



UPCOMING:

APRIL 7TH // 6-8PM
BAD ART CLUB

APRIL 25TH // 5-8
TEEN VICE NIGHT

APRIL 26TH // 10-NOON
MOM + ME TEA PARTY

MAY 2ND // 5-8PM
GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
OF BHS STUDENT SHOW

MAY 16TH // 5-8PM
GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
ARTIST DEB COYLE

JUNE 6TH // 5-8PM
GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
ARTIST JANNA CARTER

JUNE 15TH // 9-4PM
58TH ANNUAL SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR

JULY 26TH // 5-8PM
4TH ANNUAL GREAT RIVER POTTERY
THROWDOWN

Spring is here!

2025 has kicked off on a high note, and we're so grateful to have you along for the ride. This winter was filled with activity, featuring a full schedule of adult, teen, and kid classes, workshops, and events. We had a blast hosting a packed house for couples' portrait painting, a Galentine's candle-making session, and a charm bracelet and cookie painting night.

After months of planning, we successfully pulled off one of our most elaborate and immersive events to date—Wonderland: An Artfully Mad Experience. This event truly showcased the lengths we're willing to go to exceed our community's expectations, push creative boundaries, and challenge our artistic potential. Thank you for your continued support, for engaging with our initiatives, and for showing up to celebrate the arts and culture in this art loving city.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that we've just launched a fantastic lineup of summer camps for both kids, teens, and adults. We can't wait to welcome hundreds of students to our space this summer for classes they'll love, along with a few exciting new offerings like airbrush painting and puppet making!

We've also made an exciting update to our facility, unveiling a brand-new stained glass classroom. Once an underused office space, this area has been transformed to perfectly meet the needs of this growing medium.

The staff and I take great pride in what we do, and we're honored to serve as stewards of this cherished creative hub. The expectations and demands of ACB are high, and our community keeps us energized and challenged. We wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you for being part of this amazing journey with us. Here's to a year full of creativity, growth, and inspiration!

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Pappas, Executive Director



@artcenterofburlington

www.btownart.com

THE POWER OF ARTS + CULTURE



ACB is proud to be a community partner in the University of Iowa's Initiative for Sustainable Communities Arts + Culture Master Plan. Collaborating closely with U of I graduate students, and Burlington and West Burlington stakeholders we've had the opportunity to raise our voices, share ideas, and collectively champion ways to make our community more connected, vibrant, and meaningful for everyone.

We believe the arts are the heartbeat of a place. They draw people in, invite them to stay, and inspire them to invest in the spirit of their surroundings. Arts and culture don't just beautify—they unify. They ignite pride, bridge divides, and tell the stories that make a place unforgettable.

Through this partnership, ACB's role in shaping Burlington's identity and nurturing its quality of life has never been clearer. When we invest in the arts together, we're planting seeds—not just for today, but for the future we all imagine.

Over the past several months, these students have been researching, interviewing and engaging with Burlington and West Burlington residents, and will be presenting their findings and recommendations on May 8, 2025 here in our gallery.

THE 2025 CREATIVE PLACES EXCHANGE



Designated as a Cultural and Entertainment District in 2023, Downtown Burlington has been selected to host the 2025 Creative Places Exchange, presented by the Iowa Arts Council. We're thrilled to welcome nearly 200 arts and culture leaders on May 9th for a day of inspiration, connection, and collaboration. The exchange will spotlight Burlington's recent placemaking projects and events, and feature sessions led by community leaders from across Iowa who have successfully implemented arts, culture, and creative placemaking initiatives.

Being selected as the host city is a reflection of the profound impact our vibrant local arts scene, live music venues, and dynamic downtown businesses have had in shaping and revitalizing our community.

This event offers a unique opportunity for communities to connect through guided tours, presentations, and peer learning sessions—all designed to foster practical, creative solutions to the challenges facing Iowa's cultural landscape.



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

In January, ACB was honored to receive the Community Impact Award at the Greater Burlington Partnership's Annual Dinner. We're deeply grateful for this recognition and for the continued support of our community. Our guiding star has always been the community itself—and the impact we strive to make within it. Carrying that purpose into everything we do is both a great responsibility and a true honor.



KEY DATES!

THURSDAY MAY 8TH
IISC FINAL PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY MAY 9TH
CREATIVE PLACES EXCHANGE

ALI IN THE ALLEY



In partnership with the University of Iowa's Initiative for Sustainable Communities and Iowa City-based muralist Ali Hval, we are excited to kick off alleyway activation in our downtown. This April, Ali will bring one of her iconic, brightly colored abstract murals to ACB's alleyway. Alleyway activation marks an exciting step forward in Burlington's public art and social gathering space initiatives. By transforming overlooked alleys into vibrant spaces for gathering, exploration, and connection, we are excited to collaborate with Ali, who has completed over 50 murals across the country. Public art is about community engagement, and we are planning special opportunities for the community to join Ali in painting the alley.

