



Arts Partners



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# WILSONARTS COURIER

**MARCH 1 - APRIL 30, 2024**

252-291-4329 | [www.wilsonarts.com](http://www.wilsonarts.com) | 204 Nash St. S, Wilson, NC 27893



## 2024 Summer Camps Are Open for Enrollment!



It's that time of the year when we look toward warmer days and start planning summer fun. Wilson Arts is excited to offer a variety of amazing visual arts summer camps in our Wilson Arts Center and performing arts camps at the Edna Boykin Cultural Center again this year! Each camp is designed to be informative, creative, and fun! We are committed to providing a safe, clean learning environment, and our experienced educators will make sure that FUN is at the heart of everything.

**COST:** Each Visual Arts camp is \$90 for the week (or \$80 for current 2024 Wilson Arts contributors). Performing Arts camps are \$140 for the week (or \$125 for current 2024 Wilson Arts contributors).

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## Boykin Series 26 Brings An Evening of Bluegrass with the "Lady of Tradition"

Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Edna Boykin Cultural Center / 108 Nash Street N

Tickets: \$30 Adults / \$25 Seniors & Students (plus tax)

If a song was written about the life and times of Lorraine Jordan, it would be a spirited mix of her driving mandolin, lightning-speed banjo, a bit of country pedal steel, and soulful vocals that seemingly go on forever. Known as the "Lady of Tradition" in the Bluegrass community, Lorraine has made an incredible mark not only on North Carolina music culture but within the greater Bluegrass culture. Lorraine's handpicked Carolina Road band is comprised of well-known musicians including Ben Green, Allen Dyer, Wayne Morris, Warren Blair, and Wilson's own Kevin Lamm!

Tickets are available online at [www.wilsonarts.com](http://www.wilsonarts.com) through Etix, by phone at 252-291-4329, or at the Wilson Arts Center



during regular business hours (Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). The Edna Boykin Cultural Center Box Office opens one hour before showtime for Will Call tickets and at-door purchases.

Boykin Series 26 is sponsored by Brewmasters, Bridgestone, Erika Thomas State Farm Insurance, National Endowment for the Arts, North Carolina Arts Council, Parker's Barbeque, South Arts, Wilson County, Wilson Energy, The Wilson Times, and Wilson Tourism Authority.

## Wilson Arts Secures State Funding to Boost Educational Initiatives



The Arts Council of Wilson, Inc. (dba Wilson Arts) is excited to announce a significant stride in our mission to enrich the cultural landscape of Wilson County. With the approval of a \$100,000 appropriation from the State of North Carolina as

part of the 2023 Appropriations Act, Wilson Arts is poised to elevate and broaden our educational programs, paving the way for positive impacts within the community.

### Expanding Educational Opportunities

This generous funding arrives at a pivotal juncture for Wilson Arts, building upon the success of Phase 1 completion of the Wilson Arts Center and its subsequent public debut in May 2021. The allocated funds will facilitate capital improvements aimed at nurturing skill development among the youth of Wilson County. The newly acquired state funding will serve as a catalyst for capital improvements aimed at nurturing creativity and skill development.

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## Vegas' Top Impersonators Coming This April



**Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Edna Boykin Cultural Center / 108 Nash Street N**

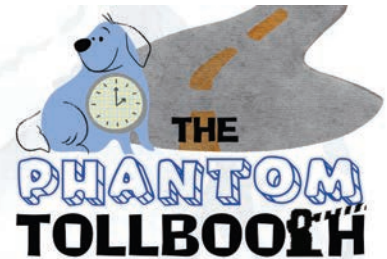
**Tickets: \$40 Adults / \$35 Seniors & Students (plus tax)**

Remember all the wonderful Variety shows we all grew up on in the 70's & 80's? Now is your chance to see them live and re-created by Las Vegas' number one impersonators of all time. All your favorite legendary Superstars come alive in An Evening with The Stars. Twin brothers Anthony and Eddie Edwards are the country's premiere Celebrity Illusionists! Utilizing the latest Hollywood-grade makeup and prosthetics as well as the fashion designers of the stars themselves- the result is a non-stop parade of stars on stage that are all at once AMAZING, FUNNY and ENTERTAINING. As one newspaper review noted, "They bring such love and attention to recreating celebrities that in many ways it's better than watching the real thing!"

Tickets are available online at [www.wilsonarts.com](http://www.wilsonarts.com) through Etix, by phone at 252-291-4329, or at the Wilson Arts Center during regular business hours (Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). The Edna Boykin Cultural Center Box Office opens one hour before showtime for Will Call tickets and at-door purchases.

Boykin Series 26 is sponsored by Brewmasters, Bridgestone, Erika Thomas State Farm Insurance, National Endowment for the Arts, North Carolina Arts Council, Parker's Barbeque, South Arts, Wilson County, Wilson Energy, The Wilson Times, and Wilson Tourism Authority.

## ACT! for Youth presents: The Phantom Tollbooth



**School Shows: Wednesday, April 10 / 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.**

**Public Performances: April 11, 12, & 13 at 7:00 p.m. / April 14 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Edna Boykin Cultural Center / 108 Nash Street NE**

**Tickets: \$12 Adults / \$10 Seniors & Students (plus tax)**

For four days only this April, ACT! for Youth brings *The Phantom Tollbooth* to life on The Boykin Center stage. Directed by Hannah Slaughter with costume direction by Donna Beaman, it's a play that is perfect for the entire family to enjoy.

Based on the book by Norton Juster, in *The Phantom Tollbooth* we join with Milo's adventures in the Land of Wisdom, where he's forced to think about many new things. Milo learns of the argument between King Azaz and his brother, the Mathemagician, whose disagreement has led to the banishment of Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason. Milo is dispatched to rescue the princesses from the Land of Ignorance. When he must return home, Milo bids farewell to his new friends, and his attitude toward learning will never be the same.

Purchase tickets online by visiting [www.wilsonarts.com/tickets](http://www.wilsonarts.com/tickets). You may also call 252-291-4329 or visit the reception desk at the Wilson Arts Center at 204 Nash Street S during regular business hours. The Boykin Center Box Office opens one hour before showtime for Will Call pick-up and at-door ticket purchases.

*The Phantom Tollbooth* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## "Jack Early's Greatest Hits" Exhibition Opens March 7

**March 7 - April 18**

**Opening Reception: Thursday, March 7 /  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Wilson Arts Center / 204 Nash Street S**

**Sponsored by: ArtSuite**



Jack Early was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1962. He grew up in Rocky Mount where he attended North Carolina Wesleyan College before going on to complete two years of course work at Corcoran School of Art in Washington DC. He later graduated from University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

Early's aesthetic roots in the South represent a distinct and contrasting perspective within the generation of artists who emerged in the early 1990s and addressed race and gender politics, gay rights, and AIDS, while critiquing the authority of cultural institutions. His rise to fame began in the late 1980s as one-half of the duo Pruitt-Early. Pruitt-Early's irreverent work challenged prevailing orthodoxies and blurred the boundaries between low culture and high art. Since 2009, he has been making objects that explore the breadth of American pop culture. In 2019, Early was a recipient of the prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant.

