

City Talk for Dec. 13, 2023
City Manager's Office
Nancy Lattanzi, arts and culture coordinator

Arts and culture programming updates

In the words of Friedrich Nietzsche, "The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude." We are fortunate to have an abundance of talented artists in Sedona. As the end of the year approaches, I'd like to acknowledge those who contributed to the arts and culture programming in 2023. The City Hall Art Rotation program exhibits art year-round and rotates showings every four months. I'd like to thank those whose work was displayed this year: Cannon Winkler and Stephanie Brand for their "Impressions of the Wild" exhibit, as well as Red Rock Quilters Guild for presenting an extensive amount of colorful textile art. Currently on display is the surrealist work of Amy Ernst, "Elements of Collage." The public is welcome to view the exhibits by appointment and can see the Ernst exhibit through Jan. 3, 2024. Thanks also go to the talented musicians who added inspiration to each artist reception: Damiyr, Rob MacMullan and Michael Kollwitz.

The first City Council meeting each month features a Moment of Art. This year we celebrated with a stellar roster of artists: January kicked off fortuitously with musician Damiyr performing My Prayer. A presentation on Sedona's cultural history was given by Executive Director of the Sedona Heritage Museum, Nate Meyers in February. Women's History Month is in March and we honored legacy artist Mariann Leahy who shared her southwest paintings and ceramic work. April welcomed skilled saxophone player Chris Counelis. May is National Photography Month and we featured New York City photojournalist Rick Dembow, who shared a compelling video of his diverse images. June brought a lively performance by dancer Jessica Phillips, as well as by her ballet and tap students. Chef Lisa Dahl, who helped pioneer the culinary scene in Sedona, was recognized in July for National Culinary Month. In August I presented a tribute to sculptor John Soderberg, who sadly passed away in May. September brought us Amy Ernst who shared her work and family legacy. For National Arts Month in October, Winnie Meunch and Christel Veraart presented excerpts from their creative film *Merope*, which included visual, performance and literary art. Muench shared her exciting announcement that the American Ballet Theater will engage in a pilot program hopefully in 2024 or 2025 in Sedona. Author Robert Louis DeMayo presented his novel, *The Sirens of Oak Creek* for November's National Novel Writing Month, and finally in December, the Sedona Community Youth Orchestra performed, conducted by Grammy-nominated music educator, Courtney Yeates.

Sculptures to be installed in four roundabouts along State Route 179 are currently being created. The Canyon Road roundabout will have Susan Kleiwer's prominent southwest potters, *Julian and Maria*. Don Kennell and Lisa Adlers' *Sedona Roadrunner* will grace the Morgan Drive roundabout. *Eternal* created by James Muir will be placed in the Chapel Road roundabout and Mark Feldtkeller's *Look In Up* will be located in the Back O' Beyond roundabout. The hopes are to install art in the Canyon Road and Morgan Drive roundabouts in early 2024, with the other two following on a staggered schedule.

The valued Artist in the Classroom program is off to a wonderful start for the 2023/2024 school year. Presentations to local schools have successfully procured a long list of requests from educators to collaborate with exceptional artists, who can augment their curriculum with creativity. There are 32 members with 14 new to the program. I am excited to welcome: writer Andreea Billig, ceramicist Cheri Breeman, music educator and cellist Courtney Yeates, drummer Eve Crow, ukulelist Gioia Quisumbing, mixed media artist Hillary Cantrell, painter Jamie Kivisto, sculptor/musician Jill Trenholm, musician Michael Kollwitz, writer/painter Nate Hansen, fused glass artist Pilisa Rainbow Lady, ceramist Russell DeHaven, pointillism painter/sculptor Shey Khandro and theater artist Terri Bays.

The Mayor's Arts Awards will be held May 16, 2024 at the Mary Fisher Theater. The Call for Nominations went out to the public in early October with submissions due Jan. 8, 2024. The awards recognize those

who have contributed to the success of the arts in Sedona. The four categories honored are: Individual, Organization/Business, Education and Lifetime Achievement. If you know of someone deserving of this distinction, go to www.sedonaaz.gov/mayorsartsawards to download the application. Congratulations to ceramicist Russell DeHaven, whose extraordinary award design was chosen to be created for the four recipients.

For those interested in learning more about arts programming at City Hall, please contact me at NLattanzi@sedonaaz.gov.