

# AURORA CREATES

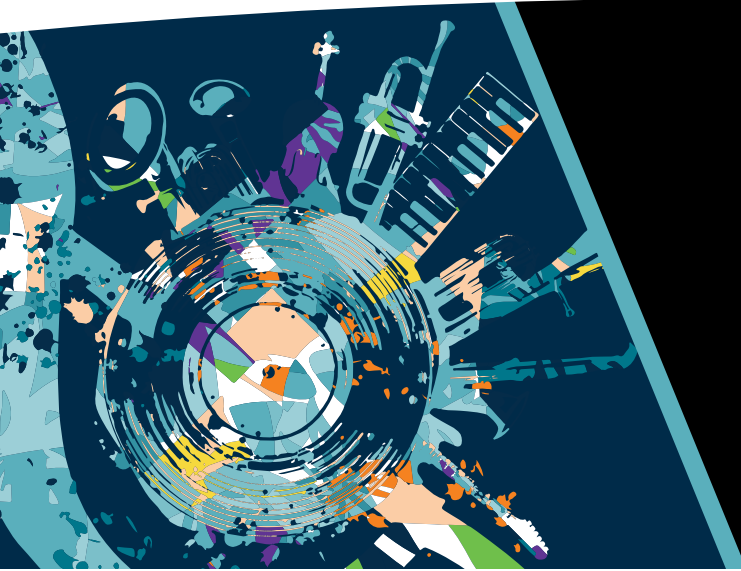
Arts & History | January - February 2024

## Chronicles of Creativity: A New Year for **Arts** and **History** in *Aurora*



**LIBRARY AND  
CULTURAL  
SERVICES**

# THE **AURORA FOX ARTS CENTER** KICKS OFF THE YEAR WITH *Unique Shows*



## **CJRO Presents**

**"Ella & Louis: Jazz Music's Perfect Partnership"**  
with Mary Louise Lee and Robert Johnson \$

JAN. 28, 3 p.m. | Aurora Fox Mainstage | TICKETS: \$25-\$29

In 1956, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong went into the studio and created the iconic album "Ella & Louis." The CJRO small band will perform music from this historic album in an afternoon of classic songs written by composers including Irving Berlin, the Gershwins, and more. Mary Louise Lee and Robert Johnson are both well-known Colorado artists and have occasionally performed together for over 30 years. Having the pair collaborating on Ella & Louis will be a performance you will not want to miss!

## **"ART" By Yasmina Reza \$**

Feb. 3 – 25 | Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. |  
Sundays: 2 p.m. | Aurora Fox Studio Theatre

The new season at the Aurora Fox will begin with the quick-witted comedy "ART" by Yasmina Reza, playing Feb. 3 to 25 in the Studio Theatre. Hailed as one of the most successful comedies of all time, "ART" is the winner of the Tony Award (Best Play), Olivier Award (Best New Comedy), and NY Drama Critics Award (Best Play). Three friends. Two hundred thousand francs. One white canvas. In this fast-paced, biting comedy, long-time friendships are put to the test when an expensive white painting upends everyone's prior assumptions. Life choices are thrust to the forefront when criticism of the prize possession devolves into personal attacks and the airing of grievances. \*Content Advisory: Ages 16 and up. Contains adult language.



## **UP NEXT**



## **"Gem of the Ocean" by August Wilson \$**

March 23 – April 14 | Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. |  
Sundays: 2 p.m. | Aurora Fox Mainstage

Pittsburgh, 1904: Seeking redemption, a young Southerner, Citizen Barlow, arrives at the doorstep of the legendary Aunt Ester, a 285-year-old spiritual guide. There, he meets Solly Two Kings, a former slave turned Underground Railroad conductor. Through a series of intertwining events, their lives become forever altered as Citizen Barlow is taken on a mythical journey of awakening to the City of Bones, realizing the value of community and the power of belief. A 2005 Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, "Gem of the Ocean" is the first Aurora Fox's commitment to produce August Wilson's 10-play "The American Century Cycle." Boasting multiple Tony Awards and Pulitzer Prizes for Drama, the cycle follows the lives of Black Americans throughout each decade of the 20th century. \*Content Advisory: Ages 16 and up. Contains mature themes and adult language.