Early began to explore music with his band Happy Jack, and began writing songs, which have become integral to many of his new art objects. He eventually struck upon the idea for Rainbow that he found a way to incorporate music fully with his sensibilities as an artist. Once he struck on the idea, work on the musical and the visual artwork that accompanies it continued from the inception in the 90s until the very end of 2017. Early has exhibited his work in solo shows all over the world, including New York, Art Basel, Miami, Florida, Italy, Germany, Greece, and most recently Mulier-Mulier Gallery, Knokke-Heist, Belgium.

"Jack Early's Greatest Hits" is a culmination of works featuring elements Jack has been cultivating since childhood. The exhibition is celebration of Jack's journey as an artist and will feature 2D works, soft sculptures, and include an immersive installation incorporating original music. The show opens Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. with an artist talk and a reception following until 8:00 p.m. Free and open to the public!

## Creative heARTS Classes

Creative heARTS is designed to inspire and empower individuals with disabilities through fun and engaging art. With a focus on building self-confidence, refining fine motor skills, and improving social skills, Creative heARTS is the perfect place for individuals with disabilities to explore their creativity and express themselves through art.

Every human is welcome; this is a safe place to be yourself, belong, and explore creativity by yourself or with family and loved ones. If you need accommodations, let us know! Have feedback or suggestions, let us know! Our staff and creative team will do anything we can to make the arts accessible.

Each Creative HeARTS event is \$10 per participant. All supplies are provided, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration cuts off two business days before the event. Please visit [wilsonarts.com/creativehearts](http://wilsonarts.com/creativehearts) to register or call 252-291-4329 during business hours (Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Creative heARTS is supported by the Martha Cheatham Hunter & Dr. William C. Hunter Family Foundation Fund.



### Kids Schedule

**Saturday, March 2 / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor: Josie Mauzé**

Have you ever wanted to make your own book? In this workshop, explore line, texture, and color while making your own collage journal and bookmark. Keep it as your own to draw or write in, or give it as a unique present.

**Saturday, April 6 / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Instructor: Morgan Dollar**

To bring joy to rainy day faces, participants can engage in two crafts that welcome sprintime. In this workshop, let your imagination fly while making a butterfly and fine-tune your motor skills to create a hanging rainbow.

### Adults Schedule

**Tuesday, March 5/ 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Instructor: Buffy Driver**

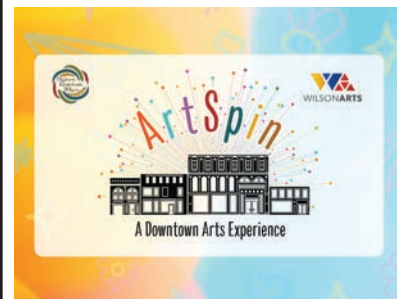
Description of activity was not available at the time of publication. Please check the website at [www.wilsonarts.com/creativehearts](http://www.wilsonarts.com/creativehearts) for an update.

**Tuesday, April 9/ 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Instructor: Anna Fretwell**

Discover the properties of light and its potential for creating beautiful artwork. In this workshop, craft a suncatcher designed to hang in a window and beautifully capture and refract sunlight.

## Enjoy a Vibrant Fusion of Art and Community at ArtSpin



**Saturday, March 9 / 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Historic Downtown Wilson**

Get ready to immerse yourself in a whirlwind of creativity at ArtSpin ~ A Downtown Arts Experience, a vibrant event brought to you by Wilson Arts and Wilson Downtown Development.

ArtSpin is celebration of creativity in all its forms, inviting attendees to see, try, hear, feel, and even taste the artistic endeavors of local talents. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a curious beginner, or simply looking for a fun day out, ArtSpin offers something for everyone and promises to be a day filled with unique art experiences that will engage all your senses. From children's art activities to live performances, there's plenty to keep families, couples, and friends entertained throughout the day.

The event is free and open to the public. Select activities may have a nominal fee. Follow the event on our Facebook page or visit [www.wilsonarts.com/artspin](http://www.wilsonarts.com/artspin).

## Step into a Realm of Fantasy: Wilson Renaissance Faire

**Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24**

**10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$10 per day/ \$15 for both days**

**Event Sponsors: J.W. Hunter, Arreola Law Firm, The Gilded Dragon**

**Contest Sponsors: Rhyan Breen, Casita, The Rummage Warehouse**



Prepare to embark on a journey filled with wonder and enchantment as Wilson Arts, Casita Brewing Company, and the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park come together to present Wilson's second annual Renaissance Faire. This immersive event promises to transport attendees to a realm of fantasy where maidens, princesses, knights, wenches, wizards, and pirates come to life.

Whether you've dreamt of donning a crown as a noble princess or brandishing a sword as a valiant knight, the Renaissance Faire offers the perfect opportunity to embrace your inner fantasy character.

Expect a lively atmosphere with an array of activities to delight attendees of all ages. Explore vendor booths offering unique treasures, savor delicious fare from food vendors, and indulge in the rich tapestry of entertainment that will fill the air.

For those seeking adventure, test your skills in games and contests inspired by the spirit of the Renaissance era. Experience the thrill of combat with fight demonstrations that showcase the artistry of swordplay and medieval combat techniques.

New this year: The Casita Brewing Company beer garden will host the Carolina Cask Festival featuring over 18 breweries and meaderies!

The Renaissance Faire will span across multiple venues within walking distance or you can hop on the horse-drawn carriage to your next location in Historic Downtown Wilson, ensuring a seamless and immersive experience for all attendees. Activities will take place inside the Wilson Arts Center, outside at Casita Brewing Company's beer garden, and the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park.

Get your single day or weekend tickets today at [www.wilsonarts.com/renfaire/](http://www.wilsonarts.com/renfaire/). The cost to attend is \$10 for one day and \$15 for the full weekend.

# Visual Arts Summer Camps at the Wilson Arts Center



## WEEK OF JUNE 10-14

### **PLAY. PAINT. PARTY. with Luanda Wiggins**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-13**

Do you have a creative kid who loves to paint, draw, and have a blast experimenting with art techniques? Instructor and artist Luanda Wiggins teaches the fundamentals of art while encouraging each child's creativity. Campers will be introduced to some of the master's to expose them to different styles, and then will create their OWN masterpieces to take home!

### **FUNKY FLOUR POWER #1: BEGINNING BAKING with Nicole Thomas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-12**

Calling all budding food artists! Campers will learn basic baking techniques and explore different decorating applications with instruction from local cookie artist extraordinaire, Nicole Thomas of Cole Cole's Cupcakes & Confections. (NOTE: This camp is for beginners.)

### **THE ART EXPRESS with Carrie Nobles**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-12**

Jump on the Art Express with artist & instructor Carrie Nobles and see where your imagination takes you! If your child isn't into "traditional" drawing or is willing to try new, creative, and experimental ways to turn their feelings and imagination into amazing works of art, this camp is for them! Campers will explore abstract art forms while learning color theory, composition, and layering techniques as they create their own masterpieces.

## WEEK OF JUNE 17-21

### **COMIC ART with Brandon Sanders**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

Comic art is back!! Instructor and professional comic artist Brandon Sanders will guide students in the

art of creating comics by exploring the fundamentals of imagining and drawing characters and developing a story line, with the goal of creating their very own comic book.