Ali is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in Painting and Drawing at the University of Iowa, where she earned her MFA with honors. Her work blends ceramics, installation, fabric, and painting. She has received grants from the Iowa Arts Council, the Windgate Fellowship, and the 2024-2025 Iowa Artist Fellowship. Ali has completed over 50 public murals nationwide, with features in The New Yorker, Create! Magazine, and exhibitions like NCECA and Ceysson y Bénétière in New York City.

EVENTS THAT INSPIRE

VISIT
BTOWNART.COM
FOR
EVENT
INFO



We've already had some exciting events in 2025, but the highlight so far has been the much-anticipated Wonderland: An Artfully Mad Experience. Inspired by Alice in Wonderland, this immersive event spanned two nights, transforming our gallery into a dreamlike world where participants tumbled down the rabbit hole into an artistically curated wonderland.

Why are we embracing these themed adult events? We are creative people living in a community that craves experiences that inspire and connect. These events give participants the chance to dress up, dive into artsy projects, and connect with others in a fun, engaging atmosphere.

Another exciting new event for 2025 is the launch of BAD ART CLUB. We all know that creative expression is key to well-being, and Bad Art Club is a space for those seeking a break from the daily grind. It's a place to dive into low-key projects in a relaxed, fun environment. Join us on the first Monday of every month starting in April!

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

WWW.BTOWNART.COM



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bad Art Club // April 7
- Teen Vice Night // April 25
- Mother's Day Tea // Apr 26
- 58th Annual Snake Alley Art Fair // Jun 15
- The Great River Pottery Throwdown // Jul 26

AND SO MUCH MORE!



ARTSCAPES



Our Artscapes program remains one of our most important initiatives, now over ten years since its inception. Spanning numerous retirement homes, adult dayhab facilities, and mental health clinics throughout Southeastern Iowa, this program continues to bring the joy of art and access to a creative lifestyle to individuals who need it most. Our instructors are deeply dedicated to this vital outreach, providing therapeutic art experiences that foster connection, self-expression, and emotional well-being. Art is known to be a powerful tool for healing, offering individuals a creative outlet for stress relief, emotional processing, and personal growth—crucial for healthy living. Partnered with over 12 facilities and organizations, we remain committed to ensuring that there are no barriers to access for those who benefit from these enriching experiences.

SOLAR: YEAR TWO

It's hard to believe that it's already been one year 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 second year of our three-year 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*



INTO THE ARTIST'S STUDIO



Our local artists are the heartbeat of everything we do. This year, we've introduced even more ways to celebrate their skill and dedication to their craft right here in our community. Be sure to check out our YouTube channel for our "Into the Artist's Studio" series, where we take you behind the scenes into the creative spaces that fuel their artistic journeys.



58TH SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR *June 15th*

We are so excited for this year's fair- everyone's favorite Father's Day tradition. A day of celebrating great art and community. Stay tuned as we announce our line up of artists, musicians, and food vendors!

Special thanks to our featured artist (and SAAF alum) this year, Annie Guldberg. We're so excited to feature her artwork on this year's marketing and merch!

THE WORLD OF STAINED GLASS



We're thrilled to expand our class offerings and invest in the enchanting medium of stained glass. Over the past year, we've heard the community loud and clear—they want more stained glass! Thanks to our two incredible artists and instructors, Laura Blanchard and Cathy Ziglar, we're answering that call. With classes filling up and waitlists growing, we've decided to dedicate a space in our building specifically for stained glass instruction. Just like ceramics, stained glass requires specialized equipment and a functional classroom, and starting in April, we'll be hosting our scheduled stained glass classes in this new space!



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



This new year we welcome our new Board President Jean Link, and say a huge thank you to Lori Weiss. Lori was the secret sauce to our journey towards solar. Her dedication to research in vendors, tax credits, and even technical mechanics kept momentum going, and she is to thank for getting us past the finish line. Lori's dedication to our organization is paramount, and we are forever grateful for her leadership. We are excited to pass the torch to Jean- another advocate of ACB with exceptional expertise and leadership.

Jean Link, President
Brian Thie, Vice President
Joel Robinson, Treasurer
Laura Beckman, Laura Oetken
Norbert Gabby, Melanie Young
Mac Holford Ellie Jacobs

the team



ELIZABETH PAPPAS
executive director



HILLAURIE FRITZ-BONAR
communications director



MARLA VASQUEZ
office manager



NICOLE KAMRATH
programming manager



JESSI TUCCI
ceramics studio manager



KELLY OSBORN
artists market manager



JAMIE JOHNSON-COOPER
events + front desk



CALLI RECKER
front desk

