



IN THIS ISSUE

Youth Workshops

Meeting Review

Welcome, Samantha

Youth Art Exhibit

Job Opening

Creativity Corner

Stay up to date on
Arts Council
events at
[https://www.highland
countyartscouncil.org/](https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org/)

Our email is
[highlandcoarts@
gmail.com](mailto:highlandcoarts@gmail.com)

[Like us on Facebook
and Instagram](#)
to stay connected!



A Day of Youth Theater Workshops

Highland County Arts Council presents youth theater workshops with teaching artists from The Wayne Theater in Waynesboro, in Monterey at The Highland Center. Thanks to a matching grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts these workshops are free to interested youth. Registration is required by emailing britchambers@gmail.com.

Join us for a day of youth theater workshops on Saturday, February 3 at The Highland Center. The first workshop, Cell Phone Photography, is from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Your phone is right there in your pocket, just waiting to take show stopping pictures. Want to learn how? Photography for the phone is designed to equip you with the knowledge and techniques needed to achieve professional results using just your smartphone. Open to youth ages 10+.

There will be an hour lunch break, so bring your packed lunch and stay for the afternoon Stage Combat and Choreography class from 1- 3 p.m. Open to youth of all ages. Register for these workshops by emailing britchambers@gmail.com.

February & March- It's All About the Maple Festival!

The Highland County Arts Council's scheduled Radio Hour performance on February 10th has been moved to a later date, so the community can support the Maple Queen Pageant. Find out who will represent Highland County as year-round ambassadors at the pageant held at Highland High School at 7 p.m on Saturday, February 10.

"Support our community's 64th annual Maple Festival by coming out to the Maple Queen Pageant. The Maple Festival is an important part of our heritage, as we share Highland County's unique cultural and culinary opportunities with visitors," says Highland County Arts Council President Donna Bedwell. "We hope to see you at the Maple Queen Pageant in February, and the Maple Festival in March! The Arts Council will provide a wonderful performance by the popular duo Robin and Linda Williams at The Highland Center on March 9 at 5 p.m." Folks musicians Robin and Linda Williams are known internationally for their excellent harmony and talented songwriting. This is sure to be an exciting performance!

Strategic Planning Meeting Review

The Highland County Arts Council Board of Directors held their annual strategic planning meeting on Saturday, January 13, 2024. This time together was held instead of their standard monthly meeting as they reviewed the past year and discussed the goals and objectives for the Arts Council in 2024. The annual budget to support the various programs and projects was approved.

This all volunteer board is a working board with a variety of responsibilities in addition to the positions held by the offices. A committee structure was established to help accomplish the variety of needs, and an election was held to identify officers and chairs. The 2024 officers are:

President – Donna Bedwell

Vice President – Paul Vosteen

Secretary – Gretta Sandberg

Treasurer – Nancy Mohlmann

The duties of these officers will be supported by the following committee chairs:

Technical Performance – Ashlyn Senger

Fundraising and Marketing – Jim Sherman

Education – Brit Chambers

Grants and Contracts – Clair Myers

Hospitality – Gretta Sandberg

A focus of the 2024 season will be theater and performing arts. While performance has been a major component of the Arts Council through the 2nd Saturday @ 7 programs, a renewed interest will be given to drama, dance, and writing through workshops and events. Support of the new Highland

Community Orchestra was recognized as a 2024 initiative. Partnerships with the Highland County Chamber of Commerce, other community organizations and businesses were discussed and will receive an increased emphasis.

We value the input and support of our members as we prepare for 2024 to be another year of growth for our organization. We are seeking a part-time Executive Director and have an opportunity for another Board member. Whether you choose to volunteer on one of the above mentioned committees, attend one of our performances or workshops, or simply continue your support through membership, you are a valued part of the Arts Council team.



Photo taken by Donna Bedwell

L to R: Clair Myers, Ashlyn Senger, Gretta Sandberg, Paul Vosteen, Brit Chambers & Nancy Mohlmann. Jim Sherman joined by Zoom.

Welcome, Samantha Jaccard!



Samantha Jaccard (R) & mother Wendy

Samantha Jaccard has joined the Arts Council staff as an assistant. She will focus on membership, programs and administration.

Hailing from Woodstock, VA Jaccard followed her parents to Highland County in June of 2021. She graduated from Converse University in Spartanburg, SC in December 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Biology.

Jaccard currently works at Big Fish Cider and was recently hired as the Deputy Treasurer of Highland County.

She says "When we first moved to the county I was stunned by the natural beauty of the county and I definitely understand why we have such a high population of artists!" Jaccard has enjoyed art since childhood, specifically painting, wood burning and crochet. She is very excited to work for the Arts Council to support the arts in her community.

Youth Exhibit at Library

The art class of Highland High School has learned about a wide variety of art making techniques this semester; including the elements and principles of art and design, printmaking, paper mache, grid drawings and pottery. Art doesn't always come naturally, but the need to express yourself is common to everyone. Learning that art is another means of self expression, the same as writing or speaking or social media, helps students to open up to new and sometimes intimidating mediums and projects.

Come view the artwork of this semester's students at the Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library through February 9. Renee Vandevander, Highland County Public Schools Art Teacher says "I am very proud of the accomplishments of this semester's students. Every one of them has demonstrated personal growth in their artistic skills and, most importantly, their willingness to simply try."



Art by Madison Eppard



Art by Colleen Adams



Art by Evan Adams



Art by Ariel Stone

NOW HIRING!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Part time position of up to 20 hours a week reporting to the HCAC Board of Directors.

The Executive Director will execute the organization's strategic plans & nurture effective relationships to promote the arts & provide cultural enrichment to the community.

Send cover letter & resume to highlandcoarts@gmail.com

<https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org>

Creativity Corner

Elizabeth Lohr-Myers

Elizabeth Lohr-Myer's connection to Highland County goes back many generations, Highland County has always been a part of her life. Her love of the landscape and heritage is deeply ingrained in her. She always imagined living here; when her parents and her sister and her family moved here full-time she moved as well in the summer of 2021.

Lohr-Myers serves as Director of the Highland Center for her day job, and is a talented artist in her spare time. She says "Highland County influences me in so many ways, but the biggest impact comes from all the artists and creative people that live and work in Highland County. Highland artists and the incredible Highland Arts Academy have allowed me to explore and learn about so many new mediums including basketry, stained glass, watercolor, acrylic painting, and eco-printing. The artistic community here is unique and is incredibly encouraging and willing to share ideas and expertise."

She has always been creative and likes to do things with her hands. She started music lessons at five years old and also spent a lot of time in childhood and throughout her college years drawing. Music continues to be an important part of her life, and she is reacquainting herself with drawing, learning to paint, and enjoys occasional basket weaving. She took up knitting as a challenge in 2009 and has stuck with it because it can be both functional and beautiful, because there is always something new to learn, and because it is a craft that can be very social -- it has helped her forge many friendships over the years. Knitting, of course, has branched into other pursuits including spinning and yarn dyeing. Weaving may be next!

Lohr-Myers enjoys that the yarn world has so many independent makers and dyers. She loves to visit local yarn stores and find unique yarns and yarn dyers that are new to her. She tends not to follow knitting trends but finds inspiration exploring the patterns on ravelry.com and finding things that speak to her.

"Knitting is an expression of love for me," says Lohr-Myers, "so I really enjoy making something with a particular person in mind and making something that I know they will love. It brings me lots of joy when someone really appreciates something I have knitted for them."



THANK YOU

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts The National Endowment for the Arts
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
The Little Swiss Fund The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