### **FUNKY FLOUR POWER-LEVEL UP! with Nicole Thomas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-18**

How sweet it is... Nicole is back and offering the next level in baking and decorating! Campers will learn more advanced decorating techniques, dive into creating cake pops and try their hand at other new baking treats! This camp is for kids who already know the basics and want to learn more challenging baking techniques!

### **PLAY. PAINT. PARTY #2 with Luanda Wiggins**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-13**

Do you have a creative kid who loves to paint, draw, and have a blast experimenting with art techniques? Instructor and artist Luanda Wiggins teaches the fundamentals of art while encouraging each child's creativity. Campers will be introduced to some of the master's to expose them to different styles, and then will create their OWN masterpieces to take home!

### **ARTISTS' PLAYGROUND with Maddie Murphy**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-12**

Does an afternoon of drawing & painting sound like music to your ears? Then this is the camp for you! Join artist Maddie Murphy for some fun & creative instruction in drawing techniques and playful painting. This camp is great for beginners wanting to try different mediums, as well as more experienced artists looking to learn something new!

### **BEJWELED & BEDAZZLED JEWELRY MAKING with Heather Stapp**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 10-14**

**Maximum: 10 Students**

This camp is for middle school age kids and will explore various processes and techniques to design and make their own jewelry! Local artist and instructor Heather Stapp will introduce them to techniques such as wire wrapping and beading as they explore various mediums including polymer clay to create pendants, rings, and earrings.

## WEEK OF JUNE 24-28

### **UNEARTHING JUNK JOURNALING: MIXED MEDIA BOOKMAKING with Renee J. Moore**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages 8-18**

Artist and nature lover Renee J. Moore will guide campers with an earth-friendly approach to exploring mixed media through bookmaking. Learn the art of repurposing everyday items, make beads from repurposed paper, and discover printmaking using natural materials and found objects!

### **MY ARTISTIC SELF #1 with Tiara Taylor**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

In this creative journey led by Wilson Arts staff member and educator Tiara Taylor, our campers will find their own artistic voice by investigating different creative mediums each day – everything from origami and collage to painting and jewelry making! This would be a perfect camp for those who may be new to exploring the creative process – there's a little bit of everything to try!

### **FUNKY FLOUR POWER #2 BEGINNING BAKING with Nicole Thomas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-12**

Calling all budding food artists! Campers will learn basic baking techniques and explore different decorating applications with instruction from local cookie artist extraordinaire, Nicole Thomas of Cole Cole's Cupcakes & Confections. (NOTE: This camp is for beginners.)

### **IMAGINE IT. SCULPT IT. with Liz Denton**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-18**

Artist & arts educator Liz Denton will take kids on a 3-D creative journey through different types of materials used in sculpture creation, including air clay, papier-mâché, and forming recycled materials into works of imaginative art. If you can imagine it, you can build it! Campers will have their works on display during our sculpture invitational opening on July 11!

### **DRAW YOUR HEART OUT with Frank Johnson III**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-18**

In this drawing camp, kids will learn how to take their work to the next level with artist and art instructor Frank Johnson III. Campers will hone their skills in line, composition, shading and drawing from real life. They

# Visual Arts Summer Camps continued

will also explore using different mediums, problem solving/when to deviate from the plan how to use color to make their work pop!

## Week of July 8-12

### **COMIC ART #2 with Brandon Sanders**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

Comic art is back! Instructor and professional comic artist Brandon Sanders will guide students in the art of creating comics by exploring the fundamentals of imagining and drawing characters and developing a story line, with the goal of creating their very own comic book.

### **MY ARTISTIC SELF #2 with Tiara Taylor**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

In this creative journey led by Wilson Arts staff member and educator Tiara Taylor, our campers will find their own artistic voice by investigating different creative mediums each day – everything from origami and collage to painting and jewelry making! This would be a perfect camp for those who may be new to exploring the creative process – there's a little bit of everything to try!

### **ILLUSTRATION STATION: DRAWING 101 with Frank Johnson III**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

Climb aboard to learn the basics of drawing and composition with artist and art instructor Frank Johnson III. Campers will learn the building blocks of sketching and how to break down complicated objects into simple shapes. This is a great camp for kids that enjoy drawing and want to learn the tools for more realistic results.

### **OUTSIDE THE LINES with Maddie Murphy**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-12**

Already know the basics & want to take your work to the next level? This is the camp for you! Artist Maddie Murphy will help strengthen your skills in drawing from still life, try your hand at mark making and let loose with gestural drawing.

## WEEK OF JULY 15-19

### **FUNKY FLOUR POWER-LEVEL UP! #2 with Nicole Thomas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-18**

How sweet it is...Nicole is back and offering the next level in baking and decorating! Campers will learn more advanced decorating techniques, dive into creating cake pops and try their hand at other new baking treats! This camp is for kids who already know the basics and want to learn more challenging baking techniques!

### **PLAY. PAINT. PARTY. #3 with Luanda Wiggins**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-18**

Do you have a creative kid who loves to paint, draw, and have a blast experimenting with art techniques? Instructor and artist Luanda Wiggins teaches the fundamentals of art while encouraging each child's creativity. Campers will be introduced to some of the masters to expose them to different styles, and then will create their OWN masterpieces to take home!

### **WILD THINGS: MIXED MEDIA MANIA with April Garrett**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-12**

Campers will explore a variety of mediums including paper, paint, and collage to create their mixed-media masterpieces! This camp is perfect for both new and experienced young artists who want to stretch their imagination while trying their hand at various forms of artistic styles.

### **CHEER FOR ART with Mya Taylor (with Tiara Taylor)**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-10**

Ready? Ok!! This camp is for kids looking to get their cheer on! Instructor Mya Taylor will lead campers through basic steps of cheerleading, create spirit inspired artwork using a variety of mediums, and bust a move with afternoon dance parties! This camp is for beginners and great for kids that like to create while being active!

## WEEK OF JULY 22-26

### **FUNKY FLOUR POWER #3 BEGINNING BAKING with Nicole Thomas**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-12**

Calling all budding food artists! Campers will learn basic baking techniques and explore different decorating applications with instruction from local cookie artist, Nicole Thomas of Cole Cole's Cupcakes & Confections. (NOTE: This camp is for beginners.)

### **UNEARTHING JUNK JOURNALING #2: MIXED MEDIA BOOKMAKING with Renee J. Moore**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Ages 8-18**

Artist and nature lover Renee J. Moore will guide campers with an earth friendly approach to exploring mixed media through bookmaking. They will learn to the art of repurposing everyday items, make beads from repurposed paper, and discover printmaking using natural materials and found objects!

### **PAINTING & BEYOND with Heather Stapp**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 10-14**

In this camp, kids will try their hand at a variety of projects including basic crochet, creating fashionable bracelets & other artful accessories. They will explore painting on different objects including, picture frames, rock painting and creating their own one of a kind fashion items!

### **IMAGINE IT. SCULPT IT. #2 with Liz Denton**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 8-18**

Artist & arts educator Liz Denton will take kids on a 3-D creative journey through different types of materials used in sculpture creation, including air clay, papier-mâché, and forming recycled materials into works of imaginative art. If you can imagine it, you can build it! Campers will have their works on display on the last day for parents & families to enjoy!

