

## Commission for the Arts Annual Report

January 31, 2020

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 2019 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. Pages four and five of the report also shows the greater community's support and commitment to fostering a creative environment in the city.

This year saw growth in attendance at the Royal Oak Summer Concert Series as well as the selection of the first Royal Oak Artist Laureates. With each passing year, the impact of the CFA grows.

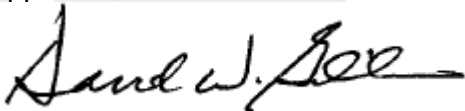
The CFA continues to work on the goals and objectives that were identified by the group during a series of work sessions in early 2016. This long-term strategic arts and culture plan is intended to foster awareness, collaboration and diversity.

The following resolution is recommended for approval:

**Be it resolved**, the city commission hereby accepts the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts' 2019 Annual Report and adopts its strategic goals and objectives for the year 2020 to support arts and culture in the City of Royal Oak.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Krizan  
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved,



David W. Gillam  
Interim City Manager and City Attorney

1 Attachment





Royal Oak  
**COMMISSION  
FOR THE ARTS**

Annual Report 2019



# Attachment 1

## Royal Oak Commission for the Arts Annual Report 2019

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

### Royal Oak Commission for the Arts 2019

Jason Gittinger  
Chair

Jodie Ellison  
Vice Chair

Patricia Paruch  
City Commission Representative

Laura Bonnell  
Secretary

Melissa Behring Tobais

Denise Reske

Alesha Beistline





# 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:

Professional Movers  
Ideation Signs and Communications  
Sterling Oil and Chemical Co., Inc.  
The Dubuc Family  
The Kolo Family  
The Live The Music Foundation  
The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music  
Melissa Behring  
Sherry McGlaughlin  
Mackenzie O'Brien  
Beth Fox  
Zara Fox  
Jasmine Gittinger  
Matt Fox  
Zoe Fox  
Samantha Gittinger  
Lori Fillmore  
Sylvia Stefanovich  
James Crowley  
Mike Bailey  
Jason Eddleston  
Andrew Androff  
James Krizan  
Nadine Gittinger  
Kerry Lundquist

Piano Locations:  
Holiday Market  
Write Impressions  
515 Media Mojo and More  
Granite Networks  
The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music  
Royal Oak Farmers Market  
Eagle Plaza  
Royal Oak Schools

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

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

## PERFORMERS:

The Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music  
Miss Paula and the Candy Bandits

Melissa Behring and Trustees  
The Paxton/Spangler Quartet  
Dave Hamilton Band  
The Jill Jack Band  
The Orbitsuns  
Mark Randisi  
Theo "Gridiron" Spight and Friends  
Killer Flamingos  
Nick Kuhl and the Gang  
Kris Kurzawa and Barbara Payton

## ART EXPLORED:

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

## ARTISTS

Desiree Kelly  
Lisa Goedert  
Francis Vallejo  
Onzie Norman  
Michael Errigo  
Steve Miller  
David Petrakovitz  
Nick Wecker

Charlotte Murray  
Noel Logan  
Ezra Mankouche  
Grace Kessler  
Taylor Jacobs  
Marq Speck  
Joe Waelichi  
Jordan Obrect  
Mackenzie O'Brien  
Elexys Rood  
Hannah Maisner  
Elayna Latkowski  
Noah White  
Bella VanHemm  
Ella Beck



## CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Royal Oak Arts Council  
Royal Oak Commission for the Arts  
Royal Oak Public Schools  
Detroit School of Pop and Rock  
Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra  
Royal Oak Concert Band  
South Oakland Art Association  
McCourts Music  
Dream Town Media  
Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce  
Royal Oak Senior Center Painting Class  
Promotions Guys  
Royal Oak Children's Choir  
Art to You  
Royal Oak Optimist Club  
Royal Oak Public Schools Custodial Staff  
Michigan Humane Society  
Belfor Property Restoration  
Laurie Eisenhardt  
Marcia Hovland  
Mike Byrne  
Lori Mini Filmore  
Carol Card  
Melissa Behring  
Alan Kroll  
Alyssa Reimold  
Deb Soverinsky  
Deb Anderson  
Keith Kohring  
Dave Jensen  
Jason Gittinger  
Michele Prud'homme  
Allison Schroder  
Joyce Coyne  
Kirsten Williams  
Laura Vukich  
Michael Quinlan  
Patricia Hughes  
Patricia Paruch  
Tim Ashley  
Stephanie Cosmos  
Sarah Hunton  
Alicia Duncan  
Anna Eovaldi  
Alicia Cernul  
Kariann Orth  
Martha Shrode  
Mike Conrad  
Ryan Woodward  
Denise Reske  
David Montero

Thomas Kosek  
Roger Boyer  
Albin Rose  
Sarah Olsen  
David Kraus  
Spencer Barrer  
Andrew Bazucki  
Mary Beth Fitzpatrick  
Carol Wedepohl  
Jake Tobias  
Isabella Scott  
Livi Danou  
Allyson Gilliland

## SHARING THE WARMTH PROJECT

Rebecca Brockwell  
Stacey Gray  
Amy Wojtylo Goller  
Marilyn Grazioli  
Anonymous knitters at Ewenique Knits  
Diane Hawkey  
Maria Elliott  
Nancy Vickers  
Jodie Ellison  
Denise Reske  
David Assemany  
Laura Bonnell

## ARTIST LAUREATE PROGRAM

Marcia Hovland  
Laurie Eisenhardt

Special Thanks to the Royal Oak City Commission

# The Royal Oak Commission for the Arts is pleased to present its 2019 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

The Commission for the Arts (CFA) had another successful year of growing programs that increase the value of arts and culture within the community.

