



Royal Oak
**COMMISSION
FOR THE ARTS**

Annual Report 2017

Royal Oak Commission for the Arts
2017

Jason Gittinger
Chair

Jodie Ellison
Vice Chair

Kyle DuBuc
City Commission Representative

Laura Bonnell
Secretary

John D'Agnillo

Denise Reske

Gene Meadows

Royal Oak Commission for the Arts
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The mission of the Commission for the Arts is to
encourage and support arts and culture in the
City of Royal Oak.



The Commission for the Arts would like to recognize the following people who have contributed their time and efforts to helping us fulfill our mission.

PIANO PROJECT:

The Kolo Family
Professional Movers
The Detroit School of Rock and Pop
Music
Live The Music Foundation
Royal Oak Interclub Council
Keller Elementary School PTA
Ideation Orange
Gayle's Chocolates
Bright Ideas
Qdoba
Royal Oak Farmer's Market
Holiday Market
Lori Fillmore
Nathan Fillmore
Sharon Mason
David Mason
Melanie Macey
Katie Macey
Lizzy Macey
Michelle Vinluan
Jason Vinluan
Logan Vinluan
Quinn Vinluan
Leah Dougherty
James Crowley
Mike Fournier
Avi Fournier
Margaret Blount
Imani Gathiaya
Andrew Androff
Katie Androff
Alexandria Androff
Chris Androff
Matt Fox
Beth Fox
Zoe Fox
Zara Fox
Trinity Fox
Deb Soverinsky
James Krizan
Sarah Krizan
Joey Krizan
Ellie Krizan
Jazzy Gittinger
Sammy Gittinger
Don Crowley
Ava Schwartz
Ella Schwartz
Judy Davids

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

Special Thanks to:
Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority
Royal Oak Restaurant Association
Carrie O'Neil and Jenna Derrig
Mayor Mike Fournier and the Royal Oak City Commission
- City Staff - Don Johnson, Judy Davids, James Krizan, Kayla Barber-Perrotta
- Royal Oak Department of Public Works
- WROK - Richard Wilson

The Students and Staff of The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music
Andrew Schuster Sound, Noah Safian and Diana Otero Interns
The Live the Music Foundation

Fancy Pants Arts and Entertainment / Faux Paw Management

PERFORMERS:

Miss Paula and the Candy Bandits
The Brothers Groove
Hamilton Band
EBX
Duane Harlick
Longneck Strangler
The Mighty Funhouse
Theo "Gridiron" Spight and Friends
Killer Flamingos
Family Funk
Reefermen

RESTAURANTS:

Tom's Oyster Bar
Ale Mary's Beer Hall
Mesa Tacos and Tequila
Oak City Grille
Lily's Seafood Grill and Brewery
The Rock on Third
BlackFinn Ameripub
Mr. B's Pub
Fifth Avenue
O'Toole's Grill and Bar

ART EXPLORED:

Special Thanks to:
Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority

SMART
Royal Oak Public Library
Carol Card

ARTISTS
Emilie Beadle
David Petrakovitz
Mark Belthenko
Emilie Beadle
Scott Brazeau
David Petrakovitz
Alyssa Klash
Eric Milliken
Biz Droulliard

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Carol Card
Alyssa Reimold
Deb Soverinsky
Deb Anderson
Keith Kohring
Dave Jensen
Jason Gittinger
Alicia Duncan
Anna Eovaldi
Alicia Cergnul
Kariann Orth
Martha Shrode
Mike Conrad
Denise Reske
Albin Rose
Sarah Olsen
David Kraus
Carolynn Jennings
Diana Barrer
Spencer Barrer
Michele Prud'homme
Andrew Bazucki
Royal Oak Schools Custodial Staff
Royal Oak Arts Council
Royal Oak Public Schools
Detroit School of Pop and Rock
South Oakland Art Association
Groove Music by Design
Camilla and the Soul Slackers
McCourt's Music Sax Quartet
Tom Schneller
Juliana's Academy of Dance
Royal Oak Senior Center Painting Class
Alexandra Pollock
Susan Wedley
The Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra
.....and many more.



The Royal Oak Commission for the Arts 2017 Annual Report caps off an extremely successful year of programming.

The outcomes of highlighted goals in this report demonstrate our continued focus to increase access and participation in arts and culture in Royal Oak



GOAL: INCREASE THE **VALUE** OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Over the past year, the CFA continued and grew the widely successful Art Explored program. This year's program elected to extend the pieces selected in 2016 as well as add three new pieces. Art installed for this program was installed throughout Royal Oak' downtown. Creating a sense of visual beauty and place in areas such as near parking garages and street corners.

The Summer Concert Series returned to the Center Street Pop-Up Park for 2017. For six weeks visitors were able to enjoy free live music from a variety of acts. For example, attendees were able to enjoy the soul of Theo "Gridiron" Spight and Friends, and children and families were able to enjoy Miss Paula and the Candy Bandits.