### **EXPLORING ABSTRACT ART with Frank Johnson III**

**Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages 8-18**

Campers will explore the world of abstract through "Intuitive Art". They will be introduced to the elements of design then jump in to building their own compositions through hands-on techniques. This will be an exploration of mixed media where there is no "right" or "wrong" way...it's all part of the process!



# 2024 Performing Arts Summer Camps at the Edna Boykin Cultural Center



## WEEK OF JUNE 17-21

### DISNEY'S FINDING NEMO KIDS

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-15**

**Camp Performance: Friday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

Disney's *Finding Nemo KIDS* is a 30-minute musical adaptation of the beloved 2003 Pixar movie *Finding Nemo*, with new music by award-winning songwriting team Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. Marlin, an anxious and over-protective clownfish, lives in the Great Barrier Reef with his kid Nemo, who longs to explore the world beyond their anemone home. But when Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney, Marlin faces his fears and sets off on an epic adventure across the ocean. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush, and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves.

Featuring memorable songs such as "Just Keep Swimming," "Fish Are Friends Not Food," and "Go With the Flow," *Finding Nemo KIDS* brings a vibrant underwater world to life on stage in a story full of family, friendship, and adventure.

## WEEK OF JULY 22-26

### DISNEY'S ALADDIN JR.

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 5-15**

**Camp Performance: Friday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

Disney's *Aladdin JR.* is based on the 1992 Academy Award-winning film and the 2014 hit Broadway show about the "diamond in the rough" street rat who learns that his true worth lies deep within.

The story you know and love has been given the royal treatment! Aladdin and his three friends, Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, are down on their luck until Aladdin discovers a magic lamp and the Genie who has the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to earn the respect of the princess, Jasmine, Aladdin embarks on an adventure that will test his will and his moral character. With expanded characters, new songs, and more thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story will open up "a whole new world" for your young performers!

## WEEK OF JULY 28 – AUGUST 2

### DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR.

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ages: 12-18**

**Camp Performance: Friday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.**

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on your stage in *Disney's High School Musical JR.* Now updated to the convenient binder version! Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

## Important Information for All Summer Camps

### Eligibility and Registration

Children are only eligible to register for a camp if they fall within the appropriate age range for that specific camp. You must complete the entire registration form and submit payment in order for your child to be registered – we do not "hold" spots. Forms may be submitted online with payment, or printed from our website at [www.wilsonarts.com/camps/](http://www.wilsonarts.com/camps/) and mailed with payment to: Wilson Arts, 204 Nash Street S, Wilson, NC 27893. You may also register in person at the Wilson Arts Center during business hours.

## Important Information for All Summer Camps continued

### Payment and Scholarships

Camp fees are listed for each camp. Full payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be given for participant cancellations once your child is registered. Camp registration closes 10 days before the start date of the camp. Scholarships are available based on financial need. Forms may be downloaded from our website at [www.wilsonarts.com/camps/](http://www.wilsonarts.com/camps/) or you may pick them up at the Wilson Arts Center. Please submit your application at least two weeks before the start of the camp.

### Cancellations

Wilson Arts reserves the right to cancel camps due to low enrollment. Campers will be notified by the Tuesday preceding the camp's start if the camp will be canceled. A full refund or credit toward a different camp will be issued if a camp is canceled.

### Arrivals and Departures

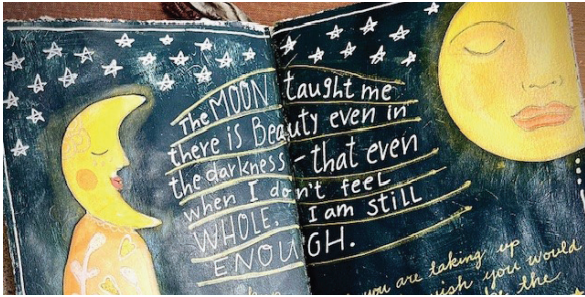
Campers are to check in at the Wilson Arts Center for Visual Arts camps or The Boykin Center for Performing Arts camps no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of camp. Morning camps begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and afternoon camps at 1:00 p.m. Campers must be accompanied into the building and signed in. Please call Wilson Arts if your child will be late or not attending a day of camp. At pick-up, you will be required to sign your camper out. Only persons authorized on the Permission Form will be allowed to pick up. If you are more than 30 minutes late picking up your camper, a \$10 fee will be assessed.

### Snacks & Lunches

Please remember to send snacks and lunch along with drinks for those attending full-day performing arts camps. If your child is attending both morning and afternoon visual arts camps, you may sign them up for the "Lunch Bunch" option, which provides childcare for the hour in between camps for \$25 per week. Please note that lunch is NOT included. Please avoid nut products in snacks and lunches.

## Upcoming Workshops for Adults and Teens

### Hot Mess Art Journaling-Fancy Lettering with Julie Ann Haas



**Saturday, March 9 / 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Wilson Arts Center / Brown Family Studio 1**

**Age: 14 & up**

**Cost: \$25 per person**

Hot Mess Journaling workshop continues led by local artist Julie Ann Haas who will guide you into the art of hand lettering. This workshop is for all skill levels and is designed for reducing stress and making space for creative freedom. A variety of different mediums will be on hand for you to try. All supplies are provided and you are welcome to bring your own art journal! Minors must be accompanied by a participating adult.

### Figurative Drawing Sessions



**Saturday, March 16 / 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 20 / 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Wilson Arts Center / Studio 2**

**Age: 18 & up**

**Cost: \$20**

Figurative Drawing offers rotating professional nude models led by moderator Mike Radford. Sessions include a series of short gesture drawings and several longer poses. Each session is supervised by a moderator with no instruction given so come prepared to work freely. All skill levels welcome! Easels, drawing boards and various drawing mediums will be provided and you are welcome to bring your own materials.

### Creating from Life-Portrait Session with a Live Model



**Thursday, March 21 / 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Wilson Arts Center / Brown Family Studio 1**

**Age: 14 & up**

**Cost: \$20**

In this workshop, artists of all skill levels will have the opportunity to hone their portrait skills. This 3-hour session will offer a clothed model posing for an extended single pose. Artists can work on a single painting/drawing or move around the studio (space permitting) to do several works of the same pose.

A variety of mediums on hand along with easels and drawing boards or you may bring your own. The session will be supervised by moderator Mike Radford with no instruction given so come prepared to work freely. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

## Miniature Masterpieces: A Fun Night for a Great Cause!



**Thursday, May 16 / 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Tickets: \$50**

**Artwork Due: March 30**

Hang on to your hats and loosen up your wallets to join us for one of our favorite annual events! This beloved fundraiser continues to grow and this year, we have stretched our creative net to include 3D works into the mini-masterpiece mix! You won't want to miss the opportunity to take home a tiny treasure at our Miniature Masterpieces fundraiser on Thursday, May 16! Tickets will go on sale to current members beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, and to the public April 16<sup>th</sup>. This one is always a sell-out, so if you'd like to attend, be sure to reserve your tickets!

