Arts & History Worth Discovering | Oct.-Nov. 2019

AURORACREATES

Arts and History
Keep it Local!
October is National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM), so it’s fitting that this issue of Aurora Creates features a special insert that celebrates and shines a spotlight on so many of the wonderful arts organizations and artists that call Aurora home—especially in the Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD).

One of the goals of NAHM is to provide governments and businesses with the data they need to justify investing in the arts. Finding the right combination of economic and social benefits is a tricky business. Here in Aurora, we are fortunate that our city leaders believe in the ability of the arts to build communities—especially among diverse populations. We are grateful that they understand how the arts make communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Cultural places and events are magnetic, attracting not only artists but also families, travelers and businesses. Creative placemaking—the gravitational effect of culture on neighborhoods—positively impacts quality of life attracting diverse populations and strengthening communities. Capitalizing on these effects of creative placemaking requires strong public-sector support.

We are also grateful that we live in a city where the arts are recognized as a hallmark of a city’s innovation. The arts are the foundation of a city’s creative capacity, spurring innovation and generating unique products and services. Creativity is part of any city’s competitive edge, where distinctive design and effective communications can spell the success or failure of a business or policy venture.

Aurora’s new slogan is “Go Big!” We think this has a special relevance for the role arts and culture plays in community development. There really aren’t any big cities without big arts. By keeping your arts and history experiences local, you are helping Aurora develop a bigger arts and culture sector. Thank you!

Cover photos: Clockwise from top, Roshni artistic director Deepali Lindblom surrounded by students; break-dancer Anthony Doan Le (and unidentified feet) perform at the People’s Building; actors Mary Louise Lee and Nathaniel Waite-Lutz in the Aurora Fox production of “Caroline, or Change.”
Contributing to a Flourishing Arts District

Aurora’s commitment to creating a flourishing arts district is clear as you walk or drive along Colfax Avenue between Dallas and Geneva streets among the largest concentration of city-owned public art projects. Over 16 works have been commissioned and installed within the arts district boundaries since 2001. A few of these remarkable pieces are highlighted below.

“Ghost Trolley,” by the late Lawrence Argent, was installed in 2007 and references the historic trolley that ran east/west on Colfax Avenue, connecting Aurora to downtown Denver. This unique work of art was designed to be installed on the median. The artist used the tools of perspective and illusion to create a sense of three-dimensionality on a sculpture that is relatively flat. Your perception of the piece changes depending on your location. By summoning the history of the site and employing perspective in this manner, Argent created an artwork that is aesthetically, conceptually and historically compelling. Argent became very well known in 2005 when “I See What You Mean,” also known as the Blue Bear, was installed at the Colorado Convention Center.

“Unglued” by Christopher Weed is commonly referred to as the blue chair. This artwork is actually installed on what was the trolley turnaround, a small island at the south side of the intersection of Dallas Street and Colfax Avenue. Weed is also known for using perspective as a tool to make a point, as well as scale and context. In this case, the view is dramatic and one chair leg appears detached, creating the sense of imbalance.

“Vintage Emotions” by David Garcia, a recent addition to the north facing wall of Vintage Theatre, uses scale and exaggerated expressions and gestures to capture the attention of those passing by. His dramatic depiction of theatrical characters is playful and amusing and refers to the activities that take place within the theatre.

Completed in August, “Revival,” by Yulia Avgustinovich, is the most recent addition. This four-panel mural, located at the Aurora Fox Arts Center, represents a collaboration between the Aurora Fox, the Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites and the Art in Public Places Program. This vibrant mural tells the history of the Aurora Fox through images and brightens the way for patrons as they find their way from parking to the theatre entrance.

This collection of public art helps to define the boundaries of the arts district by creating a visually dynamic environment. It reveals the character and history of the area; activates the community with the energy of art making, installation and creativity, and inspires others --such as private business owners and nonprofits-- to invest in aesthetic and conceptual enhancements and placemaking.

To learn more about the Art in Public Places Program and the 250-plus public art collection, visit AuroraGov.org/PublicArt.
OCTOBER

03
Exhibit Opening: Korean Women Painters Group
Aurora Municipal Center, Mezzanine Gallery
Through Oct. 31

03
First Thursday Mixer
6 - 8 p.m.
Visit AuroraCulture.org for location.

03 – 05
Fall Quilt Sale
Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle
Visit AuroraGov.org/ACAA for hours.

05 & 06
“A Splash of Color” $
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Aurora Singers
East Middle School, 1275 Fraser St.

