creativebug Art & Craft Workshop _____	p. 21
MoSO Writing Workshop _____	p. 26
Flamenco Guitar Workshop _____	p. 32
Wildlife Drawing Workshop _____	p. 34
Easy as Pie: A Baking Workshop _____	p. 47
"Strings and Things" Workshop _____	p. 49
Art In Your Pocket: A Coin Collecting Workshop _____	p. 53
Floral Arranging Workshop _____	p. 55
Taking Smarter Photos with your Smartphone _____	p. 59
Wee Wonders Art Workshop _____	p. 62

Festival Venues – Big Rapids





Festival Venues – FSU



Big Rapids Venues (p. 8)

- A** Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue
- B** Big Rapids City Hall
226 N. Michigan Avenue
- C** Big Rapids Community Library
426 S. Michigan Avenue
- D** Big Rapids High School
21175 15 Mile Road
- E** Cranker’s Restaurant & Brewery
213 S. State Street
- F** Depot Trail Head Park
908 E. Maple Street
- G** Fatty C’s Dog House
121 N. Michigan Avenue
- H** Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue
- I** MOISD Career Center
15830 190th Avenue
- J** Patterson’s Flowers
216 Maple Street
- K** Quinn’s Music
210 S. Michigan Avenue

- L** St. Peter’s Lutheran Church & School
408 W. Bellevue Street
- M** Three Girls Deli & Bakery
106 N. Michigan Avenue
- N** Toppings
321 N. Michigan Avenue
- O** United Church
120 S. State Street

Ferris State University Venues (p. 9)

- 1** Card/Riley Wildlife Education Center
820 Campus Drive
- 2** Center for Virtual Learning (CVL)
1201 S. State Street
- 3** David L. Eisler Center, Fine Art Gallery
805 Campus Drive
- 4** Starr Building
830 Campus Drive
- 5** West Commons
1319 Cramer Circle
- 6** Williams Auditorium
901 S. State Street

Big Rapids Public Schools Events

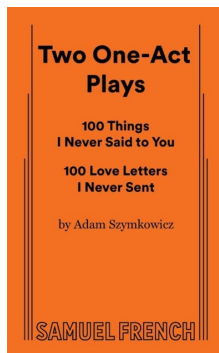


Big Rapids Public Schools have a long-standing tradition of excellence in the fine arts. Award-winning programs in instrumental and vocal music, theatrical arts, visual arts, and industrial arts have set Big Rapids Public Schools apart as one of the premiere school districts in the state of Michigan for arts in education. We encourage you to take an evening or two — or three or four — to come and experience these talented middle and high school students and see what the excitement is all about!

One Act Plays Presented by BRHS Drama

Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10 at 7:00 pm

Big Rapids High School Auditorium
21175 15 Mile Road



Under the direction of Lori Hathaway, Big Rapids High School drama students present two one-act plays by Adam Szymkowitz, titled "100 Things I Never Said to You" and "100 Love Letters I Never Sent." The Theatrical Arts department at Big Rapids High School has long been regarded as one of the premiere programs in the state of Michigan. Come and watch these talented students as they take on a variety of roles.

Tickets \$5 Adults/\$3 Students - available at the door





Big Rapids Public Schools Events



Band Concert Presented by BRHS Bands

Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm

Big Rapids High School Auditorium
21175 15 Mile Road

The BRHS Concert Band and Wind Symphony, both under the direction of Brian Balch, are pleased to present a concert in preparation for their District Band Festival performance. Mr. Balch is in his 15th year as director of bands at BRHS. The band program has a long history of awards and recognition at the state level, including over 40 consecutive years of Division 1 ratings at district and state MSBOA Festivals.

Band Concert Presented by BRMS Bands

Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm

Big Rapids High School Auditorium
21175 15 Mile Road

Under the direction of 2023 Teacher of the Year Albie Todd, the Big Rapids Middle School seventh and eighth-grade bands will perform a concert in preparation for their upcoming Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association District 1 Band Festival appearance.

Choir Concert Presented by BRHS Choirs

Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 pm

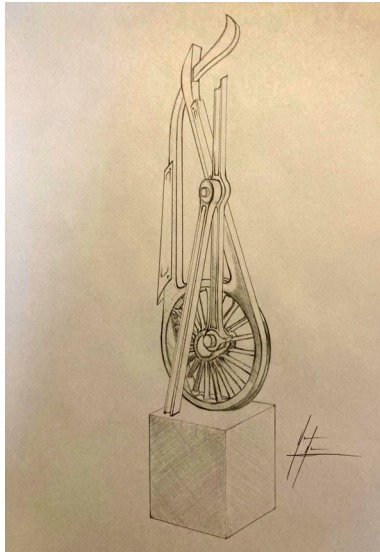
Big Rapids High School Auditorium
21175 15 Mile Road

Director Amy Schroeder and the award-winning Big Rapids High School Choirs present their annual winter concert, showcasing the vocal talents of BRHS students.

2024 Public Art: Train Sculpture

Created by Artist Ivan Iler

Depot Trail Head Park
908 E. Maple Street



Festival of the Arts has a tradition of adding a new piece of public art to the Big Rapids community each year. For our 2024 piece, artist Ivan Iler was commissioned to create a work that will be located at the new Depot Trail Head Park at the old railroad depot on E. Maple Street. Park completion and art installation is hoped to be complete by August 2024.

"When I was first approached with the idea of adding a sculpture to this location, I immediately started researching the history of the town, and I went out to see the area this sculpture would be located at. I spent some time thinking about how I could pay homage to this town's rich history and give a nod to the beautiful historical railroad station.

"I knew I wanted to create something more unique than a run-of-the-mill train sculpture, so I got my gears turning and thought 'wouldn't it be wonderful to use an actual train wheel as the centerpiece of this sculpture?' From there, the rest fell in to place.

"One of the things that's beautiful about a train is that everything is exposed and you can see the workings of it from the exterior, so that's what I really wanted to emulate - the beauty of the mechanical structure of a train. I created a slightly abstract design that included smooth lines that curved and crossed in ways that imitated the beauty and functionality of the train wheel without overpowering it.

"I love this town and am honored to have already had one sculpture of mine placed here, so I am really looking forward to bringing a slightly different style with the same amount of thought and care put into it for this next piece."

— Ivan Iler, Artist

This project is supported in part by a mini-grant from LowellArts
a re-granter of the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts





Artworks Festival Art Exhibit

Telling Our Stories: The Old Settlers 2024 Artworks Festival Exhibit

Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Opening Reception on Thursday, February 1 at 5:00 pm

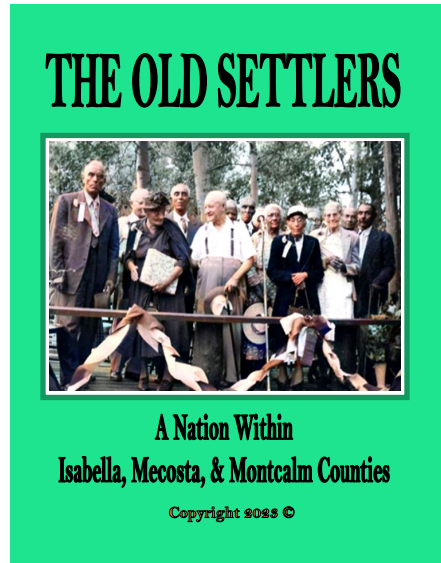
Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue

The exhibits at Artworks in 2024 all involve storytelling in one way or another. This exhibit, which runs through the month of February, tells the stories of the Old Settlers.

The Old Settlers were the African American pioneer settlers who arrived in Michigan beginning in 1860 prior to the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery in the U.S. Settlers came to Michigan because of the Homestead Act (1862), allowing each settler 160 acres of land. James Guy was the first Black settler in Mecosta County, and his deed was signed by Abraham Lincoln. He obtained 160 acres in Wheatland Township on May 30, 1861. By 1873, African Americans owned 1,392 acres in the three counties of Isabella, Mecosta, and Montcalm. In the 1860s, most of the land in Remus and Millbrook was owned by the Old Settlers.

The Old Settlers Reunion Website, which evolved from a printed history book from 1988, is an initiative for a more inclusive telling of history, a history in which African American participation is included and valued. The story of the Old Settlers is an important one that many are unaware of and one that some people continue to dispute. This exhibit is an opportunity to take information and artifacts from the Old Settlers Reunion Website and make them tangible and accessible to our community.

Artworks thanks the Ferris Faculty Association for support of this exhibit.



SUPPORTING
the ARTS

Much Ado About Barbie

Presented by FSU Fine Art Gallery and the Museum of Sexist Objects

Opening Reception on Thursday, February 15 at 5:00 pm

Ferris State University Fine Art Gallery
David L. Eisler Center, 805 Campus Drive



Barbie

Barbie's cultural significance is a complex reflection of the ever-changing values and attitudes of our society. She has influenced culture and sparked discussion on gender, body image, consumerism, and feminism. Her status as a pop culture icon has grown to unimaginable measure following the release of the major motion picture *Barbie* (2023) starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. The film is the highest earning film in Warner Brothers' 100-year history and the highest grossing film ever directed by a female filmmaker (Greta Gerwig).