The ticket price of \$50 includes a fun, festive evening of scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, lively libations, and an original 8" x 8" miniature masterpiece of your very own to take home. Once you've claimed your mini-masterpiece, you can stop by our one-stop framing station, where you can have your masterpiece professionally framed and ready to hang! All proceeds go towards funding education programming for the year, and all original artworks are generously donated by local and regional artists.

If you are an artist interested in donating a piece, visit [www.wilsonarts.com/artistopps](http://www.wilsonarts.com/artistopps) for full details. Artwork is due March 30. All 2024 participating artists are invited to attend the second half of the event, just be sure to give us a call to RSVP, ASAP!

You can call us at (252) 291-4329, visit us at the Wilson Arts Center, or purchase tickets online at [www.wilsonarts.com](http://www.wilsonarts.com).

If you or your business would like to become a sponsor for this delightful fundraising event, please contact Dee Dee Oliver, Visual Arts Coordinator, at (252) 291-4329 or [deedee@wilsonarts.com](mailto:deedee@wilsonarts.com)

# PAINT-A-HYDRANT CALL FOR ARTISTS

**Application Deadline:  
Tuesday, May 3**

Supporting:

**Event Date:  
Saturday, June 1**

Visit [www.wilsonarts.com/public-art/hydrant/](http://www.wilsonarts.com/public-art/hydrant/)  
for more information and an application.

# Boosting the Arts Scene: Wilson County Receives Additional Grassroots Funding

This year, the State of North Carolina took a significant step in bolstering its support for the arts by approving a \$2.5 million increase for the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Arts program. Designed to recur annually, this funding boost is targeted towards Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 counties with populations under 250,000, aiming to foster cultural enrichment across the state. Wilson County is classified as a Tier 1 county by the North Carolina Department of Commerce's yearly rankings meaning Wilson County is one of the top 40 most distressed counties in the state.

As the designated Grassroots partner for Wilson County by the North Carolina Arts Council, Wilson Arts plays a pivotal role in channeling these funds to local initiatives. With the increase in statewide funding, Wilson Arts can now allocate an additional \$12,834 to Wilson County non-profits that utilize the arts to fulfill their missions. This infusion of resources presented an opportunity to revisit project proposals and provide full or partial funding at a higher level, addressing needs that previously exceeded available resources. This injection of funding not only strengthens Wilson County's cultural landscape but also underscores the importance of arts in addressing economic distress and fostering resilience within communities.

The following received additional funds for their projects:

## Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House African American History Museum

\$1,000 earmarked for their summer concerts on the lawn, fostering community engagement through music and outdoor events.

## Wilson Youth United (dba The Spot)

\$2,375 allocated to hire a dedicated art teacher for their after-school programming, nurturing creativity and skill development among young learners.

## Eyes on Main Street

\$932 designated for artist Rodrigo Paredes to conduct photography programs, fostering artistic expression and cultural exchange within the community.

## Foundation YMCA

\$633 dedicated to hiring art instructors for their after-school middle school programming, providing opportunities for artistic exploration and growth.

## Casa Azul de Wilson

\$1,000 directed towards arts programming for LatinX Heritage Month, celebrating and preserving cultural diversity. \$5,000 allocated for operational support, ensuring the sustained impact of Casa Azul's initiatives in the community.

## Barton Art Galleries

\$1,244 earmarked for facilitating community and high school interaction with resident Enzo Torcoletti.

## Vision Community Theatre

\$650 designated for covering marketing costs, promoting the visibility and accessibility of theatrical productions within the community.

Recipients of the additional funding are required to match the granted funds, underscoring a shared commitment. As these additional funds are channeled into various artistic endeavors across Wilson County, the ripple effects are anticipated to be profound, fostering creativity, community engagement, and cultural vibrancy.



## Cathy's Column



As we kick off the new year, it's crucial to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments from the previous year and appreciate the strides we've made. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to feel like we're constantly chasing after goals without making much progress. However, upon

closer inspection, we often realize just how far we've come, leaving us with a profound sense of gratitude.

I'm thrilled to share that we surpassed our membership drive goal for 2023. While our initial target was set at \$110,000, our community's overwhelming support enabled us to raise an impressive \$133,285. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated readers who contributed to this achievement and look forward

to welcoming new supporters as we strive to exceed our goals in 2024.

Additionally, we've formed a meaningful partnership with the Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House Museum to honor local musicians contributing to the African American Music Trail of Wilson County. Our collaboration celebrates their cultural legacy, reflecting our commitment to preserving and promoting the arts.

Furthermore, we launched our brand-new Creative heARTS program, tailored to serve adults and youth with various disabilities. This initiative, made possible through the generous support of the Martha Cheatham Hunter & Dr. William C. Hunter Family Foundation, embodies our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in the arts.

On the infrastructure front, significant improvements have been made at the Edna Boykin Cultural Center, thanks to the dedication of our Team Edna committee, staff, and volunteers. The makeover of the Green Room has transformed it into a welcoming haven for our

performers, providing a much-needed space for relaxation and preparation. Additionally, enhancements such as the reorganization of our costume and prop storage, along with the acquisition of new wireless microphones, have elevated the overall quality of our theatrical productions. The acquisition and installation of new leg curtains and a cyclorama have further enhanced the versatility and visual appeal of our stage performances.

We have also invested significant time and energy and research into creating safety plans for the Wilson Arts Center and the Edna Boykin Cultural Center strengthening our preparedness and resilience in the face of challenges.

As we embark on the remainder of this year filled with promise and potential, let us carry forward the spirit of gratitude and determination that has propelled us this far. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, champion inclusivity, and enrich our community through the power of the arts.



# Wilson Arts Secure State Funding

Continued from page 1

## Empowering Youth Development

One of the primary objectives of this initiative is to empower the youth of Wilson County by equipping them with essential technical and problem-solving skills crucial for success in today's workforce. By broadening educational opportunities in the arts, Wilson Arts aims to provide young individuals with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive in various professional domains.

## Supporting Local Artists and Job Creation

Beyond benefiting the youth, this funding will also create employment opportunities for local teaching artists. Through expanded programming, Wilson Arts will engage and nurture artists to deliver high-quality instruction, thereby enriching the learning experiences of participants and contributing to job creation and economic growth in Wilson County.

## Enhanced Access to the Arts

Furthermore, the allocation of state funds will facilitate improved access to diverse art forms for residents of Wilson County. By bringing enriching experiences closer to home, Wilson Arts seeks to eliminate barriers to participation and ensure that community members have access to a broad spectrum of cultural and artistic opportunities without needing to travel outside of Wilson.

## Driving Economic Development

The positive impacts of increased participation in downtown arts activities will undoubtedly extend to the economic sphere. Greater foot traffic for classes and creative pursuits will benefit other businesses in the area, making Wilson a more vibrant and appealing place to live while attracting skilled workers to the region.

The \$100,000 grant from the State of North Carolina is more than just financial support; it is a testament to the value and impact of Wilson Arts' efforts in fostering creativity, innovation, and opportunity within Wilson County. As the organization continues to expand its educational offerings and enrich the lives of residents through the arts, the impact of this state funding will be felt for generations to come.