16
Panel Discussion: Historic Preservation $
Noon – 12:45 p.m.
Aurora History Museum

26
“The Horla” Tea Time Radio Play $
2 - 3:30 p.m.
Aurora History Museum

Villain Fashion Soiree
Baddie Babkins Factory
4 – 10 p.m.
ACAD

“Symphony Spooktacular!” $
7:30 p.m.
Aurora Symphony Orchestra
The People’s Building

30
“Día de los Muertos: Honoring our Ancestors”
Noon
Featuring Shane Franklin (SF1) and Grupo Huitzilopochtli
Presented by Metropolitan State University of Denver
Aurora Fox Arts Center

NOVEMBER

11
Opening Night: “Waiting to be Invited” $
7:30 p.m.
5280 Artist Co-Op
ACAD

01
Opening Night: “Looped” $
7:30 p.m.
Vintage Theatre

25th Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show
Reception and Award Ceremony
5 – 7:30 p.m.
Aurora Artists Guild
Community College of Aurora

01 & 02
Aurora Potters’ Guild Fall Sale
Friday, Noon – 8 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Community College of Aurora
The Aurora Cultural Arts District encourages artistic and cultural creativity through advocacy, promoting programs and activities, supporting our multicultural urban communities, and providing opportunities for diverse expression. For more information please visit www.auroraculture.org

Instagram: @atownartists
Facebook: facebook.com/auroraculturalartsdistrict

Creativity thrives here.

FREE after-school and summer art programs for kids ages 3-17 – Come make art with us!

DAVA
downtown aurora visual arts
1405 Florence St., Aurora
www.davarts.org
303-367-5886
admin@davarts.org

City of Aurora Cultural Program
AURORA FOX HAS YOUR HOLIDAYS COVERED!

Get haunted with
CUTTING ROOM FLOOR
Oct. 17 – 30

Get merry with
TWIST YOUR DICKENS
Nov. 29-Dec. 22

Get festive for New Year with
TAKE TO THE HIGHWAY
Dec. 29 & 31

Tickets at AuroraFox.org
or 303.739.1970

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An affordable arts, culture, and event space

ThePeoplesBuilding.com
**Roshni**, meaning “Light” uses Dance, Music and Storytelling to heal, uplift and inspire. Come and join our community.

info@KimRobardsDance.org

“A Splash of Color”
October 5 & 6, 2019
“Show Tunes and Theme Songs”
May 2 & 3, 2020

All performances are held at:
East Middle School, 1275 Fraser Street
- Saturdays at 7 p.m.
- Sundays at 2 p.m.

aurorasingers.org
303.343.3377

Visions Performing Arts Company
Committed to providing 6th-12th grade students with culturally affirming content dedicated to preserving African and Latinx performing arts.

Find us at the Dayton Street Opportunity Center
1145 Dayton St, Aurora
720.620.2316
VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org

FALL MASTERWORKS:
**FIRE & PASSION**

Sat., Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 3 at 3 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center

AuroraSymphony.org

“Aurora”; Choreography: Kim Robards; Photography: Stan Davis
Annual Aurora Potters’ Guild Fall Sale
Nov 1, 2019 - 12 pm - 8 pm
Nov 2, 2019 - 9 am - 4 pm
Community College of Aurora CentreTech Campus Student Center
16060 E CentreTech Parkway 80011
Ceramic Art and Functional wares by 26 clay artists

Delicious Press
Fine Art Printmaking Studio
Affordable Monthly Membership | Printmaking Classes
www.reddeliciouspress.com
720-403-9898 | 9901 E. 16th Ave, Aurora, CO

Baddie Babkins Factory
Fashion show, live performances, food and more!

Villain Fashion Soiree
October 26, 2019, 4 – 10 p.m.
(ACAD) 1400 Dallas Street
720.681.9850 • baddiebabkins@gmail.com

Nueva Escuela de Música
A nonprofit organization with the mission to feature and inspire the Hispanic community through music education.
www.nuevaschoolofmusic.org

THE CENSUS IS COMING APRIL 2020.
AURORA BE HEARD. BE SEEN. BE COUNTED.
AuroraCensus2020.org 303.739.7400
#AuroraBeCounted

2020 Northwest Aurora Arts Grant Application is now available.
Deadline: Nov. 22, 2019
Learn more at AuroraGov.org/ArtsGrants

Stanley Marketplace
Your friendly neighborhood food hall and urban market in northwest Aurora.
www.stanleymarketplace.com
CITY OF AURORA

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

THE LARGEST SINGLE PROVIDER OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE CITY OF AURORA

Something for everyone

- Art in Public Places
- Arts Education and Outreach
- Aurora Creates
- Aurora Dance Arts
- Aurora Fox Arts Center
- Aurora History Museum
- Aurora Historic Sites
- Aurora Rhythms Summer Concerts
- Bicentennial Art Center
- Northwest Aurora Arts Grants