Much Ado About Barbie aims to celebrate the impact of the recent film and to explore the evolution of Barbie since her introduction by Mattel in 1959. Barbie represents both progress and controversy as her character has evolved over time to address the criticisms and changing societal norms of Western culture while remaining a symbol of imagination and aspiration for generations.



FINE ART GALLERY



Friday, February 2

Vintage 78 Record Listening Session

Presented by Rollie Tussing

Friday, February 2 at 12:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



Embark on an auditory adventure as vintage 78 rpm records from the early 20th century come to life, each spinning a tale of musical eccentricity and cultural diversity. With a passion for the obscure and the extraordinary, musician and record collector Rollie Tussing conjures the mystique of bygone eras, where forgotten melodies, wild animal calls, and enigmatic instruments intertwine in compositions that defy convention. These sonic relics not only entertain but also illuminate the historical significance of the past, taking you on an immersive voyage through time and culture. Join us for an unparalleled event where the past resonates with the present, and musical boundaries blur to reveal the extraordinary beauty of a world long lost.

SUPPORTING THE
ARTS
IN OUR COMMUNITY



130 SOUTH THIRD AVE
BIG RAPIDS, Michigan 49307
(231) 796-3595



Friday, February 2



FOTA 2024 Opening Concert
Presented by The Rollie Tussing Trio

Friday, February 2 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



The 2024 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts opens with an evening of classic and country blues, featuring the Rollie Tussing Trio. Following opening remarks by Ferris State University President Bill Pink, Rollie and his trio will take the stage for an unforgettable evening of music. After the concert, be sure to stay for refreshments and an opportunity

to meet the musicians, FOTA board members, and fellow arts enthusiasts!

“Award winning finger-style guitarist Rollie Tussing performs timeless classic and country blues, dewey-eyed tunes of the 20s, as well as godforsaken songs of the nineteenth century. His own compositions are influenced by those same lonesome, haunted and abandoned melodies that we all forgot to remember.” Based in Michigan, Rollie’s trio features Ross Huff on trumpet and Serge Van der Voo on bass.

The concert will feature some of Rollie’s original songs and instrumentals, as well as some classic and unknown oldies from the early days of recording — songs that cover everything from old time, hillbilly, and vaudeville, putting his own modern interpretation on them but, importantly, never losing sight of where the songs came from, ensuring they are still recognizable.

While Tussing’s guitar playing is extraordinary, he also possesses vocal chords that have warmth and a clarity that lends itself to the songs, old and new, allowing the borders to blend to such a degree that the uninitiated would not know the old from the new. There is a subtlety and originality to the playing of Van der Voo and Huff that blends perfectly with Tussing's guitar and vocals, giving the sparse instrumentation a depth that highlights the strength of each and every song, while imbuing them with their own style and original take.



**SUPPORTING THE
ARTS
IN OUR COMMUNITY**



Saturday, February 3

Artist Demonstrations

Presented by Artworks

Saturday, February 3 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



Throughout the year, Artworks provides workshops for community members, both children and adults, in various media. Standing workshops include pottery, mosaic, dance, basket weaving, jewelry making, wood carving, photography, painting, and more. An array of local artists who often teach these workshops will demonstrate their artistic abilities at this event. They will be creating pieces on site, and will be available to answer questions and offer insight to their artistic processes. Enjoy this opportunity to watch, discuss and experience artists demonstrating their works in progress.



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Saturday, February 3



Quilts of Valor National Sew Day
Presented by the Old Jail Quilters

Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue



The Old Jail Quilters will be taking part in Quilts of Valor National Sew Day on Saturday the 3rd, quilting to honor and comfort those touched by war. Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq. From the beginning, she had definite ideas about standards of excellence for Quilts of Valor:

I knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a "charity quilt." Quilts of Valor would be the civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart award. A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine quilting. Quilts of Valor would be "awarded," not just passed out like magazines or videos. A Quilt of Valor would say unequivocally, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation in combat."

Anyone wishing to participate is welcome. Quilting will take place all day at the Old Jail. Join in the quilting or just stop by and watch the quilters make their magic. The quilts that are produced will be presented to local veterans, with one such presentation taking place at 2:00pm as part of the Sew Day activities.



Supporting the Arts
Supporting our Veterans
Supporting our Community



Saturday, February 3

Evangeline

Presented by Comic Opera Guild

Saturday, February 3 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue

Join the Comic Opera Guild, based out of Ann Arbor, in a semi-staged revival production of *Evangeline*, the first American-written hit musical from 1874. Written by J. Cheever Goodwin and Edward E. Rice, *Evangeline* is a comedy loosely based on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1847 epic of the same name.

Evangeline follows the story of the title character and her wide-ranging adventures in search of her beloved Gabriel, to whom she was betrothed. After being arrested and sent to France by the British Army, the ship carrying Evangeline and her companions is blown off course to Africa. Chaos ensues, including run-ins with the African King Boorioboola Gha, a whale-like monster, Native Americans in the Arizona desert, and incessant pursuit by an inheritance-hungry notary.



Founded in 1973, the Comic Opera Guild has been acquainting Michigan audiences with a unique repertory of comic operas and operettas. Spanning over 200 years, these shows teem with wit, mirth, and beautiful music. They are endowed with new English translations. These works shed their distance from American audiences, providing them with new experiences in musical theater.



15320 Waldron Way
Big Rapids
(231) 527-7333



Sunday, February 4



An Afternoon of Jazz Piano and Percussion

Presented by Cliff Monear and Miguel Gutierrez

Sunday, February 4 at 4:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



Cliff Monear is a consummate professional jazz pianist. His performance resumé includes venues worldwide, and collaborations with a variety of international artists. He is a faculty member at Wayne State University and is the leading sales consultant for the Steinway & Sons, Michigan and northern Ohio region.

Miguel Gutierrez is a wonderfully dynamic percussionist and teacher whose “magic touch” and ability to move with ease into different performance styles can mesmerize the listener. His extensive rhythmic training, musical sensitivity, and immense love for his art form is displayed through each unique specimen in his vast collection of percussion instruments.

Together, these musicians will take familiar jazz, Latin, and classical themes, and make them as unique as the day on which they will be performed — always offering a wonderfully intricate and improvised musical experience.

<p><i>Auto-Owners</i> INSURANCE LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS</p>	<p>Supporting the</p>
 <p>Schuberg INSURANCE AGENCY</p> <p>TYLER SCHUBERG, CIC 231-796-5881 SchubergAgency.com</p> 	<p>Arts</p> <p>In Our Community</p>



Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

Creativebug Art & Craft Workshop

Presented by Big Rapids Community Library

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Big Rapids Community Library
426 S. Michigan Avenue

Big Rapids Community Library has partnered with Creativebug to bring art & craft workshops to the Big Rapids area. Workshops happen throughout the year on the second Tuesday of each month, but for the Festival of the Arts, BRCL is offering these workshops on all four Tuesday afternoons in February!



FOTA workshops are:

February 6: Shibori-Inspired Paper Snowflakes

February 13: Little Artists

February 20: Inky Monoprints

February 27: Orizomegami

More specifics about each program will be on the BRCL website, www.bigrapidslibrary.org

These workshops are open to participants of all ages, but please note that children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

There is NO fee for these workshops.

Pre-registration is required:

- In-person at Big Rapids Community Library, 426 S. Michigan Ave.
- By telephone at (231) 796-5234
- Online at www.bigrapidslibrary.org under the programming tab

Big Rapids Community Library



www.brfota.org

p. 21

Tuesdays, February 6, 13 and 20



Harmonicas in Class

Presented by Artworks

Tuesdays, February 6, 13 and 20 at 9:00 am

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



Harmonicas In Class are a local group who play harmonica, hammered dulcimer, banjo, guitar and melodica — and occasionally they break out in song as well!

Come see them at their weekly Tuesday rehearsals. You can participate with your instrument (they are happy to share their music — called “harp tabs” — for the songs) or just enjoy the entertainment. Rehearsals are one-hour long beginning at 9:00am in the lower level of the Artworks building.



Miedema’s Bookkeeping & Tax Services, Inc.

1410 Bjornson Street, Big Rapids (231) 796-7730

Serving our community since 1976



Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

Knitting Workshops

Presented by Knitters Anonymous

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 2:00 pm

United Church of Big Rapids, Parlor
120 S. State Street



Knitters Anonymous seeks to provide fellowship and support for the art of hand knitting – crocheters and other needle artists are welcome to attend. Please bring your own materials, i.e., yarn and needles.