Join us in our mission to complete these capital improvements for the benefit of every individual in Wilson County. If you are interested in contributing to this project or supporting Wilson Arts' cause in any way, please reach out to Executive Director Cathy Hardison at [cathy@wilsonarts.com](mailto:cathy@wilsonarts.com). Together, let's make a lasting difference in our community through the transformative power of the arts.

# Wilson Arts 2024 Members as of February 1

## BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

### Corporate Sustainer

Brewmasters, Casita Brewing Company LLC, Hometown Pest Solutions, Joyner's Funeral Home, J.W. Hunter Company, Inc., Southern Bank

### Corporate Donor

Hunters Dance

### Corporate Supporter

Alan Winstead Insurance, Anita's Market Concepts, Edward Jones Investments, Farris & Thomas Law, Watson Electrical Construction Co. LLC

### Corporate Backer

Towe Insurance Service, Inc.

## MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

### Visionary Level

William B. & Patti Boles Jr., Josephine M. Brown, Martha Lane Camp, Neill & Linda Connor, Donald I. & Brenda Evans, Cathy & Andrew Hardison, Susan & Brett Harris, Ken & Kim Hill, Keith & Jenny Lerro, W. Barrett & Diana Page, Myra J. Powell, Bill & Kathy Vaughan, Jack & Sheila Wiggins

### Innovator Level

Genia Tyson Bone, Thomas A. & Sallie Cozart, Ralph & Sue Dail, Cambron & Will Farris, Connie & William Farris, Shelton & Courtenay Griffin, John N. Hackney & Susan Kellum, Skip & Linda Hanson, Josie & Charlie Mauzé, Peter Newby, Walston & Elizabeth Peters, Tom & Deenie Purinai, Beth & Doug Searcy, Page & Eliot Smith, Tonya & John L. Sorenson, Buck & Jean Yelverton

### Creator Level

Stephanie Batten, Jesse V. & Jody H. Bisette, David M. & Susan Boyette, Jim & Kathie Davis, Jimmy V. & Carole L. Deal, Jeffery & Shelly Jones, Renee J. & Scott Moore, Craig M. & Sherry H. Myers, Conrad & Anne Odden, Marla & Wayland E. Parker, Linwood & Frances Perry, Valerie & Ned Roebuck, Jessica & Robert Satterfield, Betty Jon S. Smith, Rusty & Pam Tabb, Kelly & Kirby Taranto, Lynette J. & Allen Thomas, Gary & Linda Walling, J. Hearn & Janice Walston,

### Supporting Level

John C. & Viki Anthony, Lydia & Tom Bardin, Rob Bisette, Susan & J. Robert Boykin, III, Barbara Brinson, Monica Davis, Bobby R. & Doris Evans, Marcus

& Julia Fielding, Julia Gross, Carolyn Harmon, Jerry & Bootsie Harris, Richard R. & Norfleet Herring, Garland & Sandra, Homes, D. Kim & Karen Johnson, Lawrence & Katherine Krabill, Charles W. & Melanie Mauzé, David & Caprice McNeill, Danny & Karen Mercer, Daniel & Paula Michalak, Norman Osborn, Ed & Vicky Phillips, Candice & James Rountree, R. Alan & Joan Satterly, Aaron & Eva Smithwick, Kent & Robin Williams

### Family Level

Aida H. Abernathy, Jaclynn & Randy A. Barnes, R. Thompson & Lynn N. Barnes, Stephen D. & Janet Bennett, Jennifer Bennington, Turner B. & Sarah Bunn, Rex & Patsy Burnworth, Edwin C. Bynum, Kim Valentine & Jimmy Carmickle, Dennis & Eileen Carter, William G. & Agnes Cherry, Richard & Vicky Collie, Connie H. Collins, John & Julie Conoley, Lou & Elaine Craig, John & Kathleen Greely, Susan Holland, Rick & Patricia Horner, Allison & Jim Howard, Ron & Nicole Hunt, Marsha & Steve Irvin, Frank & Susan Kidd, Jimmie & Elva Lucas, Lawson & Virginia Maddox, Stacy Matthews, Jean McLamb, Ms. Lynne White & Mr. Jack Mobilia, Peter &

Donna Mower, William & Diana Myers, Al & Margaret Nowell, Michael Perry, Sharon Pierce, Amelia Rivera & Ernest Davis, Debra & Timothy Rogers, Robert & Delana Rountree, Bill & Lisa Shreve, Deborah M. Styles, Jaqueline & Andre Taylor, Dawn & Marc Whitehead, C. David & Frances Williams, Carolyn Zolas

### Individual Level (should only be one person, not couples)

Rochelle Bass, Selena Bennett, Steve Benton, Marie Cole, Clara & Fletcher Daughtridge, Jo Doll, Alice B. & Charles Freeman, Jane Gardner, Ada Ghuman, Gwen Hardie, Sharyn Hardister, Alvin R. & Joann Hickman, Kim Joy, Michael Killion, Jane Kolunie, Mike Land, Amy & Patrick Letchworth, Kitty Meares, B. Perry & Nancy Morrison, Bob Owens, Michael Radford, Lori Richardson, Katherine Riggs, Linda & Ed Rutenkroger, Shelley Sakas, Mary Samuels, Matthew Shaw, Finley Snipes, John Soulen, Patricia J. Vassallo, Martha K. & Henry H. Walston, Jan & John Wood, Martha Wrenn, Mary Jane Yates, Betty J. & Patrick Yelverton



Join us!



Memberships start  
at \$45/year



# Wilson Arts Calendar: March 1 - April 30, 2024

Regular Truist Event Gallery  
Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday – Saturday

## March 1

Creative HeARTS Kids / Wilson Arts Center / 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

## March 5

Creative HeARTS / Wilson Arts Center / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

## March 7

Gallery Opening: “If these walls could talk, I bet they’d never shut up!”, Jack Early / Wilson Arts Center / 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

## March 8

Playhouse of Wilson presents: *Crimes of the Heart* / The Boykin Center / 7:30 p.m.

## March 9

Hot Mess Art Journaling: Fancy Lettering with Julie Ann Haas / Wilson Arts Center / 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ArtSpin / Historic Downtown Wilson / 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Playhouse of Wilson presents: *Crimes of the Heart* / The Boykin Center / 7:30 p.m.

## March 10

Playhouse of Wilson presents: *Crimes of the Heart* / The Boykin Center / 3:00 p.m.

## March 12

Playhouse of Wilson Auditions / Wilson Arts Center / 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## March 13

Playhouse of Wilson Auditions / Wilson Arts Center / 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## March 15

Wilson Arts Center Closed for Private Event / 12:00 p.m.

S2P2 presents: *The Lighting Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## March 16

Figurative Drawing / Wilson Arts Center / 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

S2P2 presents: *The Lighting Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## March 17

S2P2 presents: *The Lighting Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical* / The Boykin Center / 3:00 p.m.

## March 21

Creating from Life: Portrait Session with Live Model / Wilson Arts Center / 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## March 22

Boykin Series 26 presents: Lorraine Jordan & Carolina Road / The Boykin Center / 7:30 p.m.

