



SEPTEMBER 2025

UPCOMING:

SEPT 20 // 1-4PM

PINT BY NUMBER : A DOWNTOWN BAR CRAWL

OCTOBER 3 // 5-8PM

**GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
PAMELA SLOAN + DAWN EBBING**

OCT 31 // 7-9PM

**VICE NIGHT: A ONE NIGHT EXHIBITION
FEATURING ARTIST DYLAN MORGAN**

NOVEMBER 7 // 5-8PM

**GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
ITTY BITTY BITS OF ART: A SMALL WORKS
SHOW**

DECEMBER 5 // 5-8PM

**GALLERY LOUNGE + OPENING RECEPTION
ANNUAL ALL MEMBERS SHOW**

DECEMBER 6 // 10-4

MIRACLE ON JEFFERSON STREET

As we step into the final stretch of 2025, I find myself reflecting on just how much this year has held for our organization and our community. From beloved traditions to new creative opportunities, we've seen once again how the arts have the power to bring people together, spark imagination, and shape the very character of Burlington.

This summer marked our 58th Snake Alley Art Fair—and rain-free! Artists, musicians, and food vendors filled the day with energy and creativity, and the community showed up in full force to share it all. As we set our sights on the 60th anniversary just around the corner, we're already imagining how to honor six decades of this Father's Day tradition with new layers of meaning and celebration.

Our building was just as alive with activity throughout the summer, as young artists filled our classrooms with ideas and exploration. Puppet making, airbrush painting, and stained glass mosaics for teens were among just a few of the new classes we offered. Parents, thank you for trusting us with your children—our greatest pride is creating a place where they can grow, take risks, and discover what happens when they let their creativity loose!

If there's one theme that has defined this past year, it is the power of arts and culture—not just within our walls, but across the entire community. From partnerships that integrate art into citywide projects, to welcoming over 100 arts and culture leaders from across Iowa this past May, we've seen how deeply creativity shapes Burlington. Investment in streetscapes, local businesses, music venues, galleries, and public art is more than decoration—it builds character, pride, and a sense of place.

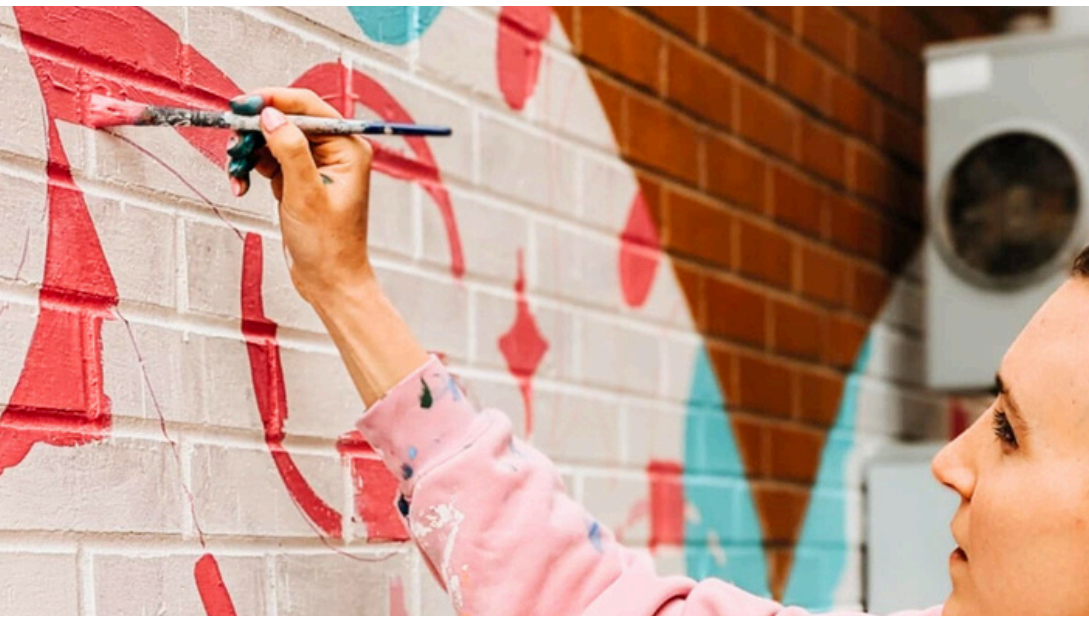
That belief was reinforced through our collaboration with University of Iowa graduate students and their landmark Arts and Culture Plan, which has inspired us to be even more intentional about putting arts and culture at the center of Burlington's future. With this momentum, we move into the months ahead with renewed energy and commitment to ensuring that art continues to enrich the lives of everyone who calls Burlington home.

