



MARCH 2026

## UPCOMING:

**MARCH 28 // 6-9PM**

**BILBO'S BIRTHDAY: AN IMMERSIVE ART EXPERIENCE**

**APRIL 3 // 5-8PM**

**GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION  
SCC ART STUDENTS + YOUTH ART SHOW**

**APRIL 18 // 10AM-NOON**

**MOM + ME TEA PARTY**

**APRIL 24 // 10AM-10PM**

**ENTARTETE NACHT: DEGENERATE ART + MUSIC**

**JUNE 21 // 9-4PM**

**59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR**

**AUG 1 // 5-8PM**

**GREAT RIVER POTTERY THROWDOWN**

**SEPT 19 // 6-9**

**HAPPY 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ACB!  
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

This year, the Art Center of Burlington celebrates 60 years. Founded in 1966 by visionary community members who saw the importance of accessible art—for artists and the public alike—ACB has grown into a cornerstone of Burlington's cultural life. Our founders understood that art is not just personal expression—it strengthens community identity, civic pride, and the vitality of our city.

Six decades later, that vision guides everything we do. This year, we're expanding programming, launching Artie, our mobile art van, and continuing outreach to schools and neighborhoods across Southeast Iowa. We are also actively working to bring affordable artist studio spaces to downtown Burlington, transforming underutilized buildings into vibrant hubs that support local and visiting artists, public art, and creative civic engagement.

At a time when resources for the arts and humanities in schools are under pressure, ACB plays a critical role. Artistic practice nurtures curiosity, problem-solving, and adaptability—skills that employers consistently rank above technical training (Create in Iowa, 2025). There is nothing more profoundly human than artistic expression, and we remain committed to ensuring students and community members have access to these experiences, supporting teachers, schools, and the broader community.

The arts are not just a cultural asset—they drive tourism, boost our economy, and keep Burlington a vibrant, engaging place to live. Your support allows ACB to remain a steady presence, nurturing artists, enriching education, and helping our city thrive. Here's to 60 years—and the next 60—of inspiring, sustaining, and celebrating the arts in Burlington.

Elizabeth Pappas, Executive Director

# ACB TURNS 60 !



**GET YOUR GROOVE ON,  
IT'S OUR 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

**Saturday, September 19  
@ Memorial Auditorium  
More details to follow!**



Back in 1966, a small group of artists had a big idea: Burlington needed a place where art could be made, shared, and celebrated by everyone. That idea became the Art Center of Burlington—and sixty years later, it is still thriving because of this community.

Join us for a throwback birthday party and our annual fundraiser, honoring our founders, the visionaries who dreamed ACB into being, and all those who have shaped it into the vibrant cultural hub it is today. We'll raise a glass, cut the cake, share stories, and celebrate the artists, teachers, and supporters who built ACB—and the bright future we're creating together.

Expect music, art everywhere you look, and a room full of people who care deeply about creativity and community. Dress in your best 1960s-inspired style and help us make history as we toast to the next 60 years!

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!



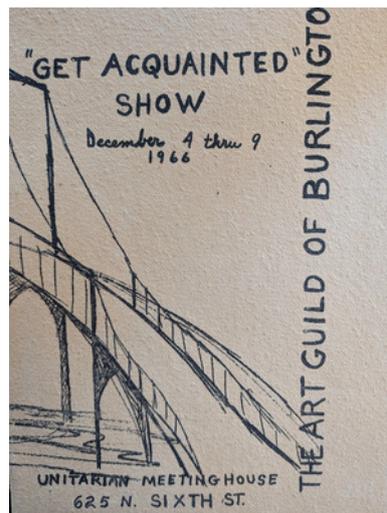
**SUN JUNE 21**

## 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SNAKE ALLEY ALLEY ART FAIR

We're gearing up for this year's iconic Snake Alley Art Fair! Over 80 Midwest artists will gather for a full day of art, community, and creativity on Father's Day.

We're honored to feature multi-year SAAF participant Justin Meier as the designer for this year's poster and merch.

Follow us on FB for details on how you could own Justin's incredible metal sculpture!



