

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

Frank Walker Creative Arts Festival

- Quilt Exhibit all month at Boyle Library Story Center (An America 250 event)
- March 3, 7:00 - Our Civil Wars (An America 250 event) at Danville High School
- March 4, 7:00 - Stumbling Stones, The John Rosenberg Story at DHS
- March 5, 7:00 - Danville Choir Concert at DHS
- March 6, 7:00 - Festival Awards at DHS
- March 7, 2:00 - Art and Poetry Reception at Boyle County Library
- Hogsett Youth Arts Exhibit - all month at Danville Bike and Footwear Junction City Youth Arts Exhibit - all month at the Courthouse
- Arts Commission on the Joe Show WHIR - 7:45 Thursdays all month
- March 11, 6:30 - Arts Commission Board at Brick Schoolhouse
- March 13 - Tipping Point for Boyle Middle School at BCPAC
- March 17 - Tipping Point for Bate at Gravely Hall DHS
- March 17, 6:30 - Shot Heard Around the World at BCPAC (An America 250 event)
- March 20 and 21, 7:30 Scarlet Cup, White Rabbit Red Rabbit
- March 22, 2:00 - Scarlet Cup, White Rabbit Red Rabbit
- March 28, 10 - 1:00 Farmers' Market Pop Up Market at Extension Office

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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ARTS COMMISSION OF DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY
 105 E. Walnut Street, Danville. KY 40422

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**The Arts Commission of
 Danville ♦ Boyle County**

105 East Walnut Street
 Danville, KY 40422

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports the Arts Commission of Danville/Boyle County with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



For more information, please call 859-236-2361, ext. 111, or send your request to:
 Mimi Becker,
 executive director

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MARCH 2026 KICKS OFF THE AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION IN BOYLE COUNTY – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

THE ARTS COMMISSION OF DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY



ARTScene



In the coming months, Danville and Boyle County will join cities, counties and states all around the country to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence. It is likely there will be any number of parades, exhibits, special events and concerts which will be staged to reflect the story each community chooses to tell.

Danville, Boyle County actually plays a very unique role in the story that becomes the United States. Former County Judge Executive, Tony Wilder, reflected on this at the official kick off for the local celebration.

In 1785, the first of 10 conventions was convened in what is now Constitution Square in Danville. The purpose of these meetings was to work through the many steps necessary to establish the Kentucky territory of Virginia as a separate state, if that was to be possible. There were difficulties. First, would Virginia be agreeable to relinquishing its claim over the vast and rich land of its western half? Would the brand new American government take the wilderness territory as a sovereign entity equal to the, at the time, original 13 colonies?

But what is often lost in the recounting of the process was the

pressure on the Kentucky territory from, of all places, Spain. The Kentucky wilderness was situated with the important Mississippi River on its western edge and the Ohio River on a good section of its Northern border. That is a lot of navigable waterways feeding the interior of the west and central north to trade routes reaching the rest of the world. And Spain wanted control, or at least an assurance of free access.

And those discussions and resolutions were hammered out literally in our front yard. Kentucky may not have been the first state after the first 13, Vermont beats us to that distinction by mere months, but we can very likely claim to be the standard bearer of the future, in 1792.

Keep up with our celebrations on the back panel of this newsletter in the months to come.

FRANK WALKER RETURNS FOR ANNUAL CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Frank Walker is a widely published and acclaimed writer and speaker. He was named the Poet Laureate of Kentucky in 2013, established "Affrilachia," a movement highlighting the significance of the African American culture in this region, and served as a professor in the English Department at the University of Kentucky. His many honors and awards are far ranging.

Danville is his home and he returns each year to curate and host the Frank X Walker Creative Arts Festival. The 2026 theme is "Origin Story." Events will be held March 3 – 7, at Danville High School and the Boyle County Public Library. Specific programs, dates and times are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

A highlight of the week is the program honoring the Creative Arts Contest winners on Friday. All events of the week are free and open to the public.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2025

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OPENING ACT THEATER PROGRAM SERVES CHILDREN YEAR AROUND

Opening Act children's theater program was founded by Emma Steberl with the goal of providing area children an introduction to theater and opportunities to perform. Opening Act is housed in the Jennie Rogers Community

Center and performs in local spaces such as Gravelly Hall and the Boyle County Performing Arts Center. The troupe has also participated in community activities such as Gallery Hop and Downtown Downbeat.

For additional information follow Opening Act on Facebook. Several long time cast members recently were featured on the Arts Commission's segment on the Joe Mathis Show on WHIR.

ART & HEART BENEFITS 12 LOCAL NONPROFITS

Thanks to 18 local artists, the Birds Nest, musician Kayla Smith, and our bidders, the Arts Commission will be mailing checks to 12 organizations chosen by the artists. Among those receiving donations will be Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, the Humane Society, the Danville Schools Friends of the Arts, and the Library. It seems artists really have a heart for animals as multiple organizations serving our four legged friends were among the artists favorites. One charming, whimsical art piece, "Trashed" by Erin Vite was a creative take on critters often considered less than friends.



Tiny Art Show at Art Center makes a big deal out of small views of the world

The annual Tiny Art Show always brings a large collection of small works to the walls of the Art Center. This year was no exception. I was invited to be a judge! What a task! There was a limited number of categories in which I was to select the "best" from among the hundreds of submissions, all miniature pictures of life. I scoped out the exhibit in advance of actually performing my duty. And, it was a tough assignment. The artists ranged from the youngest and newest creators to many who have been around for a few more years. I loved them all!



Scarlet Cup Theatre opens 2026 under new artistic director



Scarlet Cup Theatre began its first season under the leadership of Kristi Hughes with a Salon reading of *The Revolutionist* by Lauren Gunderson. The play is based on the true story of Charlotte Corday who murders Jean-Paul Marat. With an all women cast of characters including Marie Antoinette (played by Kristi Hughes), the play explores multiple timeless themes as the four women interact from becoming

acquainted, to understanding, to mourning the deaths of three in a turbulent time in history.

Brittany Brizee plays the role of Marianne Angelle. Brittany is well known around local theatre and as a former teacher at Kentucky School for the Deaf. She has performed at West T. Hill and at Pioneer Playhouse. The Arts Commission was pleased to feature Brittany in *The Piano Paradox* by Liz Orndorff

in our school play program in 2020.

Scarlet Cup's next production is set for March 20 – 22 at CentreWorks in partnership with the Centre Learning Collaborative. The play is a one person show which has the unique element that the performer may not see the script in advance. Every performance features a new actor. Additional information will be released in the coming days.

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