Participants are asked to bring a donation for Project Starburst for each session – non-perishable food items or handmade hats, mittens, or scarves for the pantry. There will be door prizes. If the weekly topic doesn't interest you, come anyway and knit or crochet with us. This year we will feature a swap/giveaway table at each session.

February 6 – It's the Dishrag!!! It's one of the quickest and easiest things to knit, yet there are so many fun patterns and stitches to use, both in knit and crochet. We'll chat about and share some of those patterns and stitches.

February 13 – Embellishing Your Knitting, Part One This session will feature guidance in making pom-poms, tassels, and basic beading, for when the knitting and crocheting itself is just not enough.

February 20 – Embellishing Your Knitting, Part Two If the items in the week above are not your jam, there is embroidery and the wonderful (and useful) duplicate stitch. Guidance and practice will be available.

February 27 – How to Save Your Knitting (and Your Sanity) Among the items to be discussed are dropped stitches, joining yarns, lifelines in lace, and reading charts.

**The
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Agency**

Supporting the Arts



Tuesday, February 6



Heart-Healthy Diet
Presented by Corewell Health Big Rapids

Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 pm

West Commons, Room WCO 108
1319 Cramer Circle, Ferris State University
Parking Lot 9-E



Join Corewell Health in partnership with Ferris State University's Hospitality Program to learn how to use food and exercise as tools in achieving optimal health. Participation in this program will offer hands-on learning and feature delicious and flavorful heart-healthy recipes. You will learn essential cooking skills and

nutritional concepts to help you prepare and enjoy health-promoting foods in your own home. Join Ferris State University's Kathryn Wolfer, Associate Professor and Corewell Health's Dietitian Bailey Gager and Health Coach Travis Stenger to:

- Discover the health benefits of a heart-healthy diet
- Learn how exercise impacts your overall health
- Learn and practice hands-on cooking skills
- Prepare and sample recipes

There is NO fee for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required:

- Call 231-592-4204
- www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/FOTA2024
- Scan QR code

SCAN TO REGISTER!!



Supporting the
Arts
in our Community



Tuesday, February 6

A Grand Western Adventure

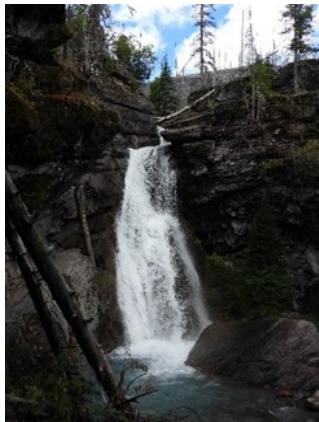
Presented by Amy Buse

Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm

Big Rapids City Hall
226 N. Michigan Avenue



Amy Buse, a recently retired Ferris Professor, has enjoyed taking advantage of her new-found extra time and freedom by traveling extensively in her twenty-five-foot RV. Her latest adventure, this past July through October, was a trip across the great plains and through the northern Rocky Mountains, traveling from Michigan to Montana and Utah and back — 72 days and 8,777 miles! In her presentation, Amy will share photographs of many national parks, national monuments, and historic sites, with lots of beautiful scenery and many animals — and a troll! Join Amy for this one-hour recounting of her Grand Western Adventure!



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the
Arts*

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Wednesday, February 7



Much Ado About Barbie – Writing Workshop

Contemplating the Role of Games, Toys, and Books
on How We Think and How Society Reacts

Presented by FSU Museum of Sexist Objects

Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm

FSU Starr 314
830 Campus Drive



The Ferris Museum of Sexist Objects was created in 2014 to raise awareness and inspire activism in response to everyday items that promote sexism, gendered violence, and female stereotypes. This session will begin with a short discussion of how dolls, games, toys, and books influence our lives. Is Barbie a model for empowerment and success, or an unhealthy beauty icon? Can she be both? How do the objects of our childhood influence the people we have become today?

Join members of the MoSO team as we examine Barbie's place in our society and discuss the MoSO's ongoing storytelling community. Following discussion, participants will be able to browse the museum space and write their own stories about the toys and games that influenced their lives.

Note: Due to the nature of the museum, this session is best suited for 18+.





Wednesday, February 7

Solo and Ensemble Performances
Presented by Big Rapids High School Students

Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



Each year the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) and the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) present their annual Solo & Ensemble Festivals, an opportunity for individual students from member schools to perform a selection of their choice for adjudication. District-level festivals are held in late-January through mid-February. Each student or group of students is evaluated by a judge and rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest rating possible. Students and groups that earn a rating of 1 are qualified for State Solo & Ensemble Festivals, which are held in March. The basic structure of State Solo & Ensemble Festival is essentially the same as District, but the students are held to a higher standard.

Come and enjoy a variety of solo and ensemble performances by Big Rapids High School instrumental and vocal music students who are preparing for this year's festivals. What a wonderful opportunity to hear talented young musicians in solo and small ensemble settings, and encourage them in their musical endeavors!

Jerena Keys

Helping the arts
grow and flourish
in our community



Thursday, February 8



An Afternoon with Angela Lansbury

Presented by Barbara Pillsbury

Thursday, February 8 at 1:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue

While Angela Lansbury (1925-2022) may be best known for her starring role as amateur sleuth Jessica Fletcher in television's *Murder She Wrote* (1984-1996), or perhaps the voice of Mrs. Potts in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), her stellar career spanned more than nine decades of work on the stage, television, and silver screen, where she was part of the 'golden age of film.'

Lansbury worked alongside such notables as Ingrid Bergman, Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Judy Garland, Glenn Ford, Frank Sinatra, Liz Taylor, Rock Hudson, Tony Curtis, Bette Davis, Gene Kelly, Elvis Presley, and many others. With more than 50 film credits, 20 stage characters, and dozens of television roles in her career, she was nominated for three Oscars and received an Honorary Oscar for her work in film, and six Tony awards for starring stage roles in *Mame*, *Sweeney Todd*, and a revival of *Gypsy*, among others.

Join film historian Barbara Pillsbury as she discusses Lansbury's life and career, highlighted with some iconic film clips from the actress's oeuvre.



Amy Buse

Supporting
the





Thursday, February 8

Rozek's "Believe It Or Not"

Presented by Deborah Kaye

Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue

"Astrology is a fascinating Art and Science I have studied and practiced since I was 18. Construction of an astrological chart is a science, akin to astronomy. The interpretation of that chart is definitely an art. We have our own symbolic language, extensive specialized references and voluminous literature, like many other fields of study.



"On January 6, 1992, I did a live TV broadcast out of Delta College in Saginaw. The hostess requested predictions, something I seldom do. I deal with energies and possibilities. I feel things, but I don't claim to know the future. Even so, I stated that I felt very bad energy around New York City, like a 'nuclear explosion' or 'chemical warfare' with 'pandemonium in the streets.' She asked me which borough, and I responded 'Manhattan.' It's a good thing I got that on tape, or people might not even believe it!

"We'll watch a DVD of that 30-minute show this evening, with Q and A to follow. Time permitting, we will do optional personal readings. If interested, please bring your date, time (if known), and place of birth. This should be fun!"



Big Rapids
Downtown Development Authority

**Proud Supporter of
the Arts
in Big Rapids**

Thursday, February 8



Author in Progress: From Idea to Finished Work
Presented by Molly Harper

Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 pm

Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue



J photography, Grand Rapids

A visit to the library, perusing the aisles at a bookstore, browsing the virtual bookshelves at Amazon — a seemingly limitless number of books, by an equally incredible number of authors. Action, horror, adventure, romance, legal thrillers, science fiction, fantasy, historical fiction — the list goes on and on. But what all happens between an idea percolating in the mind of an author to the appearance on library and store shelves?

Molly Harper is the author of more than forty paranormal and contemporary romance titles, including the *Half-Moon Hollow* series, the

Southern Eclectic series, the *Mystic Bayou* series, and the Audible exclusive *Starfall Point* series. Whether you are an aspiring author, avid reader, student or teacher of literature, or just plain curious — join Molly for this discussion of the writer’s process, including both creative and practical aspects, and all of the various routines working authors go through to get their books to market.

To learn more about Molly Harper and her books, visit her website at www.mollyharper.com, or follow her social media pages on Instagram and Twitter @mollyharperauth.

marshall and melanie henry



supporting the arts in our community



Fridays, February 9, 16 and 23

Game On! — Lego® in the Library
Presented by Big Rapids Community Library

Fridays, February 9, 16 and 23 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm

Big Rapids Community Library, Community Room
426 S. Michigan Avenue



Come and visit the Big Rapids Community Library on Friday afternoons during the 2024 Festival of the Arts and build some amazing things with Lego® and Magneto® components! Take advantage of true-to-life color and scale model kits of some of the world's architectural masterpieces, or create free-form structures and projects with pieces of various shapes and sizes. Larger Duplo® blocks will also be available for younger engineers.