**FULL DETAILS AND THE LIST OF THIS YEAR'S  
ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND FOOD VENDORS**

**SCAN HERE**





# Artie THE ART VAN



## INTRODUCING...

We're excited to announce that the 2025 Fall Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of Des Moines County has helped bring ARTIE, our mobile art van, to life! This winter, we've been busy equipping ARTIE with art supplies and resources to serve our Artscapes programs and reach even more community partners.

Slated for its official unveiling in early May, ARTIE will soon be traveling throughout Burlington—setting up in neighborhoods, parks, and community events—bringing the creativity and experiences you love about ACB directly into the heart of our city.

A huge thank you to the Community Foundation of Des Moines County, Bones Body Shop LLC, and our local Amazon facility partners for helping make this longtime dream a reality!

## SOLAR: YEAR THREE

It's hard to believe that it's already been two years since we officially went off the grid, harnessing the power of the sun to secure a sustainable future for generations to come. By redirecting funds previously spent on rising energy bills, we're able to invest more in what we do best—providing accessible arts opportunities and expanding our impact. As we enter the third and final year of our fundraising campaign, we're working to accelerate the timeline and realize the full potential of solar power sooner. We invite the community to join us in this initiative by donating today.



scan here to learn more +  
make a donation



Now uniting twelve arts organizations, the Arts Collective of SEI amplifies the region's cultural impact through shared marketing, collaboration, and a commitment to arts and culture. Speaking with one voice across media each month, the Collective has strengthened relationships, sparked new partnerships, and fostered mutual support.

By working together, we've shown that a thriving arts ecosystem isn't built on competition—it's built on unity, elevating both our individual organizations and the entire Southeast Iowa arts community.



Tri States  
Public Radio  
Interview



WQUAD TV  
Interview



MARCH EVENTS	
3/1	SANDY TOES AND SALTY KISSES THE PLAYERS WORKSHOP   3 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/1-2	DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS AUDITIONS THE PLAYERS WORKSHOP   7 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/5	OPENING RECEPTION: JAMES WALKER HENRY ART CENTER   5-7 PM   FORT MADISON, IA
3/5-7	BRE PRESENTS: SNOWBULL 2024 MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM   7 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/6	SNOWBULL AFTER PARTY WITH DAVID HOGUE & HEARTLAND MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM   8-10 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/7	SNOWBULL AFTER PARTY WITH STUMP TOWN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM   8-10 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/6	GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION: CECILE HOUEL ART CENTER OF BURLINGTON   5-8 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/14	CONJUNCTION: A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF CRENSHAW CLEARWATER REYNOLDS THE LEGACY THEATER   7 PM   CARTRIDGE, IL
3/14	SEISO PRESENTS: BEETHOVEN'S 9TH SYMPHONY THE CAPITOL THEATER   7 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/15	SEISO PRESENTS: BEETHOVEN'S 9TH SYMPHONY BRIDGE VIEW CENTER   7 PM   OTTUMWA, IA
3/15	SEISO PRESENTS: BEETHOVEN'S 9TH SYMPHONY THE CAPITOL THEATER   7 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/18	BURLINGTON UNIVERSITY CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: DAVID CYZAK ON OBEO THE CAPITOL THEATER   7:30 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/20	HOTEL DESPERADO: A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES THE CAPITOL THEATER   7:30 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/26	BURLINGTON CIVIC MUSIC PRESENTS: SNOWE WITH PIANIST CLAUDE ASSAD THE CAPITOL THEATER   7 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/27	LUNCH ALAART GALLERY TALK BY JAMES WALKER HENRY ART CENTER   12 PM   FORT MADISON, IA
3/27	SWEET BABY JOEL TAYLOR: A TRIBUTE TO BRLEY JOEL & JAMES TAYLOR THE CAPITOL THEATER   7:30 PM   BURLINGTON, IA
3/27-28	BILBO'S BIRTHDAY: AN IMMERSIVE ART EVENT (2 DAY EVENT, SIGN UP IN FB OR SEI) ART CENTER OF BURLINGTON   6 PM   BURLINGTON, IA

Follow the Burlington Municipal Band on facebook for updates!

