



Springfield Area Arts Council
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SPRINGFIELD AREA
ARTS COUNCIL

For Immediate Release

Mayor's Awards for the Arts Nomination Deadline Extended to October 11

Springfield, IL – October 3, 2024: The Springfield Area Arts Council (SAAC) and City of Springfield is calling on the community to take action—nominations for the Mayor's Awards for the Arts have been extended to **October 11, 2024**, offering a final opportunity to honor the incredible talent and dedication in our region. This extension gives community members more time to recognize the remarkable individuals and organizations that contribute to the vibrant arts scene in Sangamon and Menard counties.

We are especially seeking nominations in the categories of Literary Artists, Arts Volunteers, and Exceptional Art Student (both high school and college levels). These awards present a unique opportunity to honor those whose contributions in these areas have enriched our community and inspired creativity across generations. In addition to these categories, nominations are still open for all other areas, including visual artist, performing artist, arts educator, arts organizations, and businesses that support the arts.

Do you know a writer whose words have moved and inspired us?

Nominate them in the Literary Artist category and celebrate their voice and impact.

Is there an arts volunteer who gives their time, energy, and passion to the arts in our region? Their dedication deserves to be recognized—nominate them today and let their contributions shine.

Have you seen an emerging student artist whose work is pushing boundaries or showing extraordinary potential? Whether it be drawing, theatre, music, or writing, honor their efforts with a nomination and highlight their bright future in the arts.

Since 1985, the Mayor's Awards for the Arts have recognized the exceptional talents of individuals, organizations, and businesses that make our region's arts community flourish. The program is a symbol of pride and appreciation for the incredible individuals who enrich our cultural landscape, and being nominated is a true honor, reflecting dedication, creativity, and community support.

Now is your chance to be part of this long-standing tradition and celebrate the people who make a difference in our arts community! Nominees will be celebrated in a special award ceremony that brings together leaders, creators, and supporters of the arts, providing the perfect platform to honor their achievements.



To nominate a deserving individual or organization, please visit our [website](#); there is no fee to submit. Award category descriptions also can be found [online](#). For accommodation, alternative formats, or to submit a nomination, contact SAAC Executive Director Bella Szabo at director@springfieldartsco.org. Let's make sure no one goes unrecognized for their creative contributions—submit your nominations by October 11!

An awards selection committee, appointed by Mayor Misty Buscher and SAAC Executive Director Bella Szabo, will review all nominations and select award recipients. This year's selection committee includes Amy Sayre Baptista, author; Nalo Mitchell, Legislative Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Douglas Pop, President of the Menard County Tourism Council; Matthew Vala, past recipient of the Mayor's Awards for the Arts; and, Kristin Wheeler, performing artist.

The award ceremony will take place on November 2, 2024, held at the [Inn at 835](#). This event not only serves to honor this year's nominees and winners, but it also aims to promote the arts in our community by showcasing live performers and artists for all to enjoy. Pay-What-You-Can Tickets are now available. Seating is limited—get your tickets before time runs out! Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and a cash bar will be available for guests. Cocktail hour begins at 1:30 P.M., with the main event starting at 2 P.M.

The Springfield Area Arts Council is located in the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. For more information and future events, visit our [website](#).

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