# "Listen to the Whispering Wind":

## NEW PUBLIC ART AT WINDY PLUMES PARK

A unique and dynamic experience awaits visitors to Windy Plumes Park in the Aurora segment of Green Valley Ranch. The concept for the city's newest public artwork, "Listen to the Whispering Wind" references native leaf and grass forms and the colors of the high plains. These design elements are combined into a swooping, swirling environment that forms an attractive sculpture and wayfinding element while also serving as a seating area and a place for people to gather along the regional trail.

From a distance, the artwork makes a distinct visual statement and inspires curiosity with its complex curvilinear forms, encouraging people to come closer to explore it. Approaching the piece, the experience begins to change, as people begin to distinguish the organic shapes, materials and colors. They discover a spectacular and inviting place to sit, rest, enjoy the view, have a picnic, and connect with friends.

The artwork embodies the goals and values of the Green Valley Ranch community, harmoniously blending into the sprawling landscape. With over 18 acres of parks and nearly 50 acres of trails and open space, the residential community offers many recreational opportunities.

Constructed primarily from painted steel, the artwork is 24 feet high, 19 feet long and 13 feet wide. Designed and fabricated by Carol May and Tim Watkins of May+Watkins Design in New York, this piece was originally commissioned by a community-based art selection panel in 2020. The artwork was then completed, dismantled and transported to Aurora in late 2021. However, the pandemic and other factors resulted in delays in the development of the park, and the artwork could not be installed until 2023. Sadly, Tim Watkins did not live to see the completed work installed on-site in its intended environment. Now, it stands as a beautiful tribute to him and the extraordinary partnership with his wife, Carol May, who together created this delightfully whimsical experience for your enjoyment.

Windy Plumes Park, located at 4490 N. Shawnee St. in Green Valley Ranch, is anticipated to open in January 2024. To learn more about the Art in Public Places and to see the current public art collection, visit [AuroraGov.org/PublicArt](https://AuroraGov.org/PublicArt).

### ON THE COVER:

The Aurora Fox Arts Center, "Listen to the Whispering Winds" and Coal Creek Schoolhouse at DeLaney Farm Historic District.



Photo by Tony Nguyen of Studios LLC



## JANUARY

**4**

**Friends of Chamber Music: Lirios Quartet**  
Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas Street  
[StanleyMarketplace.com](http://StanleyMarketplace.com)

**5**

**Capturing the Dream - Youth Talent Showcase**  
Friday, Jan. 5, 6 to 9 p.m.  
The People's Building, 9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/MLK](http://AuroraGov.org/MLK)

**8**

**Opening Celebration, Prayer Vigil and Proclamation Reading**  
Monday, Jan. 8, 4:30 - 7 p.m.  
Aurora Municipal Center Lobby,  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway

**10**

**The Local Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King**  
Wednesday, 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

**12**

**Community College of Aurora Virtual Student Film Fest**  
Friday, 7 p.m.  
Streamed live at [AuroraTV.org](http://AuroraTV.org)

**13**

**Wreath Laying Ceremony**  
Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.  
[AuroraGov.org/MLK](http://AuroraGov.org/MLK)

**17**

**Museum Selfie Day**  
Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

**28**

**Ella and Louis: Jazz Music's Perfect Partnership with Mary Louise Lee and Robert Johnson** \$  
Sunday, 3 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
[AuroraFox.org](http://AuroraFox.org)

## FEBRUARY

**14**

**Valentine's Day Power Couples**  
Wednesday, 3 to 4 p.m.  
Mission Viejo Library  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

