30 YEARS OF PUBLIC ART IN AURORA
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF Public Art

Aurora’s Art in Public Places Program originated in September 1993, with the passage of Ordinance 93-63 establishing the program and the formation of the Art in Public Places Commission. The intent was “to expand the opportunities for Aurora residents to experience art in public places, thereby creating more visually pleasing environments; the arts represent an opportunity for Aurora to establish a unique image and character and to contribute to the civic pride of Aurora’s community.”

The first permanent artworks were installed a few years later. The four selected artworks, one from each of the decades (1990s, 2000s, 2010s and 2020s), convey a brief history of the program and show high-quality works in a variety of artistic styles and materials, enhancing different contexts across the city. A police station and memorial, a highly trafficked intersection, a cultural amenity within the arts district, and a recently opened recreation center are all enhanced by the addition of public art.

“Field of Blue” by George Lundeen was among one of the earliest commissions and is located on the Aurora Municipal Center Campus outside of the Aurora Police Administration Building in front of the Fallen Officers Memorial. The artwork greets visitors to the courtyard and provides context for this somber gathering place. The artist is a nationally recognized representational bronze sculptor with a studio in Loveland, Colorado.

“Aurora Dawn” followed a few years later (2003) and serves as a major landmark and wayfinding tool. Located at the intersection of I-225 and East Alameda, this artwork is viewed by more than 30,000 people daily as they navigate through this complex intersection. The artist, Denny Haskew, is a member of the Potawatomi Nation and many of his works entwine his cultural background with traditional materials and aesthetic approaches.

“Revival” by Yulia Avgustinovich was created in 2019 to bring to light the history of the Aurora Fox Arts Center. Originally created during WWII as a place for soldiers and their families to view films, the Fox was nearly destroyed by a fire. It was restored in the 1980s and became a home for live theatre. The artist is an immigrant who draws upon her formal European fine arts training to create visually complex and layered murals.

Visitors to Aurora’s Southeast Recreation Center and Fieldhouse discover they are not just entering a building; they are entering an art installation. Colorful vine-like relief work covers the wall of the interior “canyon” and actually creates a whimsical environment for runners and walkers to pass through. “Florescence,” by Project One Studio/Adam Buente, grew out of community engagement activities and characterizes Aurora as a diverse and interconnected community.

Today the public art collection includes more than 300 works located at parks, city buildings (libraries, recreation centers, fire stations, etc.), within the Arts District, along Havana Street and other well-trafficked areas, and along RTD’s R Line. In 2022, these works were viewed by more than 137 million people. The works have become a permanent part of Aurora’s landscape and help define Aurora as a vibrant community.

The anniversary of the program will be celebrated from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 with an exhibit at the Aurora Municipal Center Mezzanine Gallery, with the reading of a poem written by Aurora’s Poet Laureate for the occasion, and with the publication of a special edition catalog including this first work of poetry to be commissioned for the collection. Look for the date on our website, AuroraGov.org/PublicArt, as well as on our social media, and join us for a fun celebration, treats and a great assortment of public art swag!

AURORA RHYTHMS CONTINUES THIS FALL WITH EXCITING SHOWS

Enjoy artistically unique live performances this fall, hosted by the city’s Library and Cultural Services Department. The 2023 Aurora Rhythms concert series will be offered monthly through December, at different locations throughout the city. Register online at TinyURL.com/Concerts23.

AURORA RHYTHMS | ZODIAC TRIO
Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.
A premiere clarinet-violin-piano ensemble with unconventional rhythms. The Zodiac Trio is one of today’s premiere clarinet-violin-piano ensembles, known for their unconventional instrumentation and presenting masterpieces alongside hidden gems in a concert experience marked with a special gusto, virtuosity and energy.
To register, visit TinyURL.com/Concerts23.

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE LIVE RADIO PLAY
Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Tallyn’s Reach Library
Adapted from the 1948 live radio by four professional actors playing all the roles and providing all the sound effects. Arsenic and Old Lace Live Radio Play is a ghoulish, gleeful comedy about caustic, theater critic, Mortimer Brewster and his dear, sweet, spinster aunts, who wouldn’t hurt a fly, or would they? After all, insanity runs in the family, it practically gallops!
To register, visit TinyURL.com/Concerts23.

