



REVISED: City of Kenosha Commission on the Arts presents Awards of Excellence

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KENOSHA- Four artists or arts organizations will receive Awards of Excellence next month from the City of Kenosha's Commission on the Arts. The public is invited to attend a reception honoring the winners at 6 p.m. on October 10th at Carthage College, H.F. Johnson Arts Center Recital Hall. The winners will also be recognized at the October 16th meeting of the Common Council, where they will receive awards from the Mayor and Commission on the Arts Chairperson, Amy Greil.

Awards of Excellence are based on the following criteria: enhancing community awareness of the arts; creating interactions among several organizations; increasing community aesthetics and art appreciation, and fostering economic development in Kenosha.

The 2017 Arts Awards recipients are: Francisco Loyola of Kenosha Creative Space, the Mahone Fund, with leadership from Ardis Mahone Mosley and Tim Mahone, for the Lincoln Park Live Series, Heather McGee of the Kenosha Lighthouse Studio for the Murals on the North Pier Lighthouse, and UW-Parkside's Theatre Arts Department for the FreshInk Series. Three of the winners will receive a prize of \$250 to further their cause. One of the winners will be the recipient of the grand recognition prize of \$1,000. That winner will be announced at the reception on October 10th hosted by Carthage College. The Arts Award Program support came from the following sponsors: Carthage College, Gateway Technical College, Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce, Kenosha Community Foundation, Re:Vision Art Gallery, Uline, and UW-Parkside.

Francisco Loyola is an independent artist, committed arts advocate and community activist and remains a key leader among artists and creatives in the Kenosha community. More than ten years ago, he catalyzed the windows of downtown project early on to activate vacant storefront windows and showcase historic facades downtown Kenosha. This effort later evolved into the launch of Expose Kenosha, a series highlighting new and emerging creative talent in the area. As early as 2014, he began the process of applying to the City of Kenosha on behalf of the Kenosha Arts Association, and was successful in securing grant funds to

develop a permanent location for co-working and arts organizations. Soon after he assisted in the incorporation of a non-profit, the Kenosha Creative Space, of which he currently serves as the Executive Director.

The Lincoln Park Live Series was started by the Mahone Fund in 2015, in collaboration with the City of Kenosha, as a way to provide positive programming to the residents living near Lincoln Park and its surrounding neighborhoods. The music series, planned and delivered in partnership with local residents, community activists and philanthropists, showcases a range of musical genres and highlights local talent while transforming the park into a vibrant community space. Lincoln Park Live is a prime example of how art, music, and community engagement enhances quality of life and brings Kenosha residents together through meaningful experiences.

In April 2016, Heather McGee sent out a call to artists to paint murals on the North Pier Lighthouse. Soon after, a local artist-in-residence program was borne. The programmatic effort and its unique venue serves as a draw for locals and visitors alike, promoting the rich legacy of Kenosha's arts and cultural offerings.

Each academic year, the students and faculty of the UW-Parkside Theatre Arts Department, led by Department Chair Jody Sekas, present a series of play readings deemed The FreshInk series. This program provides students opportunities to get involved in a unique academic and performing art experience. During the 2016-2017 school year, FreshInk was determined to strengthen ties to the Kenosha community by offering performances in downtown Kenosha, hosted at Kenosha Fusion performing arts venue. This move not only provided locals an opportunity to experience UW-Parkside students' theatrical talents, but it allowed students the opportunity to present their craft outside of the University.

Join artists, cultural producers, creatives and community supporters to honor this year's award winners. The event begins with a networking reception at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the event, however reservations are requested through Carthage College's ticketing office accessible at www.carthage.edu/tickets. Reserve your space by October 6, 2017. More information can be found at the City of Kenosha Commission on the Arts page on the city's website at www.kenosha.org/government/boards-and-commissions/commission-on-the-arts. Please direct inquires to Franca Carls, Commission on the Arts Secretary at fcarl@kenosha.org or 262.653.4000.

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