**18**

**2024 Young People's Concert**  
Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.  
Aurora North Middle School, 12095 E. Montview Blvd.  
[StanleyMarketplace.com](http://StanleyMarketplace.com)



## ONGOING EVENTS

**Winter Speaker Series 2023:  
Poets and Poetry in Aurora**  
Jan. 19 – 28  
Aurora History Museum  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

**'ART' By Yasmina Reza** \$  
Feb. 3 – 25, 2024  
Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. | Sundays: 2 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Studio Aurora Fox Arts Center  
[AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org](http://AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org)

## EXHIBITS

**Zachary Davidson and Emma King**  
MLK Jr. Library and  
Tallyn's Reach Library  
January – March 2024.



# CULTURAL ARTS WINTER THEATRE CLASSES



## Why take theatre classes?

Develop lifelong skills such as listening, self-confidence, reading, memorization, focus and concentration. Students create characters, dialogue, monologues, scenes and performance pieces with guidance from experienced theatre professionals and perform for family and friends on the final day of class. Characterization teaches empathy; staging teaches balance, coordination and geometry; and memorization helps in all areas of academic development. Theatre also helps children and youth learn to empathize with others and gain confidence in public speaking situations.

All Cultural Services classes require pre-registration. [Theatre Booking Page \(perfectmind.com\)](https://perfectmind.com) We strongly encourage consistent attendance for all theatre classes.

Questions? email [lmumpton@auroragov.org](mailto:lmumpton@auroragov.org) or call 303.739.6520

### Storybook, Alive! Fractured Fairy Tales 💰

Ages: 4-7

74359: Jan. 22 - March 4

Mondays, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Southeast Recreation Center

### Storybook, Alive! Superheroes 💰

Ages: 4-7

74361: Jan 16 - Feb. 20

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Mission Viejo Library, Community Room

### The Witches 💰

Ages 7-13

74524: Jan. 20 - Feb. 24

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Tallyn's Reach Library

### Mary Poppins 💰

Ages 8-14

74551: Jan. 20 - Feb. 24

Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon

The People's Building

### Improvisation 💰

Ages: 9-16

74198: Jan 20.- Feb. 24

Saturdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Aurora Central Library

# Preschool MUSIC CLASSES

Early childhood music learning prepares children to excel in every subject. Making music that includes tapping, clapping, bouncing and dancing can help children develop fine and large motor control. These back-and-forth motions help build brain and body coordination, making important connections across the many regions of the brain. All classes teach pitch, melody, harmony and performance techniques while helping children practice performance etiquette and how to play with other people.

## ChoirCats

Ages 3-5 years

76719: 9-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17-Feb. 7

Singing in a choir provides many cognitive, academic and social benefits.

## BoomBoom Bears

Ages 3-5 years

76720: 9:30-10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17-Feb. 7

Boom whackers are pitched plastic tubes that create sounds and harmonies when striking surfaces. This is a fun and casual introduction to reading music.

## BumbleBee Bells

Age 3 years

76721: 10-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17-Feb. 7

Ages 4-5 years

76722: 9-9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19-Feb. 9

Handbells are a fun introduction to reading music and will introduce skills useful in later music learning.

## PrePiano Pandas

Age 3: years

76723: 9:30-10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19-Feb. 9

Ages 4-5 years

76086: 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19-Feb. 9

Children learn beginning piano techniques – L/R hands, eye-hand coordination, piano fingering, music alphabet, keyboard geography, notes and rhythm.

# AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM

## Education Programs

### Morning at the Museum

**Every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.**

Spend the morning with your preschooler at the Aurora History Museum for stories, crafts and hands-on activities. There is a new drop-in program every week. Free, no registration required. An adult must be present.

### The Local Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

**Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

This program will begin with a brief lecture about Dr. King's visits to the Denver area and conclude with a diverse group of Aurora citizens reflecting on the legacy of the civil rights leader and how his vision shaped the Aurora community.

