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OMAHA  
SUMMER  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY



**48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL MOVES TO EXCITING NEW SITE;  
LOCATION IN AKSARBEN VILLAGE BRINGS NEW FLAVOR TO SUMMER FAVORITE**  
*PRESENTED BY FNBO JUNE 10-12*

(OMAHA, Neb.) June 6, 2022 – The 48th annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF), presented by FNBO, will take place on June 10, 11, and 12 in a NEW location at Aksarben Village. Admission is free.

After two years of online and hybrid events, Festival organizers are excited to be back in person in its new location. “Aksarben Village is a great location for the Omaha Summer Arts Festival and we are so excited to make this area our new home,” says Vic Gutman, OSAF founder and executive director. “With great amenities, ample free parking, exceptional green space and a more central location, Aksarben Village is going to breathe new life into the Festival. It’s a vibrant and active neighborhood and it’s going to completely change the ambiance of the event.”

Festivalgoers can expect the same features that have made OSAF a favorite summer event. The heart of the event will continue to be an Artists’ Market featuring the artworks of more than 130 professional juried artists from across the country. The Festival will also boast live entertainment on two stages, a wide variety of local foods and beverages at the TasteFest, youth art activities including the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Young Artist Exhibition at Mammel Hall and a Children’s Fair in Stinson Park on Saturday and Sunday.

General festival hours are Friday from 11am to 9pm, Saturday from 10am to 9pm, and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. There is ample free parking in Aksarben Village. Detailed parking is available on the OSAF website at [www.summerarts.org](http://www.summerarts.org).

**ARTISTS’ MARKET**

With more than 300 professional artists applying for the chance to present their art at the OSAF, visitors can expect to see some imaginative and awe-inspiring art from over 130 visual artists selected through a discerning jury process. The Artists’ Market offers a visual feast of fine arts and crafts in 14 two-dimensional and three-dimensional categories including painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, photography, jewelry and more. High-quality artworks span a wide range of prices to fit all budgets, and part of the appeal of the Festival is the opportunity for visitors to meet creators in person and hear the stories behind the art that will soon grace their spaces. Among those exhibiting this year are 35 artists from Nebraska and Iowa, as well as professional artists from 20 different states.

**HOMEGROWN ARTISTS’ VILLAGE**

This new program has been designed to provide an opportunity, experience, and resources that some artists may not have for a larger art show like the Omaha Summer Arts Festival. This program is part of an ongoing effort to cultivate and encourage local (Greater Omaha Metropolitan area) artistic talent. Nine local artists will be featured, showcasing artwork in a variety of media including painting, glass, and more.

## **ARTSEEN**

Open to Omaha artist co-operatives, galleries, and organizations, ArtSeen showcases local talent to complement the regional and national visual artists found in the Artists' Market. Landlock Gallery, Blacksmith Shop Omaha, Passageway Gallery, Old Market Artists, and Hot Shops will be on-site all weekend with artist members' art for sale, live demonstrations, and a variety of hands-on activities.

## **MURAL CUBES**

For the second year in a row, OSAF is installing giant 8' x 8' cubes around the City of Omaha featuring the artwork of local artists. This year, 10 cubes showcasing the work of 31 artists will be sprinkled around town, from Downtown all the way to Tranquility Park at 122<sup>nd</sup> and Maple. A PDF including information about the artists and locations can be found at [www.summerart.org/pop-ups/](http://www.summerart.org/pop-ups/).

## **LIVE MUSIC**

Throughout the three-day event, OSAF will present 37 free concerts on TWO stages.

The **Luigi Waites Main Stage**, located in the OSAF Pavilion at 67<sup>th</sup> & Frances, will feature local and regional artists spanning a wide variety of genres. From bluegrass to classic rock, polka to jazz, the schedule is sure to have you dancing all weekend long. Don't miss our 2022 OSAF headliner, Veronica Lewis, on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. An exciting, emerging talent, Lewis is a teenage prodigy, piano player, singer & prolific songwriter sure to inspire with her incredible vocals and trailblazing original songs.

