

News of the arts in Arlington

November 2020 *A gray day by Vicki Johnson*

Salgado concert postponed

The annual blues concert has been postponed to the third Saturday of November 2021. Thanks to the city of Arlington for extending the lodging tax grant. A deposit was carried over by the artist



to the same weekend next year. Save the date, Nov. 20, 2021. The concert will open with Jeff Nicely and Randy Norris.

Eagle Photo Contest, festival will be online in 2021

Gavin Carrell's photo won first place in the 2020 Eagle Photo Contest. In 2021, the Eagle Festival will be adapted for social distancing; Eagle photos can be entered online, with cash rewards. Enter photos & haiku poems online this year at facebook.com/ArlingtonArtsCouncil



Suddenly Dragons appear, page 3



Covid be damned, ART must go on!

AAC's public art contribution this year was a chainsaw carving with owls by Jacob Lucas, who also created the cougar bench last year. We purchased the carving at the chainsaw carving event during the Eagle Festival, a long time ago, before COVID. After months of hibernation, the sculpture was placed on the street-side wall of the new Friends of the Library shed at the library. The mural on the other side of the shed was a Friends of the Arlington Library project created by AAC member Erika Bruss. Top right, dragon wind sox were a part of the Suddenly Dragons community art project. See page 3 for more info.

Rock art contest for Art in Legion Park

Originally, the plan was to have entries for a rock art contest judged at our annual Art in Legion Park event, but instead it turned into an online contest. We will make a decision in March about Art in Legion Park for 2021.

ADULT

- 1st – Jennifer White (sun & sea)
- 2nd – Liza Sherlock (blue bird)
- 3rd – Gabriella Armienta (lobster)

TEENS

- 1st - Sierra Schmitz (Levi pocket)
- 2nd – Olivia Cope (S'mores)
- 3rd – Ashlei Cave (Faith)

8-12 Years

- 1st – Minoru Armienta
- 2nd – Kenji Armienta (lizard eye)
- 3rd – Ella Collins (Dog Days)

Under 8 years

- 1st – Colten Davidson (pizza slice)
- 2nd – Isabella Myers (flower)
- 3rd – Natalie Collins (unicorn)

Honorable Mentions

- Judy Tilley (elf house)
- Kim Lowe (cherry pie)
- Shelley Comer (elephant)
- Britni Davis (octopus)



Debra Watson
Farrah Downey
Bricelyn

89 engagements
342 people reached



ARLINGTON ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS

2020 VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

MESSAGE YOUR PHOTOS TO [FACEBOOK.COM/ARLINGTONARTSCOUNCIL](https://facebook.com/ARLINGTONARTSCOUNCIL)

\$20 PIZZA GIFT CARD PRIZES FOR FIRST PLACE EACH CATEGORY:

BABY-3 YEARS, 4-6 YEARS, 7-9 YEARS, 10-12 YEARS, 13 YEARS & UP, FAMILY, PETS

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AAC awards prizes for most creative costumes

0-3 Cotton Candy – Olivia Cobb (mom Allison) 3 months

4-6 Scuba Diver – Lucas Jahn, (mom Kathryn) age 4

7-9 Gumball Machine – Colten Davidson (mom Karlee), age 7

10-12 Sherlock – Dezarae McKinney, age 11

13 & up Hulk Hogan and Macho Randy Savage – Ken and Karlee Davidson

Pets Little Mermaid – Jessica Oliver's dog Tilly

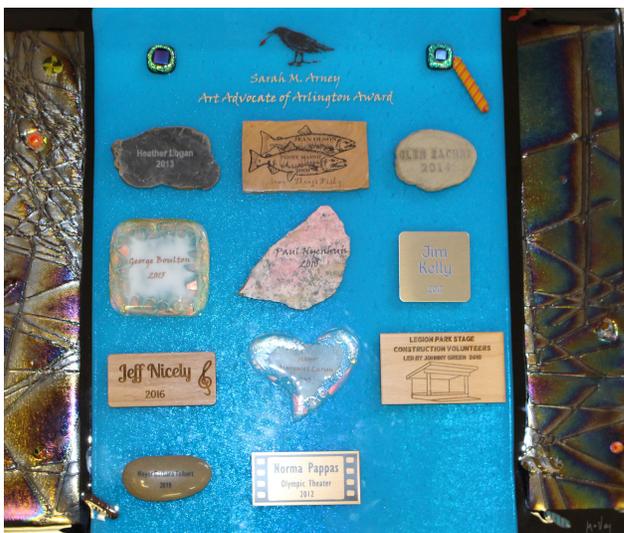
Family Andino - Jennifer as Frankenstein, Nube as Betta fish and Luna as a ghost.



AAC concludes the annual SMA AAA program

After presenting 11 annual “Sarah M Arney Art Advocate of Arlington” awards in the past decade, the final space on the plaque that hangs at City Hall will feature Arlington Arts Council. Art advocates may be honored in the future, but the plaque is full.

The list of past art advocates includes **Terry Marsh & Jean Olson** for their efforts on the fish art project; **Paul Nyenhuis** for offering music whenever asked; Heather Logan for coordinating the acquisition of art for Cascade Valley Hospital; **Glen Zachry** for providing assistance by Cuz Concrete on public art projects; **Mayor Margaret Larson** for supporting art for the community; **Norma Pappas** for offering the art of movies; **George Boulton** for always supporting art projects; **Jim Kelly** for enhancing Public Works facilities with art; **Jeff Nicely** for coordinating the blues concerts; **Johnny Green and the team** who built the stage in Legion Park; **Mayor Barb Tolbert** for supporting the establishment of a public art fund.



New mural in town

In a sign of the success of AAC's efforts to nurture an appreciation for art in Arlington, the new bank in town, Coastal Community Bank, hired Harry Engstrom to paint a very large mural on the exterior wall of the bank. Harry and his son started painting in May, after the bank building in downtown Arlington was essentially rebuilt. They finished the 1940s scene of North Olympic Avenue in summer. Thanks to Coastal Community Bank for its contribution to Arlington's public art collection.



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Verena Schwippert's "Going with the Flow" was installed on Airport Boulevard.



Josh Robinson recruited regional artists to paint the Skate Park with street art.

Still more to come

2020 projects that will be done soon include Dancing Bears by Monica Bretherton and an eagle sculpture by Carolyn Sumpter for an entry to Gleneagle community. For a list of 2021 projects see page 4.

City art projects

Thanks to the city of Arlington's Public Art Fund that was created in 2019, several art projects were funded in 2020, with more to come 2021.

'Suddenly Dragons' brings intrigue to town

"Dragon!," a small boy exclaimed. AAC Vice President Monica Bretherton was installing Wind Dragons along the Centennial Trail last summer and the boy, Juan, dragged his mother over so he could watch her lift one into place.

Having a fan right from the start is important to an artist, said Bretherton, creator of the project.

"There's going to be a lot more dragons, all around town," she told them. "There's a map by the Depot." It was all part of "Suddenly Dragons," an interactive art adventure that was proposed by Bretherton and supported by the city of Arlington's new public art funding.

"That was all before the pandemic," she said. "I had to reconfigure a project that was built around summer events," Bretherton said. "There was a greater need than ever for engagement in Arlington."

The project included artist-made dragons displayed in downtown windows, with links to a website for more information.

Burma shave-style signs announced the project in poem form along the trail at The Depot.

The Wind Dragons flew along the trail near the Depot, where other dragons that "flew in" from surrounding cities were displayed.

One Sunday, a group of artists and children drew a rainbow dragon on the sidewalk in Legion Park, lead by arts council member Erika Bruss. She also created a dragon that was hidden in the window at Flowers by George; Mike Nordine made a fabulous muffer dragon; Karen Lewis's whimsical Della flew into the

Found It shop and Sarah Arney's outdoor street art dragon took over an entire fence at the bowling alley.

Dragons also came from farther afield, including Jennifer Carroll's

Esmeralda, a wearable dragon created for a dance performance in Shoreline, and Stuart Heady's dragon claw wand came from Stanwood.

The project got in the news, when it was

covered by the North County Outlook and Cascadia, a Bellingham entertainment weekly, after Amy Kepferle discovered the dragons.

"The day took on a gauzy fairy-tale quality as we watched masked tourists wander dreamily through the town's historic district," Kepferle wrote.

Then she and her companions suddenly happened onto the dragons of Arlington. "I got reports from the store owners that people

were asking about the dragons and using the QR code links," Bretherton said.

