



2019 ARTS & CULTURE WRAP-UP

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Roanoke Arts & Culture News is a service of the City of Roanoke's Office of Arts and Culture to advance our collective work and provide updates on opportunities for artists and creative changemakers throughout our community. [Click here](#) for more information. Submit potential content to Arts and Culture Coordinator [Douglas Jackson](#).



A year of collaborative projects

It's the nature for arts and culture to pull us together. Throughout 2019, nonprofit organizations, city departments, volunteers, and neighborhood groups collaborated to highlight and propel the community's creativity and energy.

Take the art baskets on the Zagster bikes. These colorful creations were a product of Roanoke Public Libraries, [Ride Solutions](#), student patrons of the Raleigh Court and Main branches of the library, and the Roanoke Arts Commission. Note: the baskets will hold your own art supplies and instruments when you head out to a park this spring to paint a picture or strum your ukulele.

At year's end

This year City Council invested more than \$340,000 in the community's nonprofit arts and museum partners through our [Arts and Culture Agency Funding Program](#). Now residents and visitors are reaping the benefits of those investments as these funded quality-of-life partners raise curtains, open doors, produce new work, and engage new audiences. See the list below.

Not only do Roanoke's quality arts offerings provide us the opportunity to get out and see stellar performances and engaging exhibits, but we're learning and growing together as we do it. Then to top it off, the [Roanoke Cultural Endowment](#) worked with Americans for the Arts this year to demonstrate a \$64.2 million impact of arts and culture in the region. That's a lot of tickets sold and dinners bought at local businesses. These efforts are good for us and for those working in the more than 1,700 full time equivalent jobs these efforts generate.

We're proud of what our partners are doing in schools and neighborhoods, in concert halls, and on museum walls. We brag, too, on the talent in the community.

Have you tracked some of the images of local work on [ArtinRoanoke's Facebook page](#)? There's some cool stuff out there. And your neighbors are doing it. You're doing it.

Our writers are doing it, and this fall Ride Solutions, Valley Metro, and the Roanoke Arts Commission brought together all five of the **Writers by Bus** at Hollins University for a special reading and launch of Lucy Marcus' chapbook, [Dandelion Wishes: Short Stories](#).

This year Susan Jennings retired. She drove the public art push in the community for about 15 years, and we're grateful, as was clear at the 2019 Kendig Awards. Susan was a recipient, and the honor was well deserved. I have her on speed dial.

Global Harmony now greets residents and visitors at the Gainsboro Gateway fountain. It marked a decade of public art. And we're well on the way in decade number two.

On the **Roanoke Arts Commission**, we have a full complement of dedicated members, and Cari Gates stepped into the role of Chair, with Jeremy Butterfield as Vice-Chair.

Big picture projects for 2020 include the development of a new brochure for the public art program, and the exploration of a resource kit to support the development of public facing art on private property.

Keep an eye out here for these projects and more, and thank you for all you do in making Roanoke a community of choice filled with creative, thoughtful people.

Wishing you a peaceful, joyful, and safe holiday season.

Douglas Jackson



Steel for the "Rhapsody in Knowledge" series by Napoleon Jones–Henderson before receiving its base coat. Come to Melrose Library on January 17 to see the finished sculpture!

SAVE THE DATE: Melrose Library sculpture to be dedicated – Friday, January 17, 11 AM

Please join the City of Roanoke, Roanoke Public Libraries, and the Roanoke Arts Commission for the dedication of Napoleon Jones–Henderson's three–part sculpture series, "Rhapsody in Knowledge". This exterior art was developed by the Boston, MA, artist through a neighborhood and schools engagement process, working with the Melrose–Orange Target Area participants and students from Roanoke City Schools, and is funded through Roanoke's Percent for Art program.



Detail from Dorothy Gillespie's *Dancers* 1944, Oil on canvas, 36 x 42 in, Radford University. The piece will be featured in the Dorothy Gillespie Centennial exhibit at the Taubman Museum of Art. The exhibit opens April 4 and was funded in part with programming dollars from the City of Roanoke's Arts & Culture Fund.

2019–20 PROGRAMMING MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CITY ARTS & CULTURAL FUNDING

The following organizations are engaging the community in quality programs throughout the year through funding from the City of Roanoke's annual Arts & Culture Funding program.

- Artemis Journal
 - Down by Downtown – The SPOT on Kirk's Local Talent SPOTlight
 - Eleanor D Wilson Museum's 2019–2020 Exhibitions and Programs
 - Grandin Theatre Foundation's Film Lab
 - Harrison Museum of African American Culture's Henry Street Heritage Festival Performances
 - Jefferson Center Foundation's Presenting Arts and Education
 - Local Colors of Western VA's Local Colors Festival
 - Mill Mountain Theatre's Young Audiences Series Performances and Reading for Children
 - Mill Mountain Zoo's Art to Rescue the River
 - Opera Roanoke's Season 44
 - Roanoke Ballet Theatre's Sleeping Beauty
 - Roanoke Childrens Theatre Residencies
 - Roanoke Festival in the Park
 - Roanoke Symphony's Symphony Under the Stars Concert in Elmwood Park
 - Science Museum of Western Virginia's Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead
 - Southwest Virginia Ballet Gives Back
 - Taubman Museum of Art's Celestial Centennial: The Art and Legacy of Dorothy GillespieVA Museum of Transportation's Education Program
 - Winds of the Blue Ridge Concerts
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A detail from Hanah Jubran's *Allegro*, on the Elmwood Art Walk through spring 2021.