### Museum Selfie Day

**Wednesday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help your local museum? Visit the Aurora History Museum on Selfie Day and help spread the word about AHM's exhibits, programs and activities. Just take a selfie in your favorite exhibit, share it on your social media and tag @AuroraHistoryCO. The museum will be open late to make sure you have time to stop by.

### AHM Homeschool Day: History of Literacy

**Thursday, Jan. 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

What are the oldest surviving documents in the world? Why is the printing press so important to history? Explore the history of language and the written word from ancient forms of writing to today. \$7 per student; all attendees must register.

### Winter Speaker Series 2023: Poets and Poetry in Aurora

**Jan. 19 - 28**

Join the Aurora History Museum for the Winter Speaker Series to better understand Aurora's poetry scene. Whether you're looking to improve your own poetry or just want to listen to up-and-coming local poets, this is the place to be. Each poet will perform their own work and guide visitors through activities. Check the website to register and see the full schedule.

### Black Figures Who Shaped Aurora

**Saturday, Feb. 10, 2-3 p.m.**

Aurora is a diverse city with an equally diverse history. This program will explore the lives of some of Aurora's prominent African American citizens who have shaped our city, the region and the country.

### Valentine's Day Power Couples at Mission Viejo Library

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 3 - 4 p.m.**

This talk will highlight several local power couples—such as the Mosleys, Lords, Prestons and Cowans. You'll learn about who they are as individuals and as couples. After the presentation, you'll get to try some chocolates! This event should be done by 4 p.m., so you will still have plenty of time for a romantic dinner with your sweetie. Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Cir.

### AHM Homeschool Day: Figures from Aurora History Pt. 1

**Thursday, Feb. 15, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Learn about the lives of important Black figures from Aurora's history, the hurdles they overcame, and how they impacted the city, state and country for the better. \$7 per student; all attendees must register.



### How Nature Can Change Your Life in a Year with Nelson Holland

**Sunday, Feb. 25, 1 - 2 p.m.**

The mountains and outdoor culture of Colorado can feel very exclusive and inaccessible. Come to the museum for a conversation with Nelson Holland, @FatBlackAndGettinIt on how he uses his social media to show great hikes for beginners, amazing views, and the 14ers he summits while being over 300 lbs.



# Nature's Beauty Captured

Through Jan. 7

Local Aurora photographer Wayne Gallagher, will showcase his portfolio of outdoor photography at the Aurora History Museum. Gallagher has been a photographer for over 50 years. What started as a childhood passion, Wayne now photographs wildlife and landscapes throughout Colorado. Wayne serves on the city of Aurora Open Space Board and leads bird walks in the city. Originally from Boston, he was a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Gallagher came to Aurora in 1986, serving at Buckley Air Force Base.

## Pages of the Past: Aurora's Library System

Through March 3

Libraries serve as centers for learning and education and foster community engagement and social connections. The city of Aurora's library system has a storied past that mirrors the city's growth, changing demographics and rich history. Come learn how the Aurora Public Library has developed from one room in Sarah Wood's home in North Aurora to a thriving system serving the third-largest city in the state of Colorado.

The Aurora Central Library under construction in 1981. Central Library is nationally regarded for its architecture and use of space; it serves as the central hub of the library system.

An architectural drawing of the South Branch Library, circa 1974. Today, the library is known as the Mission Viejo Library, reflecting the neighborhood in which it is located.

Aurora's very first library was located at 1516 Dallas St., operating out of the local residence of Sarah D. Wood. The library opened in 1929 and was Aurora's only library until the city built one in 1953.