Thank you for being here with us—for your support, your engagement, and the many ways you show up for the arts.

Elizabeth Pappas, Executive Director



THE POWER OF PUBLIC ART



This past spring, we truly “painted the town” with new collaborative mural projects. In partnership with the University of Iowa’s Initiative for Sustainable Communities, we worked with Iowa City-based artist Ali Hval, who brought vibrant new life to the Art Center alleyway. Using her design as a starting point, we invited the community to join in, hosting several painting days where people of all ages left their mark on the place they call home. Together, participants painted alongside Ali and contributed to the colorful buoy installation that now stretches between the alleyway buildings.

We are grateful for the chance to work alongside our partners in West Burlington and look forward to future projects. Most of all, we appreciate the ongoing commitment of both Burlington and West Burlington in celebrating and supporting ARTS & CULTURE!



A MURAL COMES TO WEST BURLINGTON

Our collaboration with Ali grew even further when the Art Center of Burlington assisted with another mural—this time on the side of West Burlington’s City Hall. This striking blue, green, and yellow “WB” mural is just the first of many planned public art projects in West Burlington. It symbolizes how art can foster community pride, beautify public spaces, and unite our two cities as one community.

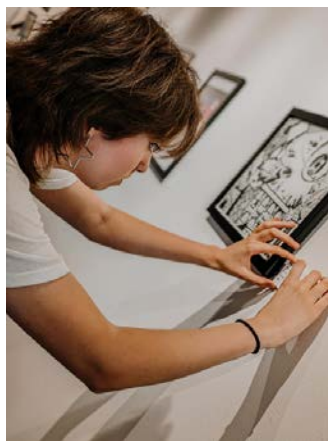
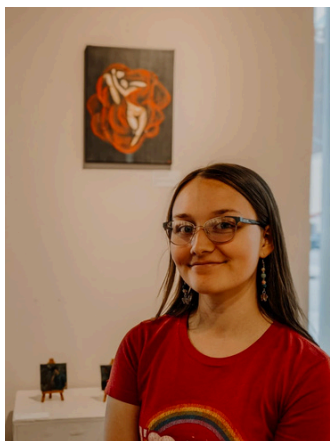


REMINDER!

**WE ARE ACCEPTING
SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNUAL
ITTY BITTY BITS OF ART +
ALL MEMBER SHOWS NOW!**

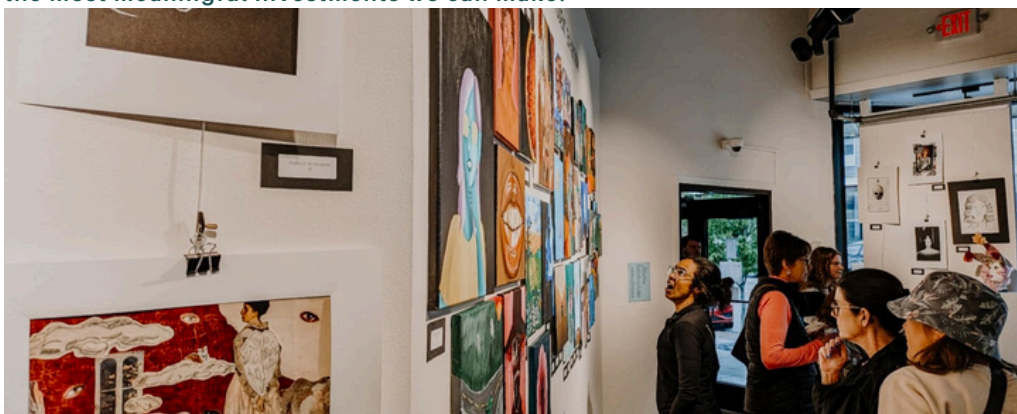


STUDENTS IN THE GALLERY



This past spring, we rolled out the red carpet for Burlington's young and emerging student artists. We kicked things off with our annual Teen Vice Night, when the gallery is turned over entirely to high school artists. This year, Rex Ruther, Penelope Osbourne, and Paulina Aguilera each curated and installed their own one-night exhibitions—shows that reflected the conversations they wanted to spark and the stories they wanted to tell. Thoughtful, creative, and deeply personal, their work embodied the spirit of free thinking and artistic exploration that we are proud to champion at the Art Center. The community responded in a big way, packing the gallery for this sold-out event in support of these dedicated students.