## March 23

Wilson Renaissance Faire / Historic Downtown Wilson / 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## March 24

Wilson Renaissance Faire / Historic Downtown Wilson / 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## March 27

Greenfield School presents: *Alice in Wonderland* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## March 28

Greenfield School presents: *Alice in Wonderland* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## March 30

Wilson Arts Center Closed for Private Event / 1:00 p.m.

## April 6

Creative HeARTS Kids / Wilson Arts Center / 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Spring into STEAM: Eclipse Extravaganza / Whirligig Park / 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wilson Arts Center Closing for Private Event / 12:00 p.m.

## April 9

Creative HeARTS / Wilson Arts Center / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

## April 11

ACT! for Youth presents: *The Phantom Tollbooth* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## April 12

ACT! for Youth presents: *The Phantom Tollbooth* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## April 13

Wilson Arts Center Closing for Private Event / 12:00 p.m.

ACT! for Youth presents: *The Phantom Tollbooth* / The Boykin Center / 7:00 p.m.

## April 14

ACT! for Youth presents: *The Phantom Tollbooth* / The Boykin Center / 3:00 p.m.

## April 18

Exhibition Closing: “If these walls could talk, I bet they’d never shut up!”, Jack Early / Wilson Arts Center

## April 19

Boykin Series 26 presents: The Ultimate Variety Show - Vegas Top Impersonators / The Boykin Center / 7:30 p.m.

## April 20

Figurative Drawing / Wilson Arts Center / 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wilson Arts Center Closing for Private Event / 12:00 p.m.

## April 27

Wilson Arts Center Closing for Private Event / 4:00 p.m.

## Supporting Artists in Wilson: The Artists Support Grant

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the arts and culture sector faced significant challenges, initiatives like the Artist Support Grant have emerged to provide vital support to individual artists. Created to directly aid artists in enhancing their skills, improving their business operations, and expanding their reach to new audiences, this grant has been a beacon of hope for many in the arts community.

Administered through the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, this grant targets professional and emerging artists in eastern North Carolina. The counties included in this opportunity included Greene, Nash, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson Counties.

Wilson Arts extends our heartfelt congratulations to five recipients from Wilson County for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. These talented individuals represent a range of artistic disciplines.

- Rae Barnes, Wilson – Visual Arts
- Arden Coutts, Wilson – Literary
- Tyshika Dickens, Wilson – Visual Arts
- Britt Edwards, Lucama - Film
- Kevin Howard, Lucama – Visual Arts
- Maria Ramirez, Sims – Visual Arts

These artists will utilize their grants to further their creative pursuits and contribute to the vibrant cultural landscape of their community. Whether through film, literature, or visual arts, each recipient brings a unique perspective and talent to the table.

For aspiring artists interested in this grant opportunity, the typical application window falls in late summer or early fall. Award amounts typically range from \$500 to \$1,000, providing crucial financial support to aid in the realization of artistic projects and endeavors.

The Artist Support Grant is made possible through the support of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. This partnership underscores the importance of public funding in sustaining and promoting the arts.

As we look ahead, initiatives like the Artist Support Grant continue to elevate support for artists in eastern North Carolina. For more information and updates on future grant opportunities, artists are encouraged to visit [www.wilsonarts.com/artistgrants](http://www.wilsonarts.com/artistgrants). Let us continue to celebrate and support the diverse talents and contributions of artists in our communities.



## Wilson Active Artists Invite You to "Spring Concerto"



The Wilson Active Artists Association announces seventeen local artists will participate in a new exhibit at the Boykin Center. "Spring Concerto" opens on March 7, with light refreshments and beverages offered from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. This is intentional planning at its best! That

same evening, Wilson Arts opens their latest exhibit from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. To enjoy both venues, drop by the Boykin Center first, and then meander to the Wilson Arts Center. Both shows will be really exceptional!

One of WAAA newest members, Frank Timberlake, a consultant from Wake County, will exhibit at the Boykin Center for the first time. His unique digital PhoArt<sup>®</sup> gallery-wrapped prints include "Where the Metal Flower Blooms" taken at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington. From his home, "Linda's Lady Slippers" portrays this delicate pink beauty embedded in a secret garden, growing wild in nature.

WAAA also welcomes back Wilson County Middle School art teacher, Heather Stapp. Heather's portrait of the Whirligig Park, a 10" x 20" acrylic painting, "Springtime Dance" definitely shouts out "spring colors"! This mom of two boys is a dedicated artist and a great role model for her teenage students.

Former Barton College professor, Elaine Marshall, shares another one of her beautiful pastels, "Spring Trees" inspired by Lake Wilson. This beauty will make you fall in love with walking through the woods in March, as might her vision in a watercolor titled "Spring Leaves".

Another eastern North Carolina artist-educator, Melissa Engleman from Greenville, is an ECU digital musical composer in real-life. Like many other WAAA members, Melissa is also enrolled in Barton College's Continuing Education program and studies under Maureen O'Neill. Melissa's two pastels, "Bouquet" and "Spring Concert" feature muted and rich layers of colors; both draw from her real life experience as both a gardener and a professional musician.

There has been an uptick in visitors to the Edna Boykin Cultural Center so far this year! Looking for a great gift or celebrating a special occasion? Our gallery could help you find the perfect solution! Look for the "GALLERY NOW OPEN" sign out front when a WAAA member is available to talk with you. **Gallery hours are 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. most Saturdays.** Please note: Due to Rentals of the space, the gallery may be closed on some dates. **A perfect time to select reasonably priced, amazing art is now! Support for our local artists is greatly appreciated.**

## Empower Advocacy: Join us for ARTS Day 2024 in Raleigh!



You're invited to join us for ARTS Day, a two-day event dedicated to arts advocacy in Raleigh, NC, on May 21-22, 2024.

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 – ARTS Day Conference: Immerse yourself in professional development, networking, and strategic planning. Engage with insightful speakers, receive industry updates, and enjoy inspiring performances that energize and empower you to advocate for the arts.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – ARTS Day Legislative Visits: Join North Carolina's arts community in taking action by meeting with legislators to discuss the importance of public funding and policy support for arts and arts education. Armed with the messaging and energy from the previous day's conference, you'll have the opportunity to make your voice heard.

Registration for ARTS Day opens in March at [www.artsnc.org](http://www.artsnc.org). We're proud to announce that our Executive Director, Cathy Hardison, will be serving as County Captain for Wilson County! If you're planning to attend or have any inquiries, please don't hesitate to reach out to Cathy at [cathy@wilsonarts.com](mailto:cathy@wilsonarts.com).

Let's come together to advocate for the arts and make a meaningful impact on our community and beyond. We look forward to your participation.

## S2P2, Inc. News



*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* by Rob Rokicki with book by Joe Trackz will be performed at the Boykin Center. March 15 & 16 at 7:00 p.m. and March 17 at 3:00 p.m. Ticket and more information coming soon. Please contact [s2p2inc@gmail.com](mailto:s2p2inc@gmail.com) or find S2P2 on Facebook.

Auditions for S2P2's production of David Winstanley's *Deck of Cards* will be held at the Singers Studio Monday and Tuesday March 18 and 19 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Auditions for this production are restricted to those 17 years of age or older. Please contact [s2p2inc@gmail.com](mailto:s2p2inc@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up for auditions. Find S2P2 on Facebook for more details closer to the audition date.