AURORA DANCE ARTS PRESENTS
THE Nutcracker BALLET
December of 2023
Tickets: $20

Aurora Dance Arts has been busily rehearsing in the fall of 2023 to take the stage in December with “The Nutcracker Ballet.” The dancers and choreographic staff are enthusiastic to present this treasured holiday production and restage the more traditional version of this ballet with a few special twists and dance styles included to create a unique production.
This year’s show incorporates the traditional Tchaikovsky Nutcracker musical score and select contemporary musical selections. There are also beautiful costumes, props, set updates and various dance styles, including ballet/pointe, contemporary and tap.
Aurora Dance Arts is also celebrating its 50th anniversary season in 2023, and since “The Nutcracker” is this year’s fall production, the production will include special celebrations and fun lobby additions in honor of this milestone. This family friendly show is timeless, appropriate for all ages, affordable and an absolute must-see for the holiday season! Visit AuroraGov.org/Dance for more information.
Aurora History Museum EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER**

9  
Colfax Art Jams - Second Saturday  
Dancin’ On the Fax  
Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.  
9800 E. Colfax Ave.

Aurora Fox Jubilation! Season 39 Party and Fundraiser  
Saturday, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
9900 E. Colfax Ave.  
AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org

15  
Aurora Public Library Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration  
Friday, 6 p.m.  
Central Library  
AuroraLibrary.org

17  
Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra: Latin Bronx Horns $  
Sunday, 3 p.m.  
9900 E. Colfax Ave.

18  
Aurora Rhythms: Zodiac Trio  
Monday, 6:30 p.m.  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
AuroraLibrary.org

30  
Film on the Field at Stanley Marketplace: Coco  
Saturday, 8:15 p.m.  
Stanley Marketplace  
StanleyMarketplace.com

**OCTOBER**

8  
Aurora Rhythms: Arsenic and Old Lace Live Radio Place  
Sunday, 6:30 p.m.  
Tallyn’s Reach Library  
AuroraLibrary.org

14  
History Tour of Fairmount Cemetery $  
Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m.  
Fairmount Cemetery  
430 S. Quebec St.  
AuroraMuseum.org

24  
Arsenic and Old Lace Live Radio Play  
Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Tallyn’s Reach Library  
AuroraLibrary.org

**Lectures and More:**

**NEW AMERICAN ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTS WE PLEDGE: MONOLOGUES, MUSIC AND MEMOIRS**  
Saturday, Sept. 17, 4:30-7 p.m.

“We Pledge” is a series of monologues inspired by the experiences of veterans and active-duty personnel of the United States Armed Forces. This intimate and humane look at the military will also feature music, reflections and performances. Tickets $15 (proceeds benefit Roshni’s work with refugees displaced by war).

**“MANGO HOUSE” MOVIE SCREENING**  
Saturday, Oct. 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Join us at the Aurora History Museum for a free screening of the award-winning film, “Mango House.” The hour-long documentary focuses on PJ Parmar and his business. Mango House is a shared space for refugees, asylees and immigrants with healthcare, stores, religious gatherings, services, restaurants and events. Free.

**ARSENIC AND OLD LACE RADIO DRAMA WITH AFTERNOON TEA**  
Saturday, Oct. 21, 4-6 p.m. (Tea), 5-6 p.m. (Show)

This quaint, cozy, joyous show is full of serial killers, psychotic convicts, dead bodies and the constant threat of murder! This script is taken from the original live radio broadcast in 1948. Four actors play all the roles, produce sound effects and perform music as if you were watching a live radio broadcast. Afternoon tea, with baked goods catered by Babe’s Tea Shop, begins at 4 p.m.  
Tickets for tea $45, $5 for show only.

**Historic Sites:**

**WINTER GARDENING WORKSHOP AT DELANEY**  
Sunday, Sep. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Get free seeds and seedlings and learn the basics of cold-weather farming with James Grevious from Rebel Marketplace. Just in time for fall, we will provide seeds and seedlings for common winter crops. All ages are welcome. Free. Advance reservation is required.  
DeLaney Historic District, 170 S. Chambers Road
The Cactus Motel sign that once graced East Colfax Avenue was installed in 1951 and removed in July 1995. Thanks to the foresight of historic preservationists, the sign was saved when it was taken down. For the last 28 years, the iconic neon sign has been in storage at the Aurora Reservoir, waiting for the day it would be on display again.

In the summer of 2023, the Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites staff cleaned the sign and moved it to the museum. The cactus was put on display as part of the new exhibit, “Beyond the Storefront: A Journey Through Aurora’s Business Past,” currently open until Nov. 5, 2023.