## ARTS AND CULTURE IN AURORA



### CITY OF AURORA LIBRARY & CULTURAL SERVICES

**Aurora Dance Arts**  
Multiple locations  
303.326.8308 | [AuroraGov.org/Dance](http://AuroraGov.org/Dance)

**Aurora Fox Arts Center**  
9900 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.739.1970 | [AuroraFox.org](http://AuroraFox.org)

**Aurora History Museum**  
15051 E. Alameda Parkway  
303.739.6660 | [AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

**Art in Public Places**  
Multiple locations  
303.739.6747 | [AuroraGov.org/PublicArt](http://AuroraGov.org/PublicArt)

**Aurora Public Library**  
• Central, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway  
• Chambers Plaza, 1551 Chambers Road  
• Hoffman Heights, 1298 Peoria St.  
• Iliff Square, 2253 S. Peoria St.  
• Martin Luther King Jr., 9898 E. Colfax Ave.  
• Mission Viejo, 15324 E. Hampden Circle  
• Tallyn's Reach, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road  
[AuroraLibrary.org](http://AuroraLibrary.org)

**Aurora Rhythms**  
303.739.6520 | [AuroraGov.org/Concerts](http://AuroraGov.org/Concerts)

**Bicentennial Art Center - Pottery**  
13655 E. Alameda Ave.  
303.344.1776 | [AuroraGov.org/Pottery](http://AuroraGov.org/Pottery)

**Cultural Arts and Outreach**  
Music and visual arts classes at multiple locations  
303.739.6591 | [AuroraGov.org/Arts](http://AuroraGov.org/Arts)  
Theatre classes at multiple locations  
303.739.6520 | [AuroraGov.org/Arts](http://AuroraGov.org/Arts)

**Historic Sites and Preservation Office**  
15051 E. Alameda Parkway  
[AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites](http://AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites)

### OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS AND VENUES

**5280 Artist CoOp**  
303.432.9162 | [5280ArtistCoOp.com](http://5280ArtistCoOp.com)

**Aurora Artists' Guild**  
[AuroraArtistsGuild.com](http://AuroraArtistsGuild.com)

**Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD)**  
303.913.7508 | [AuroraCulture.org](http://AuroraCulture.org)

**Aurora Singers**  
303.343.3377 | [AuroraSingers.org](http://AuroraSingers.org)

**Aurora Symphony Orchestra**  
303.873.6622 | [AuroraSymphony.org](http://AuroraSymphony.org)

**Community College of Aurora Arts and Communication Department**  
303.340.7335 | [CCAurora.edu](http://CCAurora.edu)

**Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)**  
1405 Florence St.  
303.367.5886 | [DavArts.org](http://DavArts.org)

**Grand Design Inc.**  
303.955.2724 | [GrandByDesign.org](http://GrandByDesign.org)

**Inside the Orchestra**  
303.355.7855  
[info@insidetheorchestra.org](mailto:info@insidetheorchestra.org)

**Kim Robards Dance Inc.**  
303.825.4847  
[KimRobardsDance.org](http://KimRobardsDance.org)

**The People's Building (City Venue)**  
9995 E. Colfax Ave. | 720.819.6680  
[ThePeoplesBuilding.com](http://ThePeoplesBuilding.com)

**Red Delicious Press**  
9901 E. 16th Ave. | 303.366.2922  
[RedDeliciousPress.com](http://RedDeliciousPress.com)

**Roshni, Voice of the Voiceless**  
Multiple locations | 720.427.0404  
[RoshniLight.org](http://RoshniLight.org)

**Vintage Theatre Productions Inc.**  
1468 Dayton St. | 303.856.7830  
[VintageTheatre.com](http://VintageTheatre.com)

**Visions Performing Arts**  
720.620.2316  
[VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org](http://VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org)

This is

**AURORA**

**CREATES**

Catch up on city  
**ARTS and HISTORY**

Aurora Creates is a bimonthly publication by the city of Aurora's Library and Cultural Services Department, highlighting events, programs and stories related to the arts and cultural offerings by the city. If you wish to receive Aurora Creates bimonthly e-newsletter or a hard copy, please scan the QR code to indicate your preferred delivery method.



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