## Vision Community Theatre Group, Inc. Auditions



Vision Community Theatre Group is holding auditions for their upcoming production, "Dazzling Sounds of Broadway." The show, created and written by, Toshika Johnson-Davis, first produced in 2010, is being brought back to the Edna Boykin Cultural Center stage by popular demand.

One of the company's annual celebrations of Black Music Month, "Dazzling Sounds of Broadway" features tunes from popular Broadway musicals written by black playwrights, or written about the Black experience, or which included black cast members in significant roles.

Auditions are Monday, April 1; Wednesday, April 3; and Thursday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. Auditions will be held at the Wilson Arts Center, 204 Nash St. S. Those wishing to audition may do so by appointment or walk in. Those with appointments will have priority, at their appointed time, and should arrive 15 minutes early. Virtual and online auditions will also be available.

Vision Community Theatre group is a non-profit theater company which is volunteer driven. No prior experience is required. Those auditioning should have strong work ethics and a sincere commitment. All age

groups and ethnicities are encouraged to audition. Those auditioning should prepare a brief bio and provide a headshot, be prepared to sing a Broadway tune (performer's choice) a capella, and prepare a memorized 20-30 second monologue. Opportunities are available for choreographers, musicians, a stage manager, stage hands and vendors.

Visit [www.visioncommunitytheatregroup.com](http://www.visioncommunitytheatregroup.com) or call 252-220-0797 for additional information. This production promises to be a dazzling celebration of Broadway's rich diversity. Don't miss the chance to be part of this extraordinary show!

# Playhouse of Wilson Updates

## Crimes of the Heart

March 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m.

March 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Edna Boykin Cultural Center /  
108 Nash St. NE

Tickets: \$18 advance adults, seniors, students  
\$20 at door adults



Three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch who is living out his last hours in a local hospital. The play is the story of how its young characters escape the past to seize the future - but the telling is true, touching and hilarious.

## [title of show] Auditions

March 11 & 12 / 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wilson Arts Center / 204 Nash  
Street S

[title of show] follows Hunter and Jef and their friends on their journey through the gauntlet of creative self-expression. In the span of 90 minutes they write and perform their show at the festival and learn lessons about themselves as people, friends, and artists.

For more information about auditions or tickets, visit [playhouseofwilson.org](http://playhouseofwilson.org).



## Wilson Arts

Wilson Arts Center / 204 Nash Street S, Wilson, NC 27893

Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday\*

\*May be affected by private rentals.

## Mission

The mission of Wilson Arts is to improve the quality of life for all by being a hub for artistic experiences that enrich, educate, and entertain the citizens of Wilson County and beyond.

## Officers

Tonya Sorenson – President  
J. Michael Moore – Vice President  
Blair Myers – Treasurer  
Janet Connor-Knox – Secretary  
Anne Joyner – Past President

## Board of Directors

Leigh Anne Bryant, Monica Davis, Tom Fyle,  
Lori Hines-Jones, Elizabeth Liles-Radford, Josie Mauzè,  
Carrie Nobles, Maureen O' Neill, Beth Peters,  
Amelia Rivera, Savannah Story, Eric Via, Lynne White,  
Wendy Winslow, Alan Winstead, Lori Winstead

## Staff

Cathy Brown Hardison, Executive Director  
[cathy@wilsonarts.com](mailto:cathy@wilsonarts.com) / 252-291-4329 x 105

Amy Wahl, Office Manager  
[amy@wilsonarts.com](mailto:amy@wilsonarts.com) / 252-291-4329 x 103

Shaun Braswell, Theater Arts Coordinator  
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Dee Dee Oliver, Visual Arts Coordinator  
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Jenn Ferguson, Finance Administrator  
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Stephanie Pridgen, Marketing Coordinator  
[stephanie@wilsonarts.com](mailto:stephanie@wilsonarts.com) / 252-291-4329 x 107

Chandra Bolling, Marie Cole, Tiara Taylor, & JB Yankosky  
Arts Attendants / Box Office  
[boxoffice@wilsonarts.com](mailto:boxoffice@wilsonarts.com) / 252-291-4329 x 101

Bob Owens – After Hours Security

Tiara Taylor - Housekeeping  
[tiara@wilsonarts.com](mailto:tiara@wilsonarts.com)

## Submissions

All submissions for the May-June 2024 issue must be emailed to [stephanie@wilsonarts.com](mailto:stephanie@wilsonarts.com) no later than Friday, April 5, 2024.

The Arts Courier is funded in part by a Grassroots grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

# Thank You, Volunteers!

## Wilson Arts Holiday Sip & Shop

Logan Walston & Morgan Kammerer

## Whimsical Wonderland

Christina Bynum, Alexis Clemmons, Greg Dunko,  
Maggie Gurley, Mia Harris, Roy Palmer,  
Noelani Sinclair, Steve Witchey, Molly Youssef,  
Kimberly Van Dyk

## Suzy Boggus: A Swingin' Little Christmas

Barbara Eason, Lillian Lucas, Keidy Perez, Mylee Pully,  
Trey Thomas, Tom Williams, Debbie & Ray Williams,  
Marcia & Buster Williamson, Kathy & Steve Witchey

## "Blended Expressions: The Brush & Beyond" Reception

Tracey Barnes, Tom Braswell, Julie Conoley,  
Kathie Davis, Amy Hughes, Carole Perez Navarro,  
Carrie Nobles, Maureen O' Neill

## Wilson Arts Winter Ball

Donna & Bobby Beaman, Leah Finch, Kirks Flowers,  
Buster & Marcia Williamson, David Winstead,  
Steve & Kathy Witchey

## On the Border: The Ultimate Eagles Tribute

Bobby & Donna Beaman, Ward Brunkow, Jenn  
Ferguson, Malinda Fillingnam, Braillen Hill, David &  
Michelle Hill, Heather Holland, Tony Jones, Dr. Blake  
Tucker, Tom Williams



# Arts Partners



Casita Brewing Company believes in helping our local community flourish through monthly nonprofit fundraising partnerships. They have directly donated over \$80,000 to nonprofits since opening their taproom in

2020. Casita's mission is to craft community connections and a diverse range of beers.

"We love the arts and support the mission of Wilson Arts because involvement in the arts is so good for children – it helps them develop creativity and empathy. I enjoyed the services provided by this organization as a child, my daughter enjoys them now. We are lucky to live in such a vibrant artist community, and I am so grateful to this organization for all they do to make our community more colorful." - Mahalia Witter-Merithew, Owner



J. Michael Moore Inc. is our other generous Arts Partner for this edition of the Arts Courier. Michael Moore is a Wilson County native with impeccable taste and world-class expertise in designing everything from small to large residential and commercial projects and classic home interiors. Here in Wilson, he has expanded his services to include event planning, where he brings his keen aesthetic sensibilities to the table in designing breathtaking backgrounds for your special events. As a member of the Wilson Arts board of directors, he also understands the importance of the arts here in Wilson – thank you, Michael, for your commitment to our community and seeing the arts as a necessary part of it!



This project was supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.