**Big Rapids
Community
Library**



Friday, February 9



Flamenco Guitar Workshop

Presented by George Arndt

Friday, February 9 at 5:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



Enhance your guitar-playing skills with this informative and informal workshop. Bring your favorite piece of music, guitar, capo, music stand, optional footrest, and an open mind to Artworks and explore the unique and colorful musical worlds and techniques of Flamenco and classical guitar. Topics covered will include tuning, notation, rhythmic and melodic independence, and specialist Flamenco techniques. Expect to round out your repertoire by learning pieces in both Flamenco and classical styles. The workshop will be presented by George Arndt, a local Big Rapids resident with a

passion for exploring new music, instruments, and techniques.

All ages are welcome – children must be accompanied by an adult.

There is NO fee for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required:

- In-person at Artworks, 106 N. Michigan Avenue
- By telephone at (231) 796-2420



BIG RAPIDS
DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE ARTS
IN BIG RAPIDS**



Friday, February 9

An Evening of Classical Brass

Presented by Morgan Hare

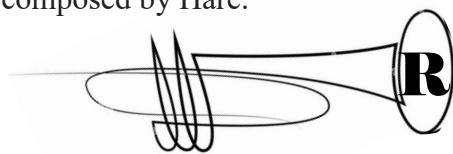
Friday, February 9 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue

West Michigan-based classical and jazz trumpet player Morgan Hare is in the final year of her bachelor's degree in music performance at Grand Valley State University. Previously, she also studied at McGill University, and maintained an active performance schedule in wind ensembles, orchestras, jazz combos, and chamber ensembles at both institutions.

Outside of universities, she has also performed with the Orchestre Philharmonique des Musiciens en Montreal, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Holland Symphony Orchestra, and Traverse City Symphony Orchestra and has appeared as featured soloist with the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra (2015), Grand Rapids Symphonic Band (2016), and Grand Valley Symphonic Band (2021), in addition to countless solo recitals. Morgan is internationally recognized, and was most recently awarded second place in the International Trumpet Guild Orchestral Excerpts Competition in Minneapolis, MN (2023). Morgan has dedicated herself to maintaining a diverse performance portfolio, and aspires to use this variety to bring live brass performance to new venues and audiences.

Morgan, along with the [REDACTED] Brass Quintet, will present a program that explores the relationship between music and narrative, including favorites such as *La Virgen de Macarena* and *Nessun Dorma*, large-scale concert works by Eugene Bozza and Oskar Bohme, and a multi-media presentation of horror classic "House on a Haunted Hill" (1959) with brand-new music composed by Hare.



Robert Large

Celebrating the Arts

Saturday, February 10



Wildlife Drawing Workshop

Presented by Rod Lawrence

Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 am

FSU Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Education Center
820 Campus Drive



Rod Lawrence graduated with a fine arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1973, and has been working full-time as a professional artist ever since. His credits include being named the Michigan Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year in 1979 and the Michigan United Conservation Club's Michigan Wildlife Artist of the Year in 1981. He is a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists.

The Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Education Center is the perfect environment for artists who would like to try their hand drawing wild animals. With over 200 wildlife specimens from around the world, this natural history museum is a virtual treasure trove for artists from beginners to seasoned professionals. The opportunity to be mere inches from actual animal specimens allows for the possibility of extreme accuracy in rendering, and the exceptional taxidermy on display shows many of these animals in remarkably life-like displays.

This three-hour wildlife drawing workshop is open to artists of all experience and age levels. Bring a pad of drawing paper and your favorite pencils.

There is NO fee for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required:

- In-person at Artworks, 106 N. Michigan Avenue
- By telephone at (231) 796-2420

FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

CARD/RILEY CONSERVATION
AND WILDLIFE
EDUCATION CENTER

Bringing the
ARTS
to Life





Saturday, February 10

An Evening of Scenes and Songs
Presented by FSU Theatre Department

Saturday, February 10 at 7:00 pm

The Back Room at Toppings
321 N. Michigan Avenue



Theatre at Ferris State University, under the direction of Professor Dennis Henry, is a program designed to explore students' artistic abilities

through performance and/or technical theatre. Ferris Theatre stages two full productions a year. Students are encouraged to continue their love of the arts by participating in theatre, opening the door to their creativity to fine tune their natural abilities in acting and technical theatre — and along the road, possibly discovering something new about themselves!

Working in theatre gives students hands-on learning as well as collaborative experiences that are useful in any profession — all while meeting new friends and developing teamwork and leadership skills. In addition to having a sense of involvement in the college experience, hours that are spent working in theatre count towards volunteer hours for the Honors College and campus RSOs for many students.

Come and learn more about Theatre at Ferris and the remarkable students in the program at this “Evening of Scenes and Songs!”



SUPPORTING
THE ARTS
IN BIG RAPIDS



2024 Festival of the Arts Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For more information about the Festival or for up-to-date cancellation information visit www.brfota.org brfota on Facebook Email RoxanneCullen@fsu.edu or call Roxanne Cullen at (231) 598-1580</p>				1 Artworks Reception (p. 13)	2 78 Listening Session (p. 15) Tussing Trio Concert (p. 16)	3 Artist Demonstrations (p. 17) Quilts of Valor (p. 18) Evangeline (p. 19)
4 Jazz Piano & Percussion (p. 20)	5	6 Harmonicas in Class (p. 22) Knitting Workshops (p. 23) Creativebug (p. 21) Heart-Healthy Diet (p. 24) Western Adventure (p. 25)	7 MoSO Workshop (p. 26) Solo & Ensemble (p. 27)	8 Angela Lansbury (p. 28) Believe It Or Not (p. 29) Author in Progress (p. 30)	9 Game On! (p. 31) Flamenco Guitar (p. 32) Classical Brass (p. 33) BRHS Drama (p. 10)	10 Wildlife Drawing (p. 34) Scenes and Songs (p. 35) BRHS Drama (p. 10)
11 Artworks Salon (p. 38) MSU Jazz Octets (p. 39)	12 Schindler's List (p. 40) Tirzah Price (p. 41)	13 Harmonicas in Class (p. 22) Knitting Workshops (p. 23) Creativebug (p. 21) GR Symphony (p. 42) BRHS Band Concert (p. 11)	14 HummerNet Project (p. 43) Open Mic Writers (p. 44) BRMS Band Concert (p. 11)	15 Novel Tea (p. 45) FSU Gallery Opening (p. 14) BRHS Choir Concert (p. 11) FSU Jazz Concert (p. 46)	16 Game On! (p. 31) Easy as Pie (p. 47) Romance Corner (p. 48)	17 Strings & Things (p. 49) Mountain Music Concert (p. 50)
18 Matt Thomas Concert (p. 51)	19 Barbie (p. 52) Coin Collecting (p. 53)	20 Harmonicas in Class (p. 22) Knitting Workshops (p. 23) Creativebug (p. 21) Fab Four (p. 54)	21 Floral Arranging (p. 55) Chicago Art Institute (p. 56) FSU Esports & CVL (p. 57)	22 Art of Cake Design (p. 58) Smartphone Photos (p. 59) MEBA Showcase (p. 60)	23 Game On! (p. 31) MSU Salsa Verde (p. 61)	24 Wee Wonders (p. 62) Taylor Swift Experience (p. 63)
25 FSU Closing Concert (p. 64)	26	27 Knitting Workshops (p. 23) Creativebug (p. 21)	28	29	<p><u>Month-long Art Exhibits</u> Artworks: Telling Our Stories: The Old Settlers FSU Fine Art Gallery: Much Ado About Barbie</p>	



Sunday, February 11



Artworks Salon Series: Part 1

Presented by Ric Underhile

Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



A salon, based on the French word for living room, is a conversational gathering of intellectuals, artists, and politicians. The salon was a fixture among artists from all disciplines in the late 1800s, continuing through the early 1900s. In 19th-century France, the Salon was the official annual art exhibition. This is where all of the greatest artists of the day would show off their

work, and where French society would gather to debate art and culture. Over time, salons evolved into arts and humanities gatherings, mostly informal, where musicians, writers, visual artists, playwrights, and others would share their works.

Artworks is hosting a Salon Series throughout 2024, and this first one is dedicated to a 50-year period illuminating significant music composed and performed from 1917 - 1967. Music will include works by Bizet, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich. Performers under discussion will include Maria Callas, Vladimir Horowitz, and Yuja Wang. Pianist Ric Underhile, Executive Director of Artworks, will host this session, playing excerpts and offering interpretive commentary. Ric Underhile holds degrees in music and education.

Future Artworks Salons in 2024 will feature visual and theater arts from the same period. Each salon is intended to be informational and interactive. These events are free of charge, but donations to support future programming are welcome.