**Sonny's Stage** is located in the pop-up park just north of the Inner Rail Food Hall. This stage will feature a full schedule of acoustic performances in an intimate outdoor concert setting, from blues and soul to county and pop.

For a complete schedule for both the Luigi Waites Main Stage and Sonny's Stage, visit [www.summerarts.org/music/](http://www.summerarts.org/music/).

## **TASTEFEET**

Visitors can follow the inviting scents to the TasteFest site located on 67<sup>th</sup> Street between Mercy Road and Frances Street. With many new food vendors, restaurants, and food trucks offering a wide variety of cuisine – from spicy Mediterranean fare to soft serve ice cream, delicious African food to smoked barbeque – there's something to satisfy all cravings! Festival-goers can also enjoy beer, wine, seltzers, cider, and an expanded selection of ice-cold beverages, with an emphasis on local brews, at the OSAF Music Pavilion. For a complete list of food vendors, visit <https://www.summerarts.org/food/>.

## **YOUTH ARTS**

Open on Saturday and Sunday of the Festival in Stinson Park, the **Children's Fair** is creative headquarters for kids of all ages, complete with crafts and activities from local nonprofit organizations and businesses. Children's Fair hours are Saturday, 10am to 6pm, and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

Featuring more than 300 pieces of artwork created by local students in grades six through 12, the **Young Artist Exhibition** provides a showcase for emerging talent. Hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the inspiring exhibition will be held in Mammel Hall at 67<sup>th</sup> & Pine on Friday from 11am to 6pm, Saturday from 11am to 6pm, and Sunday from 11am to 4pm.

**Art Collectors in Training** offers children an opportunity to purchase original artwork donated by professional artists participating in the Festival. After making their purchases (priced for young buyers at

just \$3-5), the new art owners and their families are encouraged to visit the artist who created their piece. This program, now entering its ninth year, encourages the appreciation of the arts from a young age.

New this year, is the **Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Mini Mural Project**. High school students throughout the Omaha Metro Area created one-of-a-kind murals inspired by the theme "Wild Kingdom." These 5' x 5.5' murals will all be on display in Stinson Park (near the playground area) during festival weekend. The public will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite murals, with prizes in the form of art supplies awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning schools.

#### **FEATURED ILLUSTRATOR**

Omaha native Jeffrey Ballard was selected as the 2022 Featured Illustrator. Ballard participates in a number of local art galleries in the Omaha area, and collaborated with his wife, Cathy, on a Mural Cube in both 2021 and 2022. Ballard's artwork representing the Festival is featured on souvenirs, TV ads and promotional pieces, and he will also be exhibiting at this year's event.

#### **PARKING DETAILS**

Aksarben Village has a number of free parking garages that festival-goers can utilize when visiting the Festival. For a map of parking garage options, visit [www.summerarts.org/about/](http://www.summerarts.org/about/). Additionally, there is free street parking available, as well as parking options at Baxter Arena.

#### **2022 SPONSORS**

The 2022 Omaha Summer Arts Festival is presented by FNBO and sponsored by Douglas County, The Sherwood Foundation, Kiewit, Noddle Companies, and Aksarben Village. Media partners include KETV Channel 7 and Sweet 98.5. Additional support is provided by: Union Pacific Railroad, Baxter Auto Group Nebraska Arts Council/Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Mammel Family Foundation, Mutual of Omaha/Wild Kingdom, Aksarben Trust, HDR, Inc., University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska Lottery, Thrasher, Clever Insurance, Premier Midwest Beverage Company, RDG Planning & Design, Hurrdat, Hilton Garden Inn Omaha – Aksarben Village, Target, Clean Water Guys, Mangelsen's, Park Omaha, Smitty's Performing Arts Center, and the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands. The OSAF has been managed by VGA since its' inception in 1975.

#### **ABOUT THE OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL**

OSAF is consistently recognized as one of Omaha's best annual events with a variety of local honors and awards including the 2021 "Best Local Annual Event" award by the Omaha Choice Awards and the 2019 "Best Festival" in the *Omaha Magazine* Best of Omaha awards. For more information, visit [www.summerarts.org](http://www.summerarts.org) and follow the Festival on Facebook and Instagram.

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