



FPAA Newsletter

FALL 2022

A “picture” from the President

Finally, I feel that we have been getting back to “the new normal” and I can actually name what year it is! Yes, it’s 2022 and in our premiere issue, I’d like to highlight some of the people and the events that comprise the Forest Park Arts Alliance.

In 2022, the Forest Park Arts Alliance (FPAA) hosted five Stoop Sessions – read about Mark Hanson, our sponsor (below). Each Session featured accomplished FP musical talents that played to audiences of 50 to 70 attendees. What a great way to spend an evening with friends and neighbors.

Garage Galleries continues to be one of our most successful events – thanks to organizers Andrea DiFebo, Susan Cross, Lin Beribak and Rick Wagner. Also thanks to volunteers Michelle FitzHenry, Kristen Lyons, Mark Boroughf, Tabitha Murphy and Laurie Gillard. The August 2022 Galleries showcased over 80 area artists showing and selling their work in 28 FP garages. Smokey Joel’s hot dogs and Brown Cow ice cream added flavor to the event at two locations.

FPAA and the Library partnered to present the Tiny Art project and the “Use Your Voice” writing contest commemorating Banned Book Week. FPAA is also partnering with the FP Historical Society to bring the 2nd annual Invasion of the Scarecrows.

Our latest project, Tellers’ Night, has been a great success. The idea for the project was brought to us by resident Susan Rohde who helped make it happen. Exit Strategy Brewing Company has been our partner in hosting the events. Our third Tellers’ Night will be held December 6 and we hope to foster local talent for future events.

I am continually amazed to find that Forest Park has so many talented artists – and so many who support art and artists in any medium. We are grateful to members, sponsors, donors, attendees, audiences and partner organizations. We are also pleased to announce that FPAA received grant funding from the Oak Park Area Arts Council for administrative support.

Karen Rozmus

FP Artist Spotlight

Lin Beribak, now retired from employment as an occupational therapist specializing in hand therapy, has always been passionate about making art. She is a founding member of the Forest Park Arts Alliance and currently serves as Vice President of the FPAA Board. Lin helps organize and participates in Garage Galleries.

Lin has chosen transparent watercolor as her medium because of its ability to glow with light through bold or delicate color. She has chosen a palette of sedimentary pigments that have a tendency to mix and mingle on the paper, offering surprises and challenges to the original plan

of the work. She works in a realistic figurative style, always striving to allow the paints to have their way.

Lin's works are in numerous private collections throughout the US, Canada, and Poland, and have been donated to raise funds for the American Hand Therapy Foundation; donations of home portraits have been auctioned for Habitat for Humanity New Orleans Musician's Village, Children's Memorial Hospital (now Lurie Children's Hospital), Scott School Special Needs Program, St Bernardine Parish, St Juliana School, The Griffin Theatre, the Illinois Hemophilia