Paul & Margyanne Heidemann



Supporting the Arts in our Community



Sunday, February 11

MSU Jazz Octets, with Jazzmeia Horn
Presented by MSUFCU and Tuba Bach

Sunday, February 11 at 4:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



In 2021 Tuba Bach entered into a collaborative partnership with the Michigan State University College of Music, bringing student and faculty musicians from East Lansing to Big Rapids for a variety of concerts throughout the year. This concert features student octets from MSU's award-winning Jazz Studies program, under the direction of Professor Rodney Whitaker. Jazz Studies at Michigan State University is committed to the highest level of performance, mentoring, education, and community outreach, providing numerous opportunities with world-renowned faculty. All faculty in the Jazz Studies area have performed with top recording and performing artists in the jazz music industry, and are devoted to the tradition of mentoring the next generation of jazz musicians.

The MSU College of Music has established a jazz studies artist in residence program, thanks to an endowment from the MSU Federal Credit Union, the largest-ever investment in the college's curriculum. Every academic year, multiple nationally and internationally known jazz artists visit campus for a week-long residency to teach and perform with College of Music students and faculty, including regional tours across the state. This concert's artist in residence is vocalist Jazzmeia Horn. Ms. Horn, a versatile young vocalist, composer, and bandleader, can be witnessed "scatting with the agility of an Olympic gymnast and delivering ballads with simmering intensity and exquisite precision." A passionate educator, Horn brings an originality and maturity beyond her years to the MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence program. According to *Hot House Jazz*, Ms. Horn is "one of the most talked-about singers to come on the scene in years."



Tuba Bach



Monday, February 12



Schindler's List - Movie and Panel Discussion

Presented by FSU Shoah Committee

Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm

FSU David L. Eisler Center
805 Campus Drive



Schindler's List, celebrating its 30-year anniversary, is an epic historical drama directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, set during the German Holocaust. The screenplay is based on Thomas Keneally's 1982 novel *Schindler's Ark*, and follows the story of how German industrialist Oskar Schindler saved over a thousand Polish-Jewish refugees. The film stars Liam Neeson as Oskar Schindler, Ben Kingsley as Itzhak Stern, Ralph Fiennes as Amon Göth, and Caroline Goodall as Emilie Schindler.

Through the generosity of Detroit area businessman and real estate developer Mickey Shapiro - a child of Holocaust survivors who began his college career at

Ferris State University - Ferris State University has acquired full access to the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive, founded by Steven Spielberg in the aftermath of *Schindler's List*. With this acquisition, Ferris becomes only the third institution in Michigan and the 53rd in the world to have access to a streaming video collection of more than 55,000 primary source testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides from 65 countries around the world.

Ferris State University's Shoah Visual Archive Project will hold a discussion following a showing of the film.



SHOAH COMMITTEE

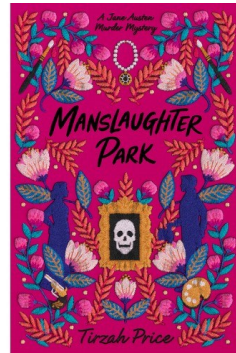
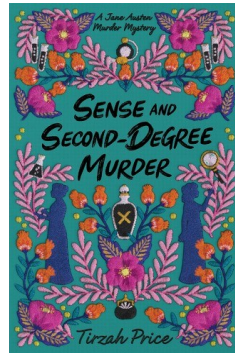
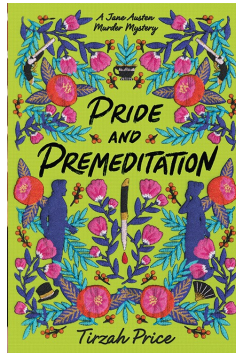


Monday, February 12

Evening with an Author
Presented by Tirzah Price

Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm

Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue



Tirzah Price is the author of the Jane Austen Murder Mysteries, a series of young adult books that retell Jane Austen’s classic tales, with an Agatha Christie slant. Published by HarperCollins, *Pride and Premeditation*, *Sense and Second-Degree Murder*, and *Manslaughter Park* have all been Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections, and her first two books were named BuzzFeed Best YA Books of the Year. In this presentation, she shares how she got her start writing, her publication journey, and the behind the scenes process of researching and writing her books.

Tirzah Price grew up in Big Rapids and is a graduate of Ferris State University. She went on to earn an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts. She’s worked as a librarian, bookseller, and freelance writer. She lives and writes in Big Rapids.



Show this ad Feb. 1– 29 for BOGO Free 20 or 24 oz Specialty Beverage

Tuesday, February 13



Grand Rapids Symphony
Presented by FSU Arts & Lectures

Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm

FSU Williams Auditorium
901 S. State Street



Celebrate love with the Grand Rapids Symphony, as they perform music from films such as *Cinema Paradiso* and *Scent of a Woman* and other popular favorites, including the traditional Wedding March from Felix Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and many others! The concert will feature Kimia Ghaderi and Jenna Buchner on violin, and will be conducted by Duo Shen.

Duo Shen, a native of Beijing, came to the United States in 2008 to pursue his musical dreams, and is now in his second season as Assistant Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony, as well as conductor of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra.

In addition to his work with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Shen has collaborated with such orchestras as Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, The University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, The University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, New Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria).

Shen also remains passionate about his violin career, and is a strong advocate for new music.



ARTS & LECTURES



Wednesday, February 14

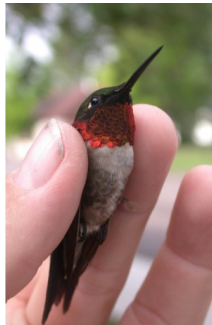
Great Lakes HummerNet Project

Presented by Allen Chartier

Wednesday, February 14 at 1:00 pm

MOISD Career Center, Miller Wing

15830 190th Avenue



In Autumn 2001, the Great Lakes HummerNet was formed by Allen Chartier, primarily to learn more about hummingbirds in the Great Lakes region, focusing on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Michigan by enlisting the help of volunteer observers throughout the region. Data is gathered through observation as well as banding studies. Other species of hummingbird that occur as “vagrants” are also studied.

This presentation will describe the research objectives of the project, tell you how you can participate, provide helpful hints on how to attract and feed hummingbirds, provide hummingbird gardening tips, and review what has been learned so far. It will also review the status of other species of hummingbird confirmed to occur in the region.

Allen Chartier has been interested in science and nature since he was five years old, and began birdwatching when he was eleven. He has been on birding trips to 28 countries with his wife Nancy, and they have birded in all 50 U.S. states.



Helping to Grow and Enrich
the Arts
in our Community

Wednesday, February 14



Open Mic Writers' Night
Hosted by Lisa Oldham

Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm

Cranker's Restaurant and Brewery
213 S. State Street



Successful writers and artists share their work with others. You add value to your talent when you share your work and get feedback from listeners. We invite you to share your work with the community at our Open Mic Writers' Night at Cranker's Restaurant and Brewery. Enjoy an evening of sharing your craft with other writers just like you — or not at all like you! All genres are welcome: poetry, short story, excerpts of longer works, creative word, flash fiction, and more. Besides having the opportunity to share your work you also get the chance to connect with other writers.

We also welcome those who want to listen or who would like to share a favorite piece of writing that was authored by someone else. Since it is Valentine's Day, we encourage works about love and romance, but any subject is welcome.

Lisa Oldham will serve as the moderator. Lisa is a singer, songwriter, poet, and multi-talented artist.

CRANKER'S RESTAURANT & BREWERY
213 S. State St., Big Rapids
(231) 796-1919



Supporting
the
ARTS



Thursday, February 15

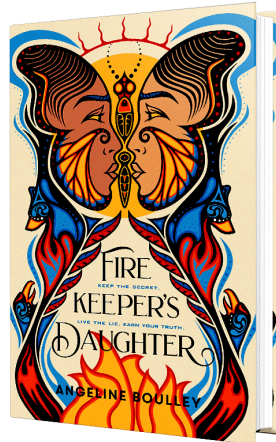
***Fire Keeper's Daughter*, by Angeline Boulley**

Presented by Novel Tea

Thursday, February 15 at 3:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



Michigan Humanities' Great Michigan Read creates a statewide discussion around a Michigan themed book. Through partnerships with libraries, schools, book clubs, and a wide range of other non-profit organizations, the Great Michigan Read facilitates statewide reading and programs to bridge communities around a common conversation.

The book chosen for 2023-2024 is *Fire Keeper's Daughter*, a young adult novel by Angeline Boulley, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. It tells the story of Daunis Fontaine, the daughter of a white mother and an Ojibwe father, who struggles to fit into either world. At eighteen, Daunis tries to make wise decisions about her future, her education, and what to do about her growing attraction to a new young man in town. Meanwhile, hockey, illegal drugs, a murder, and corruption add to the complexities of her life.

The novel is the discussion choice for the Novel Tea book club. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BRUCE and ROBIN
DILG

SUPPORT
THE ARTS

Thursday, February 15



Winter Jazz Concert

Presented by FSU Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 pm

FSU Williams Auditorium

901 S. State Street



The Ferris State Jazz Band will present their Festival of the Arts performance Thursday, February 15th at 7:30pm in Williams Auditorium on the main Ferris Campus. Music will range from traditional big band selections to contemporary music, with past shows featuring music from jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Horace Silver and Miles Davis. The show is free, appropriate for all ages and will run approximately 45 minutes. Hope to see you there!



FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY





Friday, February 16

Easy as Pie: A Baking Workshop

Presented by Three Girls Bakery

Friday, February 16 at 5:30 pm

Three Girls Bakery
106 N. Michigan Avenue



Experience the fun of baking Grandma's apple pie from scratch in this hands-on baking workshop. You will learn how to create a soft, warm, and delicious double-crust apple pie. And while your pie is baking, enjoy a delectable snack from Three Girls Bakery and learn a bit more about the whole process while playing a fun pie trivia game!

Pre-registration for this workshop is required at Three Girls Bakery:

- In-person at 106 N. Michigan Avenue
- By telephone at (231) 796-4822

There is a \$20 fee for this workshop. Supplies and ingredients are provided.



THREE GIRLS
DELI & BAKERY

*Celebrating the Arts
in our Community*

Friday, February 16



Romance is Just Around the Corner

Presented by Ed Mallett and Co.

Friday, February 16 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



Following on the heels of Valentine's Day, Ed & Co. present a concert of (almost) seasonal songs. The pop music world has seen a seemingly endless supply of songs about love and romance, but this collection features some just-around-the-corner takes on the subject. Some have lyrics that take an unexpected turn, some have surprising harmonic twists. Some corners are painfully sharp, some more of a gentle curve. Some present with a humorous angle, some with a heart-rending slant.

Singer and pianist Ed Mallett is joined by violinist Alirna Korieva, bassist Zach Potter, and drummer Noah Mallett, playing an eclectic collection of songs by singer/songwriters Bruce Hornsby, Billy Joel, Elton John, Paul Simon, and others. Come and join the quartet as they journey down the winding road of love and loss, on a musical adventure where romance is always just around the corner.

Bob and Mary Clark





Saturday, February 17

“Strings and Things” Workshop

Presented by Zach Potter

Saturday, February 17 at 1:00 pm

Quinn’s Music

210 S. Michigan Avenue

Quinn’s Music is excited to have local musician Zach Potter leading this “Strings & Things” workshop. Zach has more than ten years of experience playing and teaching a variety of stringed instruments, and is passionate about sharing his knowledge and skills with others. This 90-minute interactive event, suitable for all skill levels, will cover a variety of topics related to stringed instruments, including guitar, bass, and ukulele.



During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn about different types of strings, how to properly care for their instruments, and basic maintenance techniques. Zach will also demonstrate a variety of techniques and styles on the guitar and will be available for one-on-one instruction lesson opportunities and instrument repair questions.

As a special bonus, Quinn’s Music is offering a 10% discount on all acoustic instruments, strings, and accessories for workshop attendees. Don’t miss this amazing opportunity to improve your skills and learn from one of Big Rapids’ best!

There is NO fee for this workshop

Pre-registration is required at Quinn’s Music:

- In-person at 210 S. Michigan Avenue
- By telephone at (231) 796-5651



Saturday, February 17



Kentucky Center for Traditional Music Concert
Presented by The Mountain Music Ambassadors

Saturday, February 17 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue



From the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music at Morehead State University (Morehead, KY), the Mountain Music Ambassadors showcase a variety of bluegrass, old-time, and country music stylings. Featuring students majoring in Traditional Music, the Ambassadors have entertained audiences across the United States and internationally in the People's Republic of China and Ireland. Notable performances include the historic Carter Family Fold, Industrial Strength Bluegrass Festival, Wide Open Bluegrass Festival, as well as television appearances on the internationally-syndicated Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour and Song of the Mountains on PBS.

Though young in its tenure, the study of the musical styles associated with the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region has quickly taken root in institutions of higher education. The students who comprise the Mountain Music Ambassadors represent the preservation and evolution of American Traditional Music.



Ed and Adriana Mallett

Supporting the Arts



Sunday, February 18

Guitar Concert

Presented by Matt Thomas

Sunday, February 18 at 4:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
726 Fuller Avenue

With over a decade of touring and competitions across the world, Matt Thomas has crafted one of the biggest guitar sounds in the industry today! With mind-blowing techniques and deep songwriting, Thomas takes the audience on a wild ride of melodic and theatrical highlights that transports listeners to an imaginary world. With stories filled with scientific knowledge and wonder, he not only brings listeners a world-class performance, but also educates and challenges our everyday patterns in life. Thomas uses some of the most complex technology to bring the audience along the journey with him, including four individual pickups that are sent to a psychedelic array of pedals to achieve a larger-than-life sound. Seeming like a mad scientist, Thomas combines technological wizardry and a plethora of guitar techniques such as Percussion, Flamenco, Classical, Bluegrass, Jazz, Swing, Blues, and Acoustic Rock to sound like a full band.



www.brfota.org

p. 51

Monday, February 19



Barbie

Presented by FSU Fine Art Gallery

Monday, February 19 at 7:00 pm

FSU David L. Eisler Center, Ballroom
805 Campus Drive



Come and enjoy a screening of the full-length 2023 feature film *Barbie*, hosted by the Ferris Fine Art Gallery as part of the *Much Ado About Barbie* exhibition and events. Beverages and popcorn will be provided.

Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colorful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans. *Barbie* was co-written and directed by award-winning Greta Gerwig.

“Barbie is a dazzling achievement, both technically and in tone. It’s a visual feast that succeeds as both a gleeful escape and a battle cry. So crammed with impeccable attention to detail is Barbie that you couldn’t possibly catch it all in a single sitting.” — Robert Ebert Review

“Barbie is a visually dazzling comedy whose meta humor is smartly complemented by subversive storytelling.”

— Rotten Tomatoes Critics Consensus

“Clever, funny, and poignant, Barbie is an entertaining movie with a great overall message.”

— Audience Says



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SUPPORTING
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ARTS



Monday, February 19

Art In Your Pocket

A Coin Collecting Workshop

Monday, February 19 at 7:00 pm

Big Rapids Community Library
426 S. Michigan Avenue



If you've ever been interested in United States coins or coin collecting, this workshop will provide the basics of US coin identification and grading, as well as the history of some specific types of coins and the artistry that goes into coins produced by the United States Mint.

The workshop will include discussion on types of US coins, the impact of historical events on changes in coinage, review of the Sheldon scale and grading standards for assessing the condition of coins, and how to preserve and display coins as a collector. Recipients will receive a complimentary copy of "A Guide Book of United States Coins" 2024 Edition, which will be used during the workshop.

All ages are welcome – children must be accompanied by an adult.

There is NO fee for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required:

- In-person at Artworks, 106 N. Michigan Avenue
- By telephone at (231) 796-2420

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that ignites innovation!***

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small businesses, and the Festival of the Arts*

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Tuesday, February 20



What Makes the Beatles So Fab?

Presented by Paul Kwant

Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue



When discussing popular music, it is common to hear statements claiming that The Beatles were the best band, either in terms of the 1960s in which they worked or in the history of popular music as a whole. Judgments about popular music tend to be significantly subjective, so how is it that this claim remains agreed upon so universally? Given that there were many exciting bands in the 1960s and in the 50+ years since, why has this claim about The Beatles survived, and what are the reasons that make it true?

During this presentation Susan Morris will examine these claims and offer her own theories as to the persistent popularity of the band.

Susan is emerita professor of humanities at FSU and has made presentations on the Beatles and other musical topics at the Popular Culture Conference, The Jim Crow Museum, and Artworks.

A green rectangular banner for Steve Jones Construction, Inc. The text "Steve Jones" is in a large, blue, serif font. To the right, "Supporting the Arts" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below "Steve Jones", "Construction, Inc." is written in a white, sans-serif font on a dark green background. To the right of "Construction, Inc.", "Since 1965" is written in a white, sans-serif font on a dark green background. At the bottom, the address and contact information "1215 Maple, Big Rapids, MI 49307 / Phone: (231) 796-5980 / Fax: (231) 796-0690" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. A graphic of horizontal lines of varying lengths is positioned to the right of the company name.



Wednesday, February 21

Floral Arranging Workshop
Presented by Bob Patterson

Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm

Patterson's Flowers
216 Maple Street

Local florist Bob Patterson's flower arranging workshops have become a favorite offering of the Festival of the Arts. This year Bob will offer a workshop focused on the creation of a bright tropical bouquet, just the sort of thing that we all need in the middle of winter. Participants will learn the basic principles of flower arranging and design using fresh flowers.



Patterson's Flowers, established in 1952 by Donald Patterson, proudly serves the West Central Michigan area with locations in Big Rapids, Reed City, and Cadillac. The first and second generations of the Patterson family, plus a caring professional staff of more than 25 employees, are committed to offering the finest floral arrangements and gifts.