PUBLIC ART FORECAST

- We'll keep Roanoke Rising, the current exhibition on the Art Walk up through Spring 2021. Don't forget to walk your out of town visitors through the [Art Walk in Elmwood Park](#) when you take them skating in Downtown Roanoke! Check out interviews with artists on the Otocast app.
- Finalists are submitting proposals for sculpture in front of the new Virginia 811 / E-911 Center. We will install the commissioned piece this spring.
- Stormwater Inlet Art coming late Spring 2020.
- An [Arches project reveal meeting](#) will be held on January 27th with the project to happen in April and May. The project will include performance and physical improvements beneath Memorial Bridge. This project is funded with by the City of Roanoke and a Challenge America Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- A Library E-Branch in South Roanoke will get an art wrap.
- We'll put a call out for bus shelter art in the Melrose-Orange Target Area.
- We'll install "Rhapsody in Knowledge" at the Melrose Library on January 17.
- And who knows what plans will emerge for fall 2020 and beyond. Every day partners are approaching us about potential art, all made possible through Roanoke's Percent for Art program and the spirit of our partners.

NEW! ARTS in the NEWS

[Submit your press links here!](#)

- [Theater review: Mill Mountain Theatre's Sound of Music stars captivating cast](#) (*Roanoke Times*, Dec. 9)
- [RSO Brass quintet review](#) (*Roanoke Times*, Dec. 14)
- [Taubman awards longtime arts supporters](#) (*Roanoke Times*, Nov. 29)
- [A quarter century as Santa](#) (Fantasyland at **History Museum of Western Virginia**) (*Roanoke Times*, Dec. 5)
- [Arts and Cultural Month](#) (RVTV-3, Inside Roanoke)

- [New Arts and Cultural Coordinator Focused on Strengthening Communities](#) (Roanoke Times, Nov. 14)
 - [Center in the Square and Roanoke County's Illuminights](#) (Roanoke Cultural Endowment, Nov. 13)
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EXHIBITS

- [Reed Dillon](#) at Alexander/Heath Contemporary Art Gallery (through Dec. 27)
 - Ann Way Bernard, Steve Bernard, & Brett LaGue at [The Market Gallery](#).
 - [Riverrun](#): New Works by Ray Kass at the Taubman (through Apr. 11)
 - [Huntopia](#) at the Taubman (through Mar. 29)
 - [Pop Power](#) at the Taubman (through Mar. 8)
 - Gerry Hubert and Rebecca Talbot at Brandon Oaks (through March 15)
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OPPORTUNITIES

- Get listed on the [Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge Artist Directory](#). Free for local artists. [Sign up here](#).
- Apply to serve on one of the [City's appointed boards and commissions](#).

VISUAL ARTISTS

- [Danville Art Trail Call](#): Due 1/10
- [Howard County, MD ARTsites Call](#): Due February 28
- [Kingman and Heritage Island Mural Call](#): Due 12/19
- [Curator Off Duty](#): Olin Hall Galleries' open exhibition for VA artists at Roanoke College– open now.
- 2020 slots available for Brandon Oaks Exhibiting Artists: Contact [Katherine Devine](#)
- [Pendleton, Oregon Veteran's Memorial Public Art](#): Due 12/16.
- [Plein Air Roanoke](#) (The Little Gallery): *Save the Date – 5/11 – 5/16, 2020*
- Have you considered joining the [League of Roanoke Artists](#)?

WRITERS

- [Write Stuff! Young Playwright's Call](#) from Mill Mountain Theater: Due December 31st. Share this with the talented youth in your network!
- Get ready to apply...coming soon: the Writer By Bus Application.
- [Roanoke Regional Writers Conference](#): January 24 & 25 at Hollins.
- [Get listed](#) on the writers inventory.

PERFORMING ARTISTS

We live in a creative region. Get out there!


- Try your spoken word at [Soul Sessions](#).
- Tell a story at [Hoot & Holler](#).
- Join the [Roanoke Valley Community Band](#).
- Try out for a production at [Showtimers](#), [Attic Productions](#), [Off the Rails](#) or another of our local theater groups.
- Performing groups: [Send your audition calls](#).


ARTS LEADERS

- The [neighborhood development grant](#) program funds arts and cultural activities. Consider how you might help a neighborhood organization meet their goals. Applications will be due January 17.
- From the UK: [Arts Education as a Social Justice Issue](#) (Creative Generation)
- FY 2021 City of Roanoke Arts & Cultural **funding applications due NOON, January 22.**
- Conversation Starters: [Public Art Resources](#) from Americans for the Arts.
- Economic data on arts and culture in Roanoke from Americans for the Arts and the [Roanoke Cultural Endowment](#).
- Collaboration: It's in fashion. Arts groups contact Fashionista Roanoke's [Garland Gravely](#) to explore collaborative opportunities:
- Apply for to serve on one of the [City's appointed boards and commissions](#).

Send opportunities to douglas.jackson@roanokeva.gov.

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