Find a listing of all collective member monthly events on FB, The Hawkeye and the Burlington Beacon.

# VICE NIGHTS



Moments shape us—planned or unexpected, joyful or challenging. This past October, artist Dylan Morgan invited visitors to Moments, an immersive, one-night-only exhibition that asked us to pause, reflect, and be fully present. Through his work, Dylan created spaces for awareness, contemplation, and quiet connection, reminding us that nothing matters more than the moment we are in.

Since 2021, Vice Nights have pushed artists to explore bold ideas and offered the community unique, unexpected ways to experience art. With Moments, Dylan continued that tradition—an unforgettable Halloween evening where art, atmosphere, and audience collided.

We're excited to carry that energy into 2026 with our upcoming slate of Vice Nights: Entartete Nacht this April, and a return of fan-favorite Teen Vice this October. Bold, immersive, and entirely unexpected—these evenings are a chance to experience art like nowhere else.



Our ever popular once monthly Bad Art Club is coming with us into 2026!

Explore our rotating lineup of DIY craft stations, where you'll get hands-on with different art materials, techniques, and inspirations—no two visits are the same! Or you can spend the whole time perfecting one masterpiece.

Try out new crafts, projects, and hobbies without having to buy all the supplies. Plus, it's a laid-back, fun space to hang with your favorite people, no pressure, just creativity.

Cash bar available, pre-order a charcuterie box to snack on while you relax and create. Cost is \$20 ACB Members or \$25 Non-Members

## JOIN THE CLUB

FIRST MONDAYS OF EVERY MONTH

6-8 PM



# DEGENERATE ART + MUSIC // APR 24



Experience a full day of art, history, and music with our one-day exhibition featuring period Nazi propaganda posters that reveal the climate of censorship surrounding the infamous Entartete Kunst exhibition of 1937. Complementing this historical context, contemporary student artwork offers a modern response, sparking dialogue on artistic freedom. Guided discussions invite visitors of all ages to reflect on the impact of silencing artists and the enduring value of creative expression.

**Live Concert | 8 PM | Free & Open to the Public**  
In the evening, celebrate the life and music of Django Reinhardt, the Gypsy jazz pioneer. Enjoy an unforgettable Art Center Jazz Night, exploring Reinhardt's groundbreaking work and the irony of his popularity with occupation forces during WWII—a jazz-playing gypsy, both deemed degenerate.

**Why It Matters**  
This event is more than art and music. It's a conversation about freedom of expression, the dangers of censorship, and a meaningful lead-in to the Library's upcoming Holocaust exhibition and programming.



# SUMMER ART CAMPS ARE HERE!



Our summer art camp lineup is officially live! From one-day workshops to five-day intensive camps, and across multiple mediums, we've packed the season full of opportunities for kids to create, explore, and imagine. Our instructors bring energy, expertise, and passion to every session, guiding young artists to think boldly, collaborate with peers, and grow their skills—all while having a summer full of fun and inspiration.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR ADULT , TEEN , KID CLASSES**  
**[BTOWNART.COM](http://BTOWNART.COM)**



## EXHIBITIONS

Our galleries remain a vital community resource—showcasing diverse voices, fresh perspectives, and artistic excellence. By presenting work from across the region, we provide a space where creativity thrives and the community can experience outstanding art up close.

We're now booking exhibitions through 2028 in both our main and mini galleries. 2025 wrapped with our beloved Itty Bitty Bits of Art and All Member Show, and 2026 is already off to a strong start, featuring artists Robert Johnson, Anthony Franklin, Susan Cunningham, and Cecile Houel.



### Upcoming Exhibitions:

- SCC Student Show**
- BHS Student + Teacher Show**
  - Deb Scott**
  - Cory Christiansen**
  - Gina Swartz**
  - Judy Bales**
- Glass Artisans Group Show**
  - Bob Hamilton**
- Itty Bitty Bits of Art**
  - Jane Elizabeth Shank**
- All Member Show**



# COMMUNITY CENTERED EVENTS



The end of 2025 was packed with favorites like Pint by Number Downtown Bar Crawl, Living Windows, and Miracle on Jefferson Street. So far in 2026, we've already welcomed the community back for a 90s-themed Couple's Portrait Paint Night and Galentine's Nights for both kids and adults.

