



FISHERS ARTS COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2024

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



2024 brought about lots of opportunities, many of which stretched our capacity but also allowed us to bring in others for paid positions to help manage the welcome load of events.

We continued the management of Fishers Creative Council for the City of Fishers with an increased management fee. This gave us the ability to bring performing arts groups and music schools into the brand new theater and showcase all that Fishers has to offer for arts education and performance opportunities during Spark!Fishers.

We also moved back home to the Art Gallery at City Hall in June. The bright open spaces and floor-to-ceiling windows showcase the visual arts in a stunning fashion. Our return to City Hall, now called Fishers Municipal Center, brought about the return of our Farmers' Market Saturdays in the gallery. Patrons were elated to have us back and over 300 people came in during the August and September markets.

Also in June, I started working for the Fishers Art Center, which gave us access to additional storage, art pedestals, their knowledgeable exhibition staff, and the ability to expand our Senior Showcase and Juried Exhibit in 2025. It also places me right inside the Art Gallery at City Hall on a daily basis. My job for the Art Center entails managing the theater space as well as helping patrons sign up for classes at Fishers Art Center and guiding them towards music and performing arts schools in Fishers. I love how my job aligns with the mission of Fishers Arts Council.

Partnerships that we've nurtured at Fishers District have led to expanding our Winter Art Markets, a new contract of managing Yard Concerts, getting more local artists paid gigs, and securing a holiday pop-up storefront for FAC artist member Stephanie Carignan. Our Artist Membership program grew organically to nine members in 2024. They said they love how we support artists and they want to give back to us. Finally, we started our Gallery Hop - which is expanding in 2025 thanks to the City of Fishers believing in the community experiences that we have created through Second Fridays. Rekindling our relationship with the City of Fishers gives me great hope for the future of Fishers Arts Council.

The work we do makes a positive impact on our neighbors and those that visit Fishers, Indiana. I can't thank our board enough for sharing ideas, creating new experiences, and supporting all that we do for our community and our artists.

Cheers to 2025 and our 20th anniversary!

Les Reinhardt



# ART FAIRS




We maintained our anchor art fairs with Car + Art and Harvest Fest, while expanding Winter Art Markets to a three-day series. Artists are asking for more indoor events, and while another art fair seems to not be in the cards, the expansion of our Gallery Hops may provide small solutions for artist vendors in 2025.

**Car + Art:** 29 artists, 4 musicians, 1 Spark activity

**Harvest Fest:** 46 artists, 9 local authors, 3 bands, 1 Spark activity, 9 nonprofits

**Winter Art Markets:** 24 artists (8 per event), paid opportunity for 9 high school drummers, 1 Craft per event (provided by Fishers District)



## SPARK! OF CREATIVITY

Spark! of Creativity was present at Car + Art and Harvest Fest, with one visual arts activity per event. Crafts provided by Fishers District were available during Winter Art Markets. While we may not return to our original concept of multi-disciplinary arts, the engagement and promotion of creativity is important in fostering young artists.

With the opening of Fishers Art Center, we started directing any questions regarding classes to the Art Center and sending their website to interested patrons.

# GALLERIES

We returned home to the Art Gallery at City Hall and forged a new relationship with the Hamilton County Community Foundation, offering more exhibition opportunities for visual and performing artists.

Yet again we set new records for attendance at Second Fridays:

**Senior Showcase:** 233 guests

**Embracing Black Culture:** 184 guests

**All Our Best** by HCAA: 151 guests

Art sales have been slowly growing since we began managing visual art and book sales back in 2021.


2021: \$2,943.59

2022: \$4,432.86

2023: \$13,015.57 / \$8,115.57

2024: \$11,275.70

In 2023 we experienced an anomaly sale of a single artwork for \$4,900. The artist, whose work was in our gallery, worked on her own to secure a sale with First Internet Bank. Because of this, we prefer to remove this sale when reviewing the work we do to make art sales happen for our artists.



# VOLUNTEERS

New volunteers participated in art fairs and receptions through VolunteerFishers.com and our Volunteer page on our website. We created volunteer sign up forms and sent several short volunteer e-newsletters citing specific help requests. These brought positive results, and continued development with specific needs in advance should increase our volunteer base.

In 2024 we reached out to Scout BSA Troop 109 for assistance with Harvest Fest load-in and load-out. The scouts all said they enjoyed the experience helping artists and non-profits and our artists were very pleased with them as well:

“We especially appreciated the help of the scout and his mom at cleanup, the fact that they brought a wagon made things go faster!”

“The Scouts were AMAZING helpers!”

## SUPPORT

With our work for the City of Fishers by managing the Fishers Creative Council, we helped several members get booked on IndyNow, a Fox59 program, to promote their events and performances.

Several art teachers had contacted us about opportunities to showcase their students' art outside their studios - and we were able to support and showcase these schools through our gallery at the Hamilton County Community Foundation.

## PARTNERS

We continued to partner with Fishers High School's Future Black Leaders Club to assist with their very successful Juneteenth Jubilee at Conner Prairie. They had over 70 vendors, 5 performing groups, a DJ/emcee, 5 food trucks, and lots of free activities for families. Their attendance exceeded 1,500.

A new partnership with Fishers District led us to managing their Yard Summer Concert series and we helped Fishers Parks with their Spark!Fishers musical groups. These partners helped bring in additional revenue for FAC which brought more support funds for our monthly receptions.

A new connection with City of Fishers staff members Rocio Kirby and Kevin Martin created our first Día de Muertos cultural experience inside Fishers Municipal Center. 128 patrons learned some facts about the tradition and created either paper marigolds or their own “mini ofrenda” to add to our community altar in observance.



## SUPPORTING MEMBERS

### **FRIENDS OF FAC**

Catherine Snider  
Tom Rich  
Carol Adams

Chris Hayes  
Douglas Dusseau  
Susan Dickey

### **FAMILY**

Amanda Wilhite



## EVENT SPONSORS

### **TITLE SPONSORS**

Jiffy Lube of Indiana  
STAR Bank

### **IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Daniel's Vineyard

### **INDIVIDUAL**

Quang Vinh  
Mattie Lee Jones  
Katherine Lause

### **ARTISTS**

Barbara Howrey - Artful Barb Creations  
Beth Miller - Miller Modern Art  
Mike Martin  
Patty Klunzinger - Glass Utopia  
Karen Christensen  
Dawn Brown  
Stephanie Carignan Fine Art  
Mansoureh Sameni  
Aleasha Morris Art

### **GRANTORS**

Indiana Arts Commission  
Fishers Arts + Culture Commission  
Hamilton County Tourism

### **ARTS CHAMPIONS**

Noblesville Creates  
Walmart  
Penrod Society  
Four Day Ray  
Wasson Nursery  
MashCraft Fishers  
Peace Water Winery