The Summer Concert Series returned to the Center Street Pop-Up Park for 2019. For six weeks visitors were able to enjoy free live music from a variety of acts. While extremely difficult to quantify, it was clear that attendance was up this year. Each night, Center Street was filled to capacity with music lovers, families and interested nighttime visitors.

This year's public piano project was again a complete success. The project saw the placement of seven pianos throughout downtown. Residents and visitors delighted in the sounds of people playing wonderful music during the project.

The CFA awarded the annual community arts award to Michael Byrne for her continued dedication and support for art in Royal Oak.

New for this year, the Commission for the Arts named the first ever Artist Laureates. Laurie Eisenhardt and Marcia Hovland were named the 2019-2020 Artist Laureates.





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

In 2019, the CFA expanded and grew collaborations with a variety of regional organizations to help promote art and culture in Royal Oak and beyond.

During this year, the CFA grew collaborations with the Greater Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce by expanded their presence at various local events such as the Art of Fire (formerly known as Clay, Glass and Metal) through the Artist Laureates.



During this year, the CFA began working with the DIA to start a regional discussion of best practices in the field of public art. The hope is that a regional group can help to grow public art across Metro Detroit.

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

In 2019, 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.

News outlets including the Royal Oak Tribune and the Royal Oak Patch wrote multiple stories on CFA projects through the year.

Through a partnership with the DDA, the CFA was able to utilize some on-air time with WDIV-Detroit to promote the summer concert series, including a live performance from the Dave Hamilton Band.

Arts & Entertainment

### 7 New Public Art Installations You Can Find In Royal Oak

Here's your guide to the new public art around downtown Royal Oak.

By Jessica Strachan, Patch Staff  
Aug 20, 2019 12:03 pm ET | Updated Aug 20, 2019 12:46 pm ET

Like 305 Share

Reply



Benjamin by Steve Miller is located on the Center Street Parking Deck at 300 South Center Street in Royal Oak. (Steve Miller)

ROYAL OAK, MI — Downtown Royal Oak has been a canvas for local artists for several years now and for the upcoming year, seven new art installations have been put up.

### Royal Oak Summer Concert Schedule

Royal Oak's free summer concert series has been announced. Here's what's in store.

By Jessica Strachan, Patch Staff  
Jun 14, 2018 11:58 am ET | Updated Jun 14, 2018 12:10 pm ET

Like 85 Share

Reply

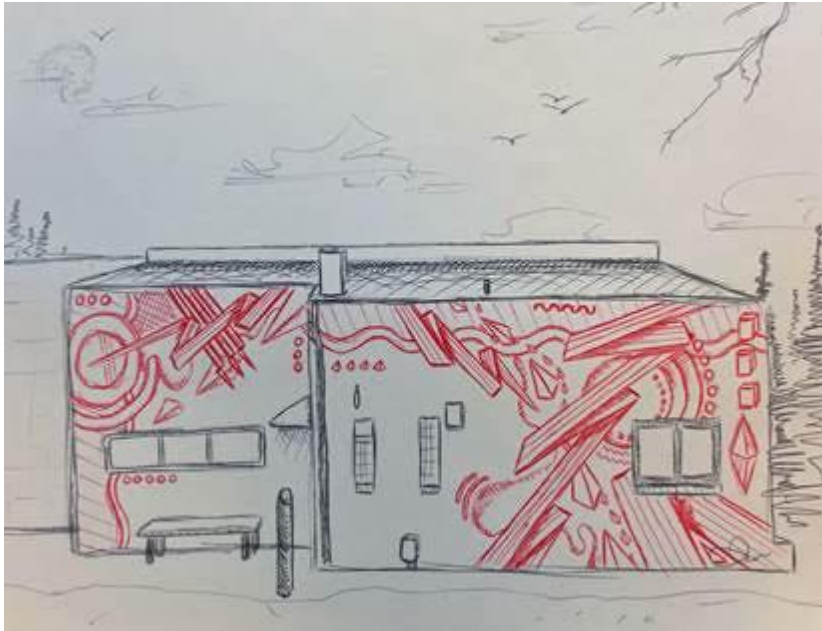


ROYAL OAK, MI — Things are heating up around Royal Oak and that means it's time for the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts' 2018 summer concert series lineup. The free musical shows kick off July 5 and feature everything from local rock to kids music, Irish medleys to soulful jams.



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

The CFA continued its role in 2019 as an advisory body for the Royal Oak City Commission. During the year, the CFA brought forth recommendations on a variety of different public art projects.



Top: Rendering of a public art project at 3212 N Main St.

Above: Rendering of a public mural for SwitchPost at 225 E Hudson



## Goal: Become a Sustainable Commission



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



# Attachment 1

The CFA views 2019 as a banner year. Continued growth and participation in the programming as well as a higher profile media presence and deeper relationships with other organizations are things that the CFA has to be proud of this year.

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







This year will see the completion of the artist laureate program's public art project. The project is expected to be a rather large mosaic depicting life in Royal Oak.

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

Looking toward 2020, the CFA seeks to further grow the existing programming and expand the successes of the past few years.



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

---

### 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