Just days later, we unveiled the Annual Burlington High School Art Show, showcasing more than 100 works by local students. Supporting young artists—and the incredible teachers who guide them—is a responsibility and a privilege we hold dear. These students represent our future, and nurturing their creativity is one of the most meaningful investments we can make.



JOIN THE CLUB!



Join this ever growing 'club' of fun people making fun things!
Make art without stressing about getting it perfect! Explore our rotating lineup of DIY craft stations, where you'll get hands-on with different art materials, techniques, and inspirations—no two visits are the same! Or you can spend the whole time perfecting one masterpiece.
Try out new crafts, projects, and hobbies without having to buy all the supplies. Plus, it's a laid-back, fun space to hang with your favorite people, no pressure, just creativity.
Cash bar available, pre-order a charcuterie box to snack on while you relax and create.

FIRST MONDAYS // 6-8pm
REGISTER AT BTOWNART.com

**REGISTER FOR
FALL CLASSES
NOW!**

WWW.BTOWNART.COM



THE 58TH SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR

This summer we celebrated the 58th Snake Alley Art Fair—rain-free, no less! The day overflowed with art, music, food, and the kind of energy that only comes when the community shows up wholeheartedly. Like so many of our events—but especially the Snake Alley Art Fair—none of it would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, board members, partnering businesses, and generous sponsors. Most of all, we are grateful to this community, which continues to turn out in such strong numbers and demonstrate just how deeply the arts matter here.

With the 60th anniversary just around the corner, the staff and I are already dreaming of ways to honor six decades of this beloved Father’s Day tradition, adding new layers of meaning and celebration to a day that is already so special.

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*



A very special thanks to
this year’s featured
artist Annie Guldberg!

Learn more about
SNAKE ALLEY ART FAIR,
and when to apply for
2026 at
BTOWNART.COM



SUMMERCAMPS!



It was another lively summer at ACB as we opened our doors to young artists of all ages, offering a wide range of creative experiences. From tiny clay sculptures and puppet making to airbrush painting, stained glass mosaics, and more, ACB once again proved to be the community's go-to destination for creative discovery. Students stretched their imaginations, experimented with new mediums, and found inspiration under the guidance of our talented and dedicated instructors.

This October, we're excited to welcome students back for our fall session—and to introduce a few new instructors who will join our ACB family, adding even more depth and variety to the creative opportunities we provide.

REGISTER TODAY FOR ADULT , TEEN , KID CLASSES
BTOWNART.COM



EXHIBITIONS

Our free, open-access galleries continue to serve as a vital community asset—an epicenter for fresh perspectives, diverse voices, and the celebration of artistic excellence. By showcasing artists from across the region, we're proud to provide a platform where creativity thrives and the community can experience outstanding works of art up close.

We are currently booking exhibitions through 2028 in both our main and mini galleries, with a continued commitment to curating shows that bring high-quality, thought-provoking stories to Burlington. As 2025 draws to a close, we're looking forward to the exhibitions still to come this year—and we're excited to soon share the full lineup for 2026.



This past July, our third annual Youth Art Show filled the Mini Gallery with an inspiring display of creativity from young artists ages 5-12.

GREAT RIVER POTTERY THROWDOWN



In August, we hosted our 4th annual Great River Pottery Throwdown—our signature fundraiser that directly supports the ever-growing ceramics studio. There's nothing quite like watching a potter at the wheel, and this live throwing competition put a well-deserved spotlight on both the artistry of ceramics and the vibrant community of ceramicists we're fortunate to have here in Southeast Iowa.

Thanks to the proceeds from this event—and the incredible support of attendees—we were able to purchase new ceramics-specific student aprons, upgrade outdated tools, and make additional improvements to the studio. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our generous (and fiercely competitive!) 2025 participants, the broader ceramics community, and everyone who showed up to have fun while supporting a great cause.