Our events are more than just gatherings—they're opportunities for our staff to stretch their creativity and use art as a way to bring people together. The "gathering economy" is real; it's how we connect with one another and feel rooted in place.

There's plenty more ahead this year, including an immersive one-night Vice Night event, the Snake Alley Art Fair, the 5th Annual Great River Pottery Throwdown, our big 60th Anniversary Celebration at Memorial Auditorium, and one of our beloved Jazz Nights featuring our friends from the All American Jazz Collective performing the music of Duke Ellington. And knowing us, we'll likely add a few more surprises along the way.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Bilbo's Birthday: An Immersive Art Experience*

*Entartete Nacht: Degenerate Art + Music*

*Snake Alley Art Fair*

*The Great River Pottery Throwdown*

*60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Bash*

*A Night of Duke Ellington featuring the All American Jazz Collective*

*And more!*



CHECK OUT UPCOMING EVENT  
DETAILS AT  
[BTOWNART.COM](http://BTOWNART.COM)



# CREATIVE PLACEMAKING: BUILDING

# SPACE FOR ARTISTS DOWNTOWN



What could happen if artists had dedicated space to create, work, and be visible in the heart of downtown? Thanks to a partnership with the Iowa Arts Council, ACB was selected for their Creative Placemaking Accelerator, a two-year program designed to help communities turn bold ideas into reality and highlight the social and economic impact of arts and culture.

Since beginning this work in 2025, ACB—alongside downtown partners, the City of Burlington, cross-sector collaborators, and our local artist community—has been exploring how an underutilized downtown building could become affordable artist studio space. The vision is simple but powerful: transform vacant spaces into vibrant centers of creativity where artists can work, and the public can engage directly with the artistic process.

This effort represents the next step in strengthening Burlington’s cultural landscape—supporting our local artists, activating downtown spaces, and ensuring the arts remain a visible, thriving part of our community.



# IOWA CULTURAL COALITION

The 2025 Create in Iowa Report, produced by the Iowa Cultural Coalition, highlights the powerful impact of arts and culture across the state.

The report found that Iowa’s creative sector supports over 42,000 jobs and more than 5,800 creative businesses, generating nearly \$5 billion in economic activity each year.

It also underscores how arts and culture strengthen communities, attract visitors, and help retain talent—making them an essential part of Iowa’s economic and civic future.

Read the Full Report [HERE](#)



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**COURTNEY BRANDON**  
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**AVA BECKMAN**  
front desk

Jean Link, President  
Brian Thie, Vice President  
Norbert Gabby, Treasurer  
Laura Beckman, Secretary  
Laura Oetken, Melanie Young, Michelle Oleson, Julie Smith  
Mac Holford, Ellie Jacobs, Judah Cooper, Brandon Kipp



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB 12/13**

Kids Galentine Party  
Feb 12  
Treat Yourself Adult Galentines  
Feb 13 (FULL)



**MAR 15**

**SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR**  
Artist application deadline! Apply on  
Zapplication.



**MAR 27+28**

**Bilbo's Birthday**  
We think we're quite ready for  
another adventure!



**MAR 28**

**YOUTH ART SHOW**  
Artwork + Entry Form Deadline  
Show runs 4/2-22.



**APR 24**

**Entartete Nacht: Degenerate Art  
& Music**  
Free public exhibition during the day with  
a ticketed live music event in the evening.



**JUNE 21**

**Snake Alley Art Fair**  
59<sup>th</sup> Annual | 9am-4pm  
A celebration of creativity and community,  
centering on a love for the visual arts.



**AUG 1**

**Great River Pottery Throwdown**  
A fundraiser to help maintain our growing  
ceramic studio!



**VISIT [BTOWNART.COM](http://BTOWNART.COM)  
+ FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM + FACEBOOK  
FOR UPDATES.**



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