Bob and Reggie Poetzl acquired the 10-unit Cactus Motel in 1948 for $60,000 and expanded it to 26 units by 1953. In 1951, they installed a large neon saguaro cactus sign to attract visitors to the motel and Cactus Beauty Salon. The Poetzl’s personally designed the cactus, which was installed by the Gordon Sign Company. The neon cactus cost the Poetzl’s around $1,500 and was quickly established as a fixture of Aurora’s East Colfax Avenue. In 1971, the Poetzl’s sold the motel, and in July of 1995, the Cactus Motel sign was removed to make way for a Walgreens. Shorty Hanger, who had erected the sign over 40 years prior, was the one responsible for taking the sign down.

Plans are to make the Cactus Motel sign a permanent fixture at the Aurora History Museum when “Beyond the Storefront: A Journey Through Aurora’s Business Past” closes. Come see this piece of Aurora’s history today.
Develop lifelong skills such as listening, self-confidence, reading, memorization, focus and concentration. Students will create characters, dialogue, monologues, scenes and performance pieces with guidance from experienced theatre professionals. Students will perform for family and friends on the final day of class. We strongly encourage consistent attendance for all theatre classes. All Cultural Services classes require pre-registration at CityOfAurora.PerfectMind.com

**STORYBOOK, ALIVE! CLASSIC FAIRY TALES (AGES: 4-7)**

**69760** Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Monday, 4:30-5:45 p.m.
Oct. 23-Nov. 27, Monday, 4:30-5:45 p.m.
Tallyn’s Reach Library

Bring your favorite storybooks to life in these fun theatre classes! Act out a different story each week, such as Robin Hood, Little Red Hen, Cinderella and The Three Little Pigs. Perform a favorite story on the final day of class.

**STORYBOOK, ALIVE! (AGES 4-7)**

Sept. 12- Oct. 17, Tuesday, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales
• Oct. 24-Dec. 12, (skipping Oct. 31 and Nov. 14)
Tuesday, 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Endlessly Ever After: Pick your path to countless fairy tale endings!
Mission Viejo Library

Bring your favorite storybooks to life in these fun theatre classes! Act out a different story each week, such as Robin Hood, Little Red Hen, Cinderella and The Three Little Pigs. Perform a favorite story on the final day of class.
Fall THEATRE CLASSES 2023

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (AGES 8-12) $69769
Sept. 16-Oct. 28, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tallyn's Reach Library
Create and perform a play based on the popular fantasy adventure series. Share a performance during the last class. Requires consistent attendance, outside classwork and memorization.

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (AGES 9-15) 69770
Sept. 23-Oct. 28, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-noon Aurora Fox Arts Center
Create and perform a play based on the Harry Potter fiction series. Share a performance with your family on the last day of class. Requires consistent attendance, outside classwork and memorization.

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JUBILATION! SEASON 39 PARTY AND FUNDRAISER
Sept. 9, 6-9 p.m. | Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.
Join us for our “Fox Interlude” kick-off and Season 39 Party and Fundraiser, right here at the Aurora Fox! This event will have it all: food, music and dancing! Attendees will have the option to purchase Season 39 tickets, which will run Jan.-Dec. 2024 at a discounted price. The event will help raise funds for the historic Aurora Fox Theatre, in partnership with the Friends of the Aurora Fox, a 501c(3) dedicated to supporting the programs and operations of Aurora’s favorite professional theatre and crown jewel of the Aurora Cultural Arts District.

THE CJRO LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE: SONGS OF BRAZIL AND THE MUSIC OF THE BRONX HORNS
Sept. 17, 3 p.m. | 9900 E. Colfax Ave.
The Bronx Horns established themselves as one of the best Latin Jazz and Salsa bands in the 90s and introduced the genre to fans across the world. The CJRO Ensemble along with vocalist Marion Powers will present an afternoon of music with fresh arrangements from this iconic band along with music from Brazil, Cuba and more.

*AURORA FOX PRESENTS: BLUES IN THE NIGHT
Sept. 22-Oct. 8 | Aurora Fox Studio Theater
The soul of the blues wails out full and strong in “Blues in the Night,” a scorching, Tony-nominated musical! The 26 torchy numbers that tell of sweet, sexy and sorrowful experiences will leave you energized, inspired and ready to wail. Alternately wistful, tender and sultry, “Blues in the Night” boasts a larger-than-life score and vocal arrangements designed to bring down the house.
For tickets: 303.739.1970 | AuroraFox.org
*Forever Fox FlexPass eligible

Get your tickets at AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org

Other EVENTS
New American Arts Festival
Sept. 9-30, 2023
roshniislight.org/festival