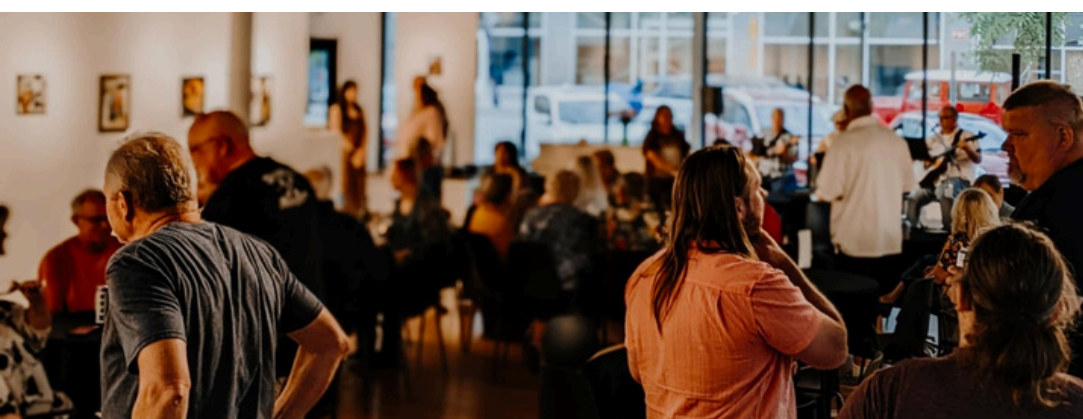


Congrats to this year's
GRPTD winner
RYAN SMITH!

EVENTS

The staff at ACB love a good event—any opportunity to use creativity and expression as a way to bring people together. This past summer we hosted couples' paint nights, partnered as a venue for Burlington's first-ever Jazz Festival, and even welcomed families for a mother-child tea party. And we're not done yet! Still to come this year are community favorites like Pint by Number and Miracle on Jefferson Street, plus a brand-new end-of-year fundraiser we can't wait to announce soon.

CHECK OUT UPCOMING EVENTS AT
[BTOWNART.COM](https://btownart.com)



COMMUNITY



At ACB, our mission has always been clear: to serve our community by providing access to the arts and arts education. We recognize that without this community, ACB simply wouldn't be what it is today. We are, at our core, a community art center—built by the community, sustained by the community, and centered on the responsibility we hold to the community we serve. That's why we make it our priority to reach beyond our walls, bringing the arts to every corner of Burlington. Through our Artscapes program, which offers free classes to a wide range of groups and organizations, and through partnerships with countless local collaborators, you'll find us everywhere in the community—tent pitched, supplies in hand, ready to create opportunities for all to experience the arts.

This past summer was no exception. We were busy, we were joyful, and above all, we were grateful to share the transformative power of the arts with the community we love—and who so generously loves us back.



WATCH US ON
YOUTUBE!



Have you checked out our
youtube series of
exhibiting artist
interviews + studio tours?



ARTS & CULTURE



Over the past year, ACB partnered with the University of Iowa’s Initiative for Sustainable Communities, working alongside graduate students to develop an Arts & Culture Master Plan for Burlington and West Burlington. We are eager to begin putting this plan into action and to continue strengthening our vision of two cities—one community.



This past May, in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Arts Council, Downtown Partners, and The Capitol Theater, we had the privilege of welcoming 100 arts and culture leaders to Burlington. Together, we highlighted how arts and culture attract visitors, strengthen the economy, and ignite local pride. It was a day we will never forget, that brought a lasting message: we all crave place — not just space, but places of choice, belonging, and identity. And the places we occupy are better when we lead with intention — when we embed arts, culture, design, and expression into the fabric of our shared environments. It’s what we recognize and appreciate first about a place — the mural, the music, the gathering spot that feels alive with story and spirit. And it’s what we notice just as quickly when it’s missing. Only humans can create that kind of meaning — through beauty, symbolism, and creative expression that reflects who we are and who we aspire to be. When arts and culture are prioritized, and recognized as an economic priority and driver, our places become more than functional — they become soulful, connective, and worth caring for.

Final ARTS & CULTURE plan here



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executive director



HILLAURIE FRITZ-BONAR
communications director



MARLA VASQUEZ
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NICOLE KAMRATH
programming manager



KELLY OSBORN
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JAMIE JOHNSON-COOPER
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COURTNEY BRANDON
front desk



AVA BECKMAN
front desk

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