AuroraGov.org/Arts
**ONGOING PROGRAMS**

**EXHIBITS**

- **Korean Women Painters Group**
  - Aurora Municipal Center, Mezzanine Gallery
  - Through Oct. 31

- **Festival of Wreaths**
  - Aurora History Museum and Aurora Municipal Center, Mezzanine Gallery
  - Nov. 5 – Dec. 6

- **“Hidden in Plain Sight: Aurora’s Historic Preservation Program”**
  - Aurora History Museum
  - Through Nov. 3

- **“Our Planet,” Artworks and Films by DAVA Youth**
  - DAVA
  - Through Nov. 13

- **“Hometown Pride: Student Athletic and Extracurricular History in Aurora”**
  - Aurora History Museum
  - Through April 5, 2020

**THEATRE**

- **“The Best Day of Your Life”**
  - Vintage Theatre
  - Through Oct. 6

- **“Miss You Like Hell” (musical)**
  - Aurora Fox Arts Center
  - Through Oct. 13

- **“The Addams Family” (musical)**
  - Vintage Theatre
  - Through Oct. 27

- **“Waiting to be Invited”**
  - 5280 Artist Co-Op
  - ACAD
  - Oct. 11 – Nov. 3

- **“Looped”**
  - Vintage Theatre
  - Nov. 1 – Dec. 15

- **“Tuck Everlasting” (musical)**
  - Vintage Theatre
  - Nov. 22 – Jan. 5

- **“Second City’s Twist Your Dickens”**
  - Aurora Fox Arts Center
  - Nov. 29 – Dec. 22

Keep up with the dynamic programming at ThePeoplesBuilding.com or @PeoplesBuilding on social media
It was a busy summer for the city of Aurora Historic Sites Office. One of Aurora’s oldest homes got a new sign, Little Free Libraries were installed at three locations, rehabilitation efforts are underway at the city’s oldest historic district, Aurora was awarded a state rehabilitation grant for the historic Fox Theater and the city is quickly approaching 31 designated landmarks.

Built in 1891, Centennial House (landmark No. 11) was erected when the community was still called Fletcher. After the city purchased the Queen Anne Victorian house in 1990, a coalition of mostly volunteers restored the house for Aurora’s 1991 centennial. The existing, deteriorated signage dated to those restoration efforts. The Historic Sites Office collaborated with the Aurora Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution to fund new signage crediting those behind the restoration. It was installed this summer.

The Historic Sites Office also installed two Little Free Libraries at Centennial House and the DeLaney Farm Historic District. Donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution, these custom-built libraries are modeled after Centennial House and the DeLaney Round Barn (landmark No. 9, built in 1902). These libraries benefit from high foot traffic and may also increase site visitation. A third Little Free Library was placed in front of the historic Carlson-Holzer House, located just south of East 13th Avenue and Chester Street.

Funded in part with a generous State Historical Fund grant, the Historic Sites Office is also rehabilitating the DeLaney Farm Loafing Shed. Built in the 1930s and relocated to DeLaney Farm in the 1940s, the Loafing Shed provided shelter and respite for livestock. After a thorough rehabilitation to correct its current state of disrepair, the loafing shed will provide exciting new opportunities for educational programming.

The Historic Sites Office was awarded another State Historical Fund grant to address the deterioration and impaired functionality of the iconic 61-foot neon sign and marquee at the Aurora Fox Arts Center (landmark No. 5). Built in 1946 using a Quonset Hut for its auditorium, this unique structure is now home to the critically acclaimed Aurora Fox Theatre – now in its 35th season.
Finally, the Historic Sites Office and the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission secured historic landmark designation for the Victorian/Craftsmen-style McMillan House (landmark No. 28, built in 1911) and the International-style Strait Lumber (landmark No. 29, built in 1947). Landmark nominations have also been filed for the “pattern home” Carlson-Holzer House (built in 1911) and the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery (established 1860s).
COMING SOON TO THE AURORA CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT

“Alice in Wonderland”
Aurora Fox, Nov. 8 – 10
City of Aurora Cultural Program

“Twist Your Dickens”
Aurora Fox, Nov. 29 – Dec. 22
City of Aurora Cultural Program

“Looped”
Vintage Theatre, Nov. 1 – Dec. 15

A very special Halloween concert filled with delightful spooky treats for the whole family! Wear your preferred Halloween costume for a costume contest, savor delicious treats for all ages, and enjoy some of your favorite haunting tunes!

Saturday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. | General admission: $25
AuroraSymphony.org