The CFA continued its support of the Celebration for the Arts and awarded the annual community arts award to Susan Wedley for her continued dedication and support for art in Royal Oak.



GOAL: INCREASE THE **COLLABORATION** AMONGST VARIOUS LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In 2017, the CFA expanded collaborations with a variety of regional organizations to help promote art and culture in Royal Oak.

In 2017, the CFA partnered with the Royal Oak Restaurant Association to expand the offerings at the annual Summer Concert Series. Each week during the summer concerts, local restaurants offered selections from their menu for patrons to enjoy.

Pairing with the grand opening of the Royal Oak Public Library's Sunday hours, the CFA collaborated with the Detroit Institute of Arts to produce a piano stroll featuring the public pianos from the 2017 Public Piano Project.



GOAL: BECOME ADVOCATES AND LEADERS FOR ART AND CULTURE

In 2017, the CFA continued to expand their advisory role within the city commission. Chair Jason Gittinger, provided updates to the city commission on art happenings during public comment portions of meetings and a number of public art projects were presented to the commission for approval.

Also during this past year, the CFA expanded their advisory role to the city commission through changes to the city's sign ordinance. Advocating for an exemption to the sign ordinance for public art, the CFA has helped to formalize a role in fostering and encouraging private art installations and murals in the city. Two new murals, one at the River Rouge Brewery and the other at The Morrie, were approved by the city commission because of this process.



Children volunteers pose for a picture with artist Kobe Solomon as they put the finishing touches on the mural at The Morrie



A new mural installed on the east wall of the River Rouge Brewery

GOAL: BECOME A SUSTAINABLE COMMISSION

During 2017, the CFA recruited and involved over 30 volunteers to help paint pianos as part of the 2017 Public Piano Project. The project was fully funded through donations and volunteer contributions. The CFA plans to continue the project into 2018.



Volunteers painting pianos for the public piano project.



MOVING FORWARD

Looking towards 2018, the CFA plans to continue to grow its current programing as well as its organizational capacity to promote art and culture in Royal Oak.





IN SUMMARY

2017, was a banner year for the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts as it continued to raise awareness, engage community members, and serve to elevate momentum for arts and culture in our community.

Royal Oak Commission for the Arts

2018 Strategic Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Increase the **VALUE** of Arts and Culture

- Establish community engagement ongoing project evaluating the many ways we value the Arts in Royal Oak.
- Continue to support and grow Art Explored Live- Summer Concert Series
- Maintain and grow Art Explored program
- Support Celebration For The Arts

Goal 2: Increase the **COLLABORATION** amongst various local and regional organizations

- Partner with local and regional school districts/ Arts educators
- Complete assessment of businesses and non-profits currently providing Arts in our community
- Inventory of art assets in our community"
- Create symbiotic relationship with other local Arts organizations
- Investigate a Community Arts Center

Goal 3: Generate **AWARENESS** of the Arts and Culture in the City of Royal Oak

- Seek local data regarding the importance of Art & Culture in our community through the use of a survey
- Reach out to local Restaurant and Retail Association
- One day a month Live Music in Royal Oak
- Wine and Cheese stroll with Art stroll
- Heighten marketing and web presence o video for the Arts o Arts calendar o Investigate other cities with great art programs
- Create Business Award for the Arts Champion of the month/year
- Establish musician only loading zone during performances
- Music on Main Street

Goal 4: Become ADVOCATES and LEADERS for Art and Culture

- Expand role within The City Commission
- Regularly attend and participate at City of Royal Oak Commission meetings during Public Comments
- Present policies that nurture the Arts
- Establish a list of city amenities where public art or event can happen
- Annually attend and encourage The City of Royal Oak Strategic Planning Committee to include the Arts and Culture in City's Strategic Planning"
- Provide training to assist our Commission

Goal 5: Increase DIVERSITY & CULTURE

- Diversify Royal Oak Commission For the Arts
- Involve community Youths organization, Deaf and Blind community

Goal 6: Execute a STRATEGIC VISION for the long and short term

- Implement annual Strategic Planning procedures
- Survey of community, community-at-large, diverse groups, stake holders and the never been reached before groups
- Generate a robust creative economy- defining the HOW? WHERE?

Goal 7: Become a SUBSTAINABLE Commission

- Recruit and involve Volunteers
- Investigate Best Practices in other cities with strong Art Communities
- Establish thank you and engagement strategy for all levels of ROCFA donors
- Define an Operational Budget
- Define Our Needs & Wish List

Goal 8: Realize ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY to strengthen the current structure of our Commission

- Implement Practices and Procedures
- Become engaged in the recruiting and board candidacy
- Create a pool/database of volunteers
- Create an Event Committee