Monday, September 30, 2024

MAC NEWSLETTER

happy sweet 16!

HELP US DECORATE OUR CAKE!

Happy Anniversary to the Macomb Arts Center!

This week in 2008, the MAC became the proud occupant of our current home in the heart of Historic Downtown Macomb.

Since then, we have hosted close to 150 art exhibits, scores of musicians and performers of all ages, special events, art markets, friendly competitions, workshops, youth theatre camps, and more!

To celebrate 16 years of the arts in Downtown Macomb, we're pleased to announce the launch of a new website and window display!

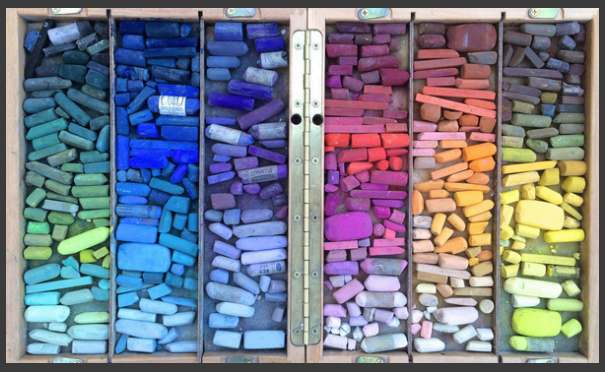
Visit the MAC to view our super-sized Sweet 16 cake in the north window. The cake will start out bare, but for every new volunteer sign-up, recurring donation, or new membership on our website, we'll add a bit of flair to the cake in your name.

Your gifts of time and funding help the MAC continue its mission, providing a place to gather, share, and explore the arts in Macomb. We are grateful for the support of this incredible community, and excited to create and celebrate the arts for many years to come.

To learn more, please visit our new website at **macombartscenter.org**.

CURRENT EXHIBIT:

The Illinois Prairie Pastel Society will be exhibiting creative work in pastels from **September 24 to October 26**. Please enjoy the show during our expanded gallery hours: *Tuesday - Thursday: 11-6, Friday: 11-7, and Saturday: 11 - 5.*



OCTOBER EVENTS:

October 5 from 7 - 8:30 pm: Original play, *When Macomb Hosted Lincoln,* presented as part of the Macomb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau's *Unforgettable Lincoln Days*

October 9 at 6pm: *A Thousand Words* is a writing experience inspired by the MAC's current exhibit, *Expressions of Color.*

October 13 at 4pm: Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting to learn about 2024 progress, and plans for 2025 and beyond. Light refreshments provided. Not yet a member? Sign up on site!

October 20 at 3pm: Singer/ songwriter Chris Vallillo presents: Songs of the Illinois Freedom Road, a powerful new musical performance featuring the songs, stories, and struggles of the Illinois Underground Railroad.

October 26 at 10am: Kid's activities for *Moon Over Macomb:* Pumpkin Painting and Sidewalk Chalk.

October 29: Sam Parker's exhibit, 'Going Retro' opens. Reception **November 1 from 5-7pm**

Thank You, Nan!

The Macomb Arts Center Board of Directors expresses our enormous gratitude to the incomparable Nan Crossman for her 19 years of service to the MAC, formerly the West Central Illinois Arts Center (WCIAC).

Nan was a part of this organization before we even had a building, and was a member of the original 'vision team,' which coordinated the purchase of the MAC's current residence at 25 East Side Square 16 years ago.

One of Nan's primary goals has been to ensure that the MAC supports and provides access to all of the arts for all ages. To that end, Nan produced a number of theatrical productions under the umbrella of the MAC/WCIAC, courted and hosted countless music events, provided space and support for dance events, developed the children's theatre arts and visual arts programs *Flying Monkeys*, *Flying Squirrels,* and *Flying Fish*, and helped grow these into our current, 3-week-long children's theatre program: *Rising Stars*. Nan also founded our annual Battle of the Brushes (BoB) and Kids Battle (KBoB) events, worked closely with gallery directors to consistently curate high-quality art exhibits, and helped create the bi-annual Art and Gift Market. This is a short list of Nan's numerous contributions.

Nan's most recent tour de force involved working closely with the family of Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian to assemble an exhibit of select works from the legendary Civil Rights leader's personal art collection on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Nan helped the MAC weather the COVID closures in 2020, working to create online gallery shows and sponsoring children's activities at Chandler Park when we were able to gather again at a distance. She joined with Macomb Downtown Development to post Macomb High School Senior pictures in business windows around the square when public graduation ceremonies were canceled in 2020, an activity she has helped continue every year since.

Importantly, Nan has never been paid for any of the work she has done, much of it unseen, for The MAC/WCIAC. She has been a dedicated and tireless leader of an all volunteer organization, devoted to making sure the Macomb Community has continued access to the visual and performing arts. Her departure leaves a big hole in the organization.

While we are respecting Nan's wishes to refrain from honoring her with the huge party she deserves, we are accepting cards and notes at The MAC, which will be compiled into a scrapbook for her. Should you wish to contribute to this project, please drop off cards and letters (or write a note directly in the scrapbook) at the Macomb Arts Center, 25 East Side Square. Cards may also be mailed to Macomb Arts Center, P.O. Box 692, Macomb, Illinois 61455.

Please submit all cards and notes by Sunday, October 13 at our 4pm Annual Member Meeting.

When you see Nan around town, please thank her for her incredible years of service to the MAC and to the Arts in Macomb and the region. We know she'll never be done fulfilling her mission of putting the "s" in Arts for our community, and we are immeasurably grateful for all she has done these past 19 years as the face of The MAC!

With Sincere Gratitude,
The Macomb Arts Center Board of Directors