



Office of the City Manager  
211 South Williams Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

## Commission for the Arts Annual Report

January 18, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Fournier and  
Members of the City Commission:

Each year, the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts (CFA) is required to report on the progress of its prior year's goals and submit an updated plan for encouraging and supporting arts and culture in the City of Royal Oak.

The 2018 annual report (Attachment 1) demonstrates the CFA's commitment to increasing access and opportunities to participate in the arts for those who live in, work in and visit Royal Oak. Page four of the report also shows the greater community's support and commitment to fostering a creative environment in the city.

The CFA continues to work on the goals and objectives that were identified by the group during a series of work sessions in early 2016. This long-term strategic arts and culture plan is intended to foster awareness, collaboration and diversity.

The following resolution is recommended for approval:

**Be it resolved**, the Royal Oak City Commission hereby accepts the adopts the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts' 2018 Annual Report and adopts its strategic goals and objectives for the year 2019 to support arts and culture in the City of Royal Oak.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Krizan  
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved,

Donald E. Johnson  
City Manager

1 Attachment



Royal Oak  
**COMMISSION  
FOR THE ARTS**

Annual Report 2018

# Attachment 1

## Royal Oak Commission for the Arts 2018

Jason Gittinger  
Chair

Jodie Ellison  
Vice Chair

Patricia Paruch  
City Commission Representative

Laura Bonnell  
Secretary

John D'Agnillo

Denise Reske

Alesha Beistline

## Royal Oak Commission for the Arts Annual Report 2018

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



# Attachment 1

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  
The DuBuc Family  
Middle C Music Education  
Ideation Signs & Communications  
Professional Movers  
The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music  
The Live The Music Foundation  
Melissa Behring  
Malorie Kenrick  
Nick Dodge  
James Crowley  
Brianne O'Shea  
Zoe Fox  
Zara Fox  
Trinity Fox  
Beth Fox  
Matt Fox  
Jasmine Gittinger  
Samantha Gittinger  
Lori Fillmore  
Tristan Fillmore  
Nathan Fillmore  
Jim Turner  
Terry Davis  
Andrew Androff  
Chris Androff  
Deb Soverinsky

Piano Locations:  
Royal Oak Farmer's Market  
Qdoba  
Mesa Tacos & Tequila  
Royal Oak Parks - Eagle Plaza  
Gayle's Chocolates  
515 Media Mojo and More  
Royal Oak Public Schools  
Holiday Market  
The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

Partners:  
Royal Oak DDA  
Royal Oak Restaurant Association  
Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce  
Oakland County Parks  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
WROK

## PERFORMERS:

The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music  
Popsicle Plus  
The Satellites  
Dave Hamilton Band  
The Orbitsons  
Theo "Gridiron" Spight and Friends  
The Corktown Popes  
Detroit Soul Rhythm  
Devin Scillian  
Killer Flamingos  
Luis Resto  
Reefermen

## ART EXPLORED:

Special Thanks to:  
Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority  
SMART  
Royal Oak Public Library  
Carol Card

## ARTISTS

Desiree Kelly  
Molly Diana  
Sanda Cook  
Tim Gralewski  
Dylan Yates  
Melia Woelmer

## CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Sponsored by: McCourt's Music

Volunteers, artists, and performers :  
Royal Oak Arts Council  
Royal Oak Commission for the Arts  
Royal Oak Public Schools  
Detroit School of Pop and Rock  
Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra  
South Oakland Art Association  
Juliana's Academy of Dance  
Royal Oak Senior Center Painting Class  
Detroit-Oakland Gentleman Songsters  
John D. Lamb  
Royal Oak Optimist Club  
Laurie Eisenhardt  
Carol Card  
Alyssa Reimold  
Deb Soverinsky  
Deb Anderson  
Keith Kohring  
Dave Jensen

Jason Gittinger  
Michele Prud'homme

Alicia Duncan  
Anna Eovaldi  
Alicia Cerngul  
Kariann Orth  
Martha Shrode  
Mike Conrad  
Ryan Woodward  
Denise Reske  
David Montera  
Thomas Kosek  
Roger Boyer  
Albin Rose  
Sarah Olsen  
David Kraus

Spencer Barrer  
Andrew Bazucki  
Holly Haran  
Mary Beth Fitzpatrick  
Carol Wedepohl  
Carissa Orr  
Melissa Behring & Jake Tobias  
Grace Kessler  
El Kramer