Pre-registration for this workshop is required at Patterson's Flowers:

- In-person at 216 Maple Street
- By telephone at (231) 796-8683

There is a \$35 fee for this workshop. Tools and supplies are provided.



**Patterson's
Flowers Inc.**

Proudly supporting our
local communities
since 1956

216 Maple Street in Downtown Big Rapids

Wednesday, February 21



Night at the Museum
Highlights from the Art Institute of Chicago
Presented by Rachel Foulk

Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm

Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue



Join Art Historian Dr. Rachel Foulk for a virtual tour of the Art Institute of Chicago. This illustrated lecture will explore highlights of the Art Institute's encyclopedic collection. Our discussion will include works of art by Georges Seurat, Grant Wood, Edward Hopper, Archibald Motley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Bisa Butler, and more.

Dr. Rachel Foulk is Professor of Art History at Ferris State University. She holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Emory University, with specialization in Ancient Greek and Roman art. Professor Foulk teaches a wide range of Art History courses at Ferris State and advises the Art History minor. She aims to enhance the educational experiences of Ferris students by helping them to appreciate art as an important form of human expression that communicates our values and ideals.



**Art makes a statement
in a community.**
*And we think this community
is worth it!*



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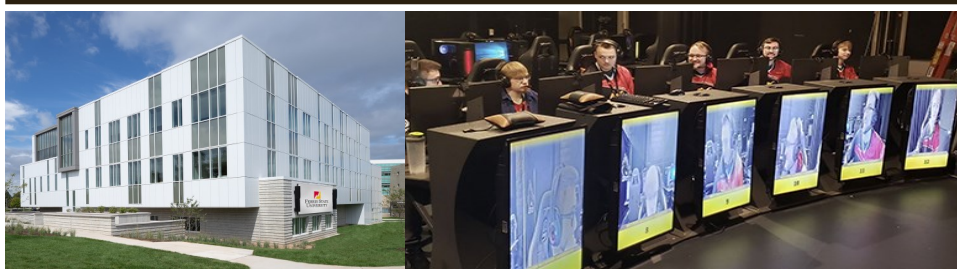


Wednesday, February 21

FSU Esports Demo and CVL Tour
Presented by Jono Eaton

Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm

FSU Center for Virtual Learning
600 S. State Street



With innovative facilities, fully-equipped labs, and the only purpose-built Esports Arena in Michigan, the brand new Center for Virtual Learning (CVL) at Ferris State University is designed to help students build the real-world skills to become a leader in the next era of industry.

The CVL brings together some of the most in-demand, high-impact academic programs at Ferris. From content creator to data analyst, game designer to cybersecurity expert, innovative educator to metaverse entrepreneur, these programs are developing students that will revolutionize our new hybrid world. Programs in the CVL include Artificial Intelligence, Data Science & Analytics, Digital Animation & Game Design, Information Security & Intelligence, Professional Esports Production, Project Management, Software Engineering, Teacher Education programs, and Television & Digital Media Production.

Come and tour the cutting-edge CVL building, and watch members of FSU's Crimson and Gold Esports teams compete in their custom-built home arena.



Thursday, February 22



The Art of Cake Design
Presented by Chef Lincoln Alexander

Thursday, February 22 at 6:00 pm

Artworks
106 N. Michigan Avenue



Chef Lincoln Alexander's passion for cake artistry began at an early age, baking with his mother in their home-based bakery when he was just six years old. At age fifteen, Lincoln was designing and decorating cakes for local community members, including government officials. By the time he graduated college, he had delivered over fifty custom cakes in five states and three countries. Over the next two decades, Lincoln would graduate with four more degrees including two masters degrees and a doctorate in public health.

Today, Chef Lincoln Alexander is an international award-winning bespoke cake designer, food artist, author, and owner of Flour House Cakes & Co, based in Metro Detroit. Named a *Wedding Day Magazine* "Top Bakery in the Midwest," he is celebrated for his unique design style, impeccable details, and diverse collection of decadent confections. His extraordinary food and cake art have been published in magazines including *MunaLuchi Bride*, *ESSENCE*, *The Knot*, *Wilton Cakes*, *Black Bride*, *The B Collective*, and *Hour Detroit*. His work has been featured on *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon, NBC, Fox, and *MUNCHIES Food* by VICE. He is a Season 1 champion on Disney's food art competition series, *FOODTASTIC*, on Disney+. Currently, he is working on a new competition series coming soon to network television.

Join us for an evening with Chef Lincoln Alexander and hear about some of the challenges and creative genius behind the scenes and see photographs of his magnificent creations.

John and Roxanne Cullen

Supporting the Arts in our Community





Thursday, February 22

Taking Smarter Photos with your Smartphone

Presented by Dave Johnson

Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 pm

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue

Join Photographer Dave Johnson on a journey to improving your smartphone photography. This mini-workshop will cover techniques to take your photos beyond basic cell phone snapshots. Participants will start out learning some strengths and weaknesses of phone cameras and move quickly into basics of photography as they apply to smartphone cameras. The format for this workshop will include a presentation about a variety of topics and taking and critiquing your own photos as you learn simple techniques to improve them. This workshop will focus on utilizing the camera in your mobile phone, but will be applicable to photos using other cameras, too. The only prerequisite is a basic understanding of how to use your phone camera.



Dave has been photographing people and things since high school, but really began to hone his skills over the past 15 years, focusing on event, lifestyle, landscape, and sports photography. He strives to continually learn and grow in his photography and enjoys sharing his passion and knowledge with others. Over the past 10 years Dave has moved toward sharing his knowledge with others, through classes, photo walks, and individual lessons. When photographing people, he continually strives to capture them in a way that tells the story of their life or how they are inspired. You can often find Dave on an outing with the Big Rapids Camera Club or at Artworks teaching photography courses.

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p. 59

Thursday, February 22



Student Performance Showcase
Presented by MEBA

Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 pm

Fatty C's Dog House
121 N. Michigan Avenue



Prepare yourself for an unforgettable evening as the next generation of music business students take center stage at the much-anticipated Music and Entertainment Business Student Showcase! This extraordinary event promises to be an engaging experience that truly demonstrates student talent, passion, and creativity. Expect the unexpected as the Music and Entertainment Business students take you on a rollercoaster ride of sound and song. The Music and Entertainment Business Student Showcase is not just about showcasing talent; it's a journey into the hearts and souls of these aspiring artists. Expect moments that celebrate the unifying power of music!

Learn more about Ferris State University's Music and Entertainment Business program at www.ferris.edu/business/music-entertainment-management/homepage.htm

121 N. Michigan Ave.
Big Rapids

231-629-8187



Supporting
the
Arts



Friday, February 23

MSU Salsa Verde Concert

Presented by Tuba Bach

Friday, February 23 at 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

726 Fuller Avenue



Since 2008, Salsa Verde has been delighting dancers and concert audiences with high-energy salsa music. Salsa Verde provides an opportunity for Michigan State University students to learn and perform various salsa styles, including salsa, cha-cha-chá, bolero, Latin jazz, rumba, timba, merengue, and more. The members of Salsa Verde are students and faculty from Michigan State University, representing different programs within the College of Music as well as the larger university. Salsa Verde has performed at concerts, festivals, dances, recitals, benefits, schools, cultural events, and outreach events throughout Michigan. Salsa Verde is directed by MSU Professor of Percussion Dr. Jon Weber.



Tuba Bach

Bringing world-class musicians to
Big Rapids for 19 years

Saturday, February 24



Wee Wonders Art Workshop
Presented by Adriana Mallett

Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 am

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Gymnasium
408 W. Bellevue Street



Wee Wonders is a class designed for parents (or grandparents or other willing adults) *and* young children (ages 3–5) to explore creative expression together. As you and your children discover the freedom and adventure that art can provide, leave artistic inhibitions behind and have fun! The value of each activity is not measured by the finished product, but rather in the pure enjoyment and learning along the way.

This year's Wee Wonders event will explore **Marvelous Mixing & Our Wonderful World!** Plan to bring a mom/dad-sized button-down short-sleeved shirt or cut-off T-shirt for a perfect smock (or play clothes that you don't mind getting a bit more colorful!), and a box to transport your child's creations home safely.

There is NO fee for this workshop.

Pre-registration is required by email at eamallett@gmail.com



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

SUPPORTING THE **ARTS** IN OUR COMMUNITY



Saturday, February 24

Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience
Presented by FSU MEBA and Entertainment Unlimited

Saturday, February 24 at 7:00 pm

FSU David L. Eisler Center, Ballroom
805 Campus Drive



Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience features a live performance that showcases Kanin's versatility and talent as she flawlessly navigates through Taylor Swift's extensive catalog, incorporating her own unique interpretations. The shows are known for their energetic atmosphere, featuring dynamic costume changes that reflect Taylor Swift's iconic stage presence. To elevate the experience, Kanin performs alongside a full band, creating a vibrant and immersive musical journey for the audience. The inclusion of a talented group of musicians enhances the live renditions of Taylor Swift's hits and allow Kanin to infuse her own artistry into the performances. The Taylor Swift Experience is designed to be family-friendly, attracting fans of all ages who share a love for Taylor Swift's music. This special event will create a transformative music experience that will uplift, connect and inspire individuals of all ages.



Sunday, February 25



2024 Festival of the Arts Closing Concert

Presented by FSU Band, Orchestra, and Choir

Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 pm

FSU Williams Auditorium

901 S. State Street



Join us for the annual Festival of the Arts Closing Concert, featuring Ferris State University's West Central Concert Band, West Central Chamber Orchestra, and Concert Choir. The theme of this year's concert is Music and Nature, presenting a program of music describing or inspired by nature's beauty and majesty.

These musical ensembles, led by Scott Cohen, Daniel Atwood, and Katie McInnis, are part of FSU's "Music for Life!" initiative, providing music performance opportunities and striving to help students transition to the world of adult amateur musical ensembles. There are no music majors at Ferris, but students can continue their passion for music by participating in Ferris' many musical ensembles that include both students and community members.

Ferris is grateful for the ever-increasing number of donors and endowed music scholarships that help students find ways to afford college. New members are always welcome, and we also welcome alumni and other community music lovers who would like to join our ensembles and/or support our amateur student musicians!

To learn more, please contact the FSU Music Center: www.ferris.edu/music, (231) 591-2501, music@ferris.edu



FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY





Support Festival of the Arts



2024 marks the 17th year of the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts (FOTA), our month-long extravaganza of artistic events and workshops, all at virtually no cost to the public. There is, of course, a cost to hosting a month of arts events, and we are grateful to our sponsors, donors, and advertisers, great and small, for their continued generosity over the years. In this post-COVID era, some of our sponsors are not able to give at a level they have in the past, which means that we must find new ways to raise revenue if we are to keep operating at the level which we have in the past.

Many of our performers are nationally and internationally recognized artists. Hosting quality performers and presenters like this with no admission cost is part of our mission to provide access to the arts for a wide and varied audience, enhancing the overall quality of life in our community.

Please consider making a donation to FOTA. We are a registered 501(c)(3) organization, so your contribution is tax-deductible. Your gift will help make February a month to anticipate, and most importantly, keep these opportunities free to the public.

Contributions can be mailed to:

Festival of the Arts
226 N. Michigan Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Checks should be made out to FOTA.

For sponsorship or advertising information, email BRFOTA@brfota.org or contact a board member today.

2024 Festival of the Arts Sponsors



The 2024 Big Rapids Festival of the Arts board of directors would like to thank all of the businesses, institutions, and individuals whose support made this year's festival possible. We encourage you to seek them out and thank them as well!



AAUW	p. 26	FSU Shoah Committee	p. 40
Artworks	inside back cover	FSU Student Activities	p. 64
Baker's Management Service	p. 17	Galloup Guitars	p. 51
Biggby Coffee	p. 41	Grunst Brothers Party Store	p. 52
City of Big Rapids	inside front cover	Hampton Inn	p. 19
Big Rapids DDA	p. 29	Paul & Marianne Heidemann	p. 38
Big Rapids DBA	p. 32	Marshall & Melanie Henry	p. 30
Big Rapids Comm. Library	pp. 21, 31	Horizon Bank	p. 13
Big Rapids Garden Club	p. 43	Immanuel Lutheran Church	p. 16
Big Rapids Housing	p. 72	Isabella Bank	p. 53
Big Rapids Lumber & Hardware	p. 15	Jerena Keys	p. 27
Big Rapids Public Schools	p. 10	Lake Osceola State Bank	p. 56
Big Rapids Tire	p. 57	Robert Large	p. 33
Amy Buse	p. 28	Lowell Arts/MACC	p. 12
Chuck & Meredy's Automotive	p. 25	Ed & Adriana Mallett	p. 50
Bob & Mary Clark	p. 48	Miedema Bookkeeping	p. 22
Corewell Health	p. 24	MSUFCU	p. 39
Cranker's Restaurant & Brewery	p. 44	Patterson's Flowers	p. 55
John & Roxanne Cullen	p. 58	Preferred Office Machines	p. 59
Currie's Amoco & Towing	p. 18	Quinn's Music	p. 49
Bruce & Robin Dilg	p. 45	Rotary Club of Big Rapids	p. 72
Fatty C's Dog House	p. 60	St. Peter's Lutheran Church	p. 62
Ferris State University	back cover	Schuberg Insurance Agency	p. 20
FSU Arts & Lectures	p. 42	Steve Jones Construction	p. 54
FSU Card/Riley Center	p. 34	Three Girls Bakery	p. 47
FSU Entertainment Unlimited	p. 64	Toppings	p. 35
FSU Fine Art Gallery	p. 14	Tuba Bach	pp. 39, 61
FSU Humanities	pp. 46, 64	Wenger Insurance Agency	p. 23
FSU MEBA Association	p. 63		



2024 Artworks Exhibits



2024 Gallery Exhibits

Telling Our Stories

January 2 – 28: Hope Network

Reception on Thursday, January 11 at 5:00 pm

February 1 – 28: Festival of the Arts — Old Settlers Exhibit

Reception on Thursday, February 1 at 5pm

March 4 – April 12: Art Attack

Reception on Sunday, March 10, 11:00 am -3:00 pm

April 15 – May 31: The Bear

Reception on Sunday, April 21 at 1:00 pm

June 3 – July 12: From My Perspective

Ralph Crew, Big Rapids Camera Club, Arthur Johns Forge & Design

Reception on Thursday, June 6 at 5:00 pm

July 15 – August 23: Michigan Art and Sculpture Tour — Story of Public Art in Big Rapids

Reception on Thursday, July 18 at 5:00 pm

August 26 – September 27: Corewell Project

Reception TBA

September 30 – November 8: Daniel Cascardo

Reception on Sunday, October 6 at 1:00 pm

Holiday Market

Enjoy the Arts in our Community

The 2024 Festival of the Arts takes place between February 2 and 25, but the arts flourish in Big Rapids throughout the year. Be sure to take advantage of all our community has to offer!



Artworks hosts a variety of educational programming for children and adults throughout the year, curates several exhibits, and also presents their annual Artworks Gala. artworksinbigrapids.org



Big Rapids Community Library hosts a variety of programming for children and adults throughout the year. bigrapidslibrary.org



Big Rapids Public Schools offer a variety of events throughout the year featuring their fine arts students, as well as hosting performances by visiting artists. brps.org



Crossroads Charter Academy bands, choir and elementary classes perform throughout the year. ccabr.org



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Ferris State University continues offerings in the musical arts, theatrical arts, Music and Entertainment Business Management programs, Arts & Lectures events, Entertainment Unlimited events, and visual arts in the FSU Fine Arts Gallery throughout the year. ferris.edu/calendar



Pocket Park concerts happen every Friday, late May through September, 12:00 - 2:00pm, featuring a wide variety of musical styles from area musicians. downtownbigrapids.com/events



STAGE-M presents a variety of theatrical performances and workshops throughout the year. stage-m.org



Enjoy the Arts in Our Community

Summer Bandshell Concerts take place Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.
downtownbigrapids.com/events



Tuba Bach presents their 19th season in 2024, with their annual six-week festival in September and October (Sept. 14 - Oct. 20), their "Tuba Bach Presents..." concerts, featuring students and faculty from Michigan State University's College of Music throughout the year, as well as additional concerts in the spring, summer, and Christmas seasons.
tubabach.org



Voca Lyrica, a community-based women's chorus, performs throughout the year in Big Rapids and beyond. vocalyrica.weebly.com



And there is plenty more to be found around town — live music at several restaurants and bars in the area, parades and festivals throughout the year, culinary delights at a variety of eating establishments, sculptures and art pieces throughout the city — ART is all around us. Enjoy!

And the 2025 Festival of the Arts is only a year away — see you there!



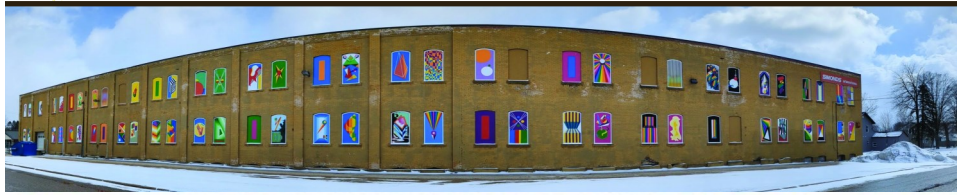
Enjoy the Arts in our Community

The arts are all around us in Big Rapids. Take a stroll downtown, in the parks, or on the Ferris campus. Murals, mosaics, sculptures, statuary, and more can be found in all corners of our city — here are but a few examples.





Enjoy the Arts in Our Community





**SUPPORTING THE ARTS
IN OUR COMMUNITY**