The Suddenly Dragons website recorded over 1,000 visits, and the maps in the kiosk all vanished.

But data is never as satisfying as hearing directly from people, she said.

A regular around town who is known for her face painting, Judy Tilley said that her 9-year old god-daughter was a huge fan, and insisted on telling every child she met downtown about the dragons and how to hunt for them.

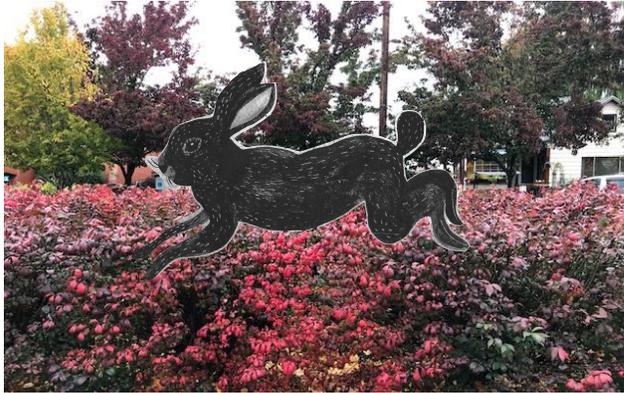
As she was taking down the Wind Dragons, Bretherton encountered an Arlington police officer who said she liked having the dragons there, even though she jumped in her skin, when she emerged from the parking area.

To see the dragon project online go to www.suddenlydragons.com.



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City art projects for 2021

The city's Public Art Committee has recommended several projects for 2021:

- Arlington Arts Council has proposed a Peace Plaza with an obelisk covered with fused glass by Gerry Newcomb on the Centennial Trail, south of Haller Bridge, as a welcoming rest area for trail users;
- Two photo-op postcard murals will be printed on metal, one for downtown and one for Smokey Point;
- A metal sculpture by Dan Freeman will replace the deteriorating Story Pole by Steve Jensen;
- Large metal bunnies will be leaping through the bushes of Division Street;
- Metal banners for Arlington Valley Road created by AHS students that were approved for last year will be carried over, if school returns to campus.
- Art Discovery books on Arlington's Art Walk will be printed for community children.

The city's Public Art Fund comes from construction sales tax, so when growth and development are thriving, so are the arts.

Outdoor art for Stronger Together

An exhibit of 45 paintings by artists of all ages in the Stilly Valley community was displayed on the fence along the Centennial Trail in downtown Arlington for "Stronger Together – Building Unity through Community," an innovative alternative to an event originally planned in May and reset for September 19.



Presented by the City of Arlington in collaboration with Arlington School District, the outdoor art show was coordinated by Sarah Lopez, the community revitalization project manager, who is also an Arlington Arts Council board member.

Children and adults painted their depictions of community, unity, kindness, respect and culture on wood canvases; they were attached to the fence for two weeks, providing an art show that could be enjoyed outside, and individually, meeting standards for social distancing and fresh air. A similar project is planned for the Eagle Festival in February 2021.

The art exhibit was well received, Lopez said. "People would stop as they passed on the trail, to view up close each work of art." Several members of Arlington Arts Council contributed to the show, along with members of Village Community Services and many others.

"We were so pleased with the creativity and diversity of the painting. People really put thought into how to depict the theme of unity into their pieces. We are looking forward to another Stronger Together event in May and more art," Lopez said. Photos of the art are now displayed on the Stronger Together Facebook page album at <https://www.facebook.com/strongertogetherstillyvalley/> For information about Stronger Together, go to www.arlingtonwa.gov/stronger

AAC members create in isolation



AAC members found solace in art during the pandemic. At left, Penny Peters created a positive message in "Let's Fly," and, above, Bill Koger's view of Skagit Bay is bright and cheerful.

2021 membership fees waived for 2020 members

Arlington Arts Council remains committed to bringing art to Arlington. Although we have not had any fundraisers this year, we remain solvent enough to continue honoring creativity in the community. Since we were not able to hold our regular events to benefit our community artists, all 2021 membership fees will be waived for 2020 members. Donations and new members are always welcome. Membership fee remains at \$20 for new members. Please send checks to AAC Treasurer Jean Olson, 1003 E. First Street, Arlington.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____