Emma Ervin  
Katie Schepferman  
Taylor Jacobs  
Quasi Bullfight  
Jack Rossbach  
Kayleigh Hogan  
Dan Bercasio, Amanda Jones & Sam O'Sullivan  
Elexys Rood  
Hernandez Duet  
Mike & Charlie—Grooving Violation  
Junior Fields  
Royal Oak Schools Custodial Staff

## Sharing the Warmth Project

Jodie and Sarah Ellison  
Jacob Kuhn  
Stacey Gray  
Marilyn Grazioli  
Amy Wojtylo Goller  
David Assemanny  
Rebecca Brockwell  
Ewe-nique Knits  
Alisha Beistline  
Maria Elliot  
Carol Schwanger Diane Hawkey  
Knitters from Ewe-nique Knits  
Pat Paruch  
Brandon Kolo



# The Royal Oak Commission for the Arts is pleased to present its 2018 Annual Report.

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 the widely successful Art Explored program. This year's program selected six new pieces to compliment our downtown. A new look for the Art Explored webpage was also debuted this year. The Art Explored Program creates 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 2018. For six weeks visitors were able to enjoy free live music from a variety of acts. This year saw the return of many favorites including Theo Spight and Friends, Dave Hamilton Band, the Reefermen and the Killer Flamingos. The 2018 Summer Concert Series also had additional entertainment for Oakland County Parks and the DIA.

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



## Goal: Increase the Collaboration Amongst Various Local and Regional Organizations

In 2018, the CFA expanded and grew collaborations with a variety of regional organizations to help promote art and culture in Royal Oak and beyond.

In 2018, the CFA continued the partnerships with the Royal Oak Restaurant Association at the annual Summer Concert Series. Each week during the summer concerts, local restaurants offered selections from their menu for patrons to enjoy. The summer concerts also featured partnerships with the Detroit Institute of Arts and Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

The DIA brought their DIA Away trailer to the summer concert series for an evening of inspiration for all to enjoy. At all six of the summer concerts, Oakland County Parks and Recreation brought their mobile recreation units for attendees to enjoy. Attendees could climb the climbing tower, or they could get involved in the myriad of games available.

This year also saw the CFA as the subject of an Oakland County Planners Association luncheon. Chair Jason Gittinger and staff James Krizan were on hand at the gathering to discuss lessons learned from the public arts program.



# Attachment 1

## Goal: Generate Awareness of the Arts and Culture in the City of Royal Oak

In 2018, the CFA was prominently featured in local news media highlighting projects and accomplishments. This year, the CFA also established a process to accept nominations for the annual Community Art Award.

The annual Celebration of the Arts continued its growth and was again a highlight event put on by the Royal Oak Schools with support from the CFA.



## Goal: Become Advocates and Leaders for Art and Culture

The CFA continued its role in 2018 as an advisory body for the Royal Oak City Commission. During the year, the CFA brought forth recommendations on two different public art programs. The CFA also voiced support for city commission projects, such as the creation of funding for a Royal Oak Artist in Residence Program (now being called the Royal Oak Artist Laureate).



Above: A rendering of the proposed public art project from Robert Bruce Photography.

## Goal: Become a Sustainable Commission

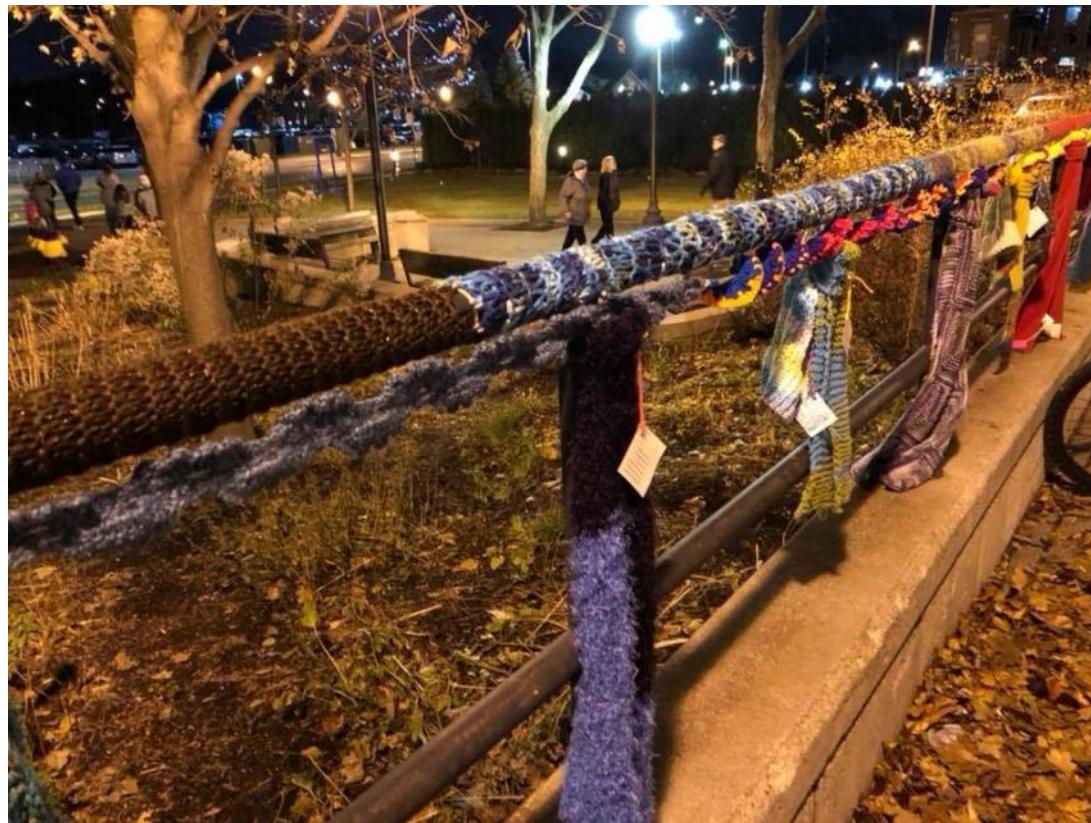
As shown at the beginning of this report, the CFA is extremely grateful to our sponsors, volunteers and supporters. The CFA continues its success only because of these great people!



## Goal: Become a Sustainable Commission



The volunteer efforts that contributed to the Share the Warmth project were instrumental in the project's success and another example of the community's commitment to celebrating and getting involved in art.



# Attachment 1

2018 was an extremely productive year for the CFA. Between the growth of programing and the expanded awareness and promotion of programs and efforts, the CFA has a lot to be proud of this year.

The CFA is extremely excited to look forward to next year!





Looking toward 2019, the CFA seeks to further grow the existing programing and expand into new frontiers.

The CFA is excited to announce the first year for the Royal Oak Artist Laureate program. This program will recognize a local artist and result in the donation of a piece created by that artist.

The CFA is also anticipating new programing to celebrate different disciplines of art this year—for example poetry, songwriting and theatre.

The CFA is extremely appreciative of the support from the city commission and looks forward to seeing everyone out and about enjoying the art!

# Royal Oak Commission for the Arts 2019 Strategic Goals and Objectives

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## Goal 1: Increase the value of arts and culture

- Develop and implement a Royal Oak Artist Laureate program.
- Continue to support and grow the Summer Concert Series
- Maintain and grow Art Explored program
- Support Celebration of the arts
- Support the Sharing the Warmth program
- Seek local data regarding the importance of art and culture in our community
- Regularly attend and participate at City of Royal Oak Commission meetings during Public Comments
- Present policies that nurture the Arts
- Annually attend the City of Royal Oak Strategic Planning Session and encourage the city to include the arts and culture in the city's annual goals and objectives

## Goal 2: Increase the collaboration amongst various local and regional organizations

- Work with local and regional organizations to grow participation in the Royal Oak Celebration of the Arts Program and promote the Royal Oak Artist Laureate program
- Complete assessment of businesses and non-profits currently providing arts in our community
- Increase placement of public art within public buildings

## Goal 3: Generate awareness of the arts and culture in the City of Royal Oak

- Increase promotion of live music in Royal Oak
- Heighten marketing and web presence
  - Video for the Arts
  - Arts calendar
  - 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

## Goal 4: Increase diversity and culture

- Diversify Royal Oak Commission for the Arts
- Involve community Youths organization, Deaf and Blind community
- Create programming to celebrate broad disciplines of art -poetry, songwriting, theatre, etc.

## Goal 5: Become a sustainable commission

- Implement annual strategic planning procedures
- Survey of community, community-at-large, diverse groups, stake holders and the never been reached before groups