COMMUNITY PARTNERS ROUND TABLE MEETING **MARCH 2026**

Purpose of Round Table Meetings
A space for performing artists to connect, share ideas, raise concerns, collaborate, and learn about opportunities within the Rockford Region creative community.

Arts Council Updates
Rockford Area Arts Awards

- Video, photos, and Awardees on website

Capitol Day: April 15+16 is Capitol Day in Springfield – please join us!

- April 15th: An opportunity to connect with other arts and culture organizations/individuals across the state
- April 16th: Arts Council-organized legislator meetings
    - Encourage our legislators to continue supporting (increasing funding to) the Illinois Arts Council
    - Share testimonials from our partner agencies about impact/reach

Business of Art Resources

- New video resources available
- Feedback requested:
    - Future *Business of Art* topics
    - Suggested panelists
    - Arts Instruction Opportunities Resource List (see attached)
    - Financial resources through Midland Partnership

Summer Programs

- Share your agency's summer programs with us!
- Share our programs with your members/users

Membership Drive – May 2026

- The Arts Council is a membership organization
- Membership benefits

Northern Illinois Food Bank

- Offers a variety of volunteer opportunities every week for individuals, families, and groups to support.

Action Grants
January 2026 Recipients

- **Rockford Players Guild** – Summer theater season featuring local artists at Rockford University's Cheek Theatre
- **Matt Schwerin** – Archival scanning of historic negatives documenting Rockford's south side
- **Evon J. Sams** – Jazz concert featuring original works inspired by Rockford history and Black lived experience
- **Rockford DanceMakers Festival** – Two concert dance performances featuring regional choreographers
- **Kelsey Nichols** – Six-piece visual art series exploring personal and collective storytelling

The next term, Term 2, opens May 1 - Grants are awarded on a rolling basis; once all available funds are dispersed, applications close.

Opportunities
RAAC Partners meeting: Accessibility Workshop and Armory Update – Public Meeting
Date: March 18th, 401 S. Main Street
Time: 11:30 am – 1 pm
Lunch will be served (please register online)

America 250 Celebration Event Grant
Organizations are encouraged to apply for this grant (up to $2,500) for programs recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States.
https://www.gorockford.com/america-250/

Art in Architecture RFQ
Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Illinois professional artists to create permanent original public art for the Illinois Department of Transportation Coalfield Rest Areas in Waggoner, Illinois.
Final Deadline: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 3:00 P.M. CDB.ArtinArchitecture@illinois.gov
For more information:
https://cdb.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/cdb/professionalgrowth/art/documents/rfq/coalfield-rest-area-rfq.pdf

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Upcoming Events
ArtScene – April 25th and 26th https://www.artsforeveryone.com/artscene/
317 Art Collaborative – Atomic open now!
Artist "Garage" Sale – Inferno Clay Studio, Kith and Kin, Lecette, SRM Prints, The Scrap Jar, March 21
Greenwich Village Art Fair – September 19th and 20th
Rockford Art Museum –85th Annual Young Artist Show, now-March 19, Art in Bloom, April 15-19,

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Community Discussion
Your Turn: Q&A and Community Updates
- What is happening in your work or organization?
- What opportunities or challenges are you seeing in the performing arts community?

Next Meeting
The Arts Council offers **daytime Round Tables in the fall** and **evening Round Tables in the spring,** so creatives have an opportunity to attend at least one meeting each year. One organization asked for the meeting to be conducted over Zoom.