

Purpose of Round Table Meetings

A space for digital media creators to connect, share ideas, raise concerns, collaborate, and learn about opportunities within the Rockford Region creative community.

Arts Council Updates

Rockford Area Arts Awards

- Press Release and upcoming events
- 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, filmed by Future Memory Media!
- 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
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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

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/>

Upcoming Events

815horts Film Festival – Submissions are now open for 2026

<https://www.plussevencompany.com/815horts>

Rock and Roll Institute – looking for graphic designer instructors for their summer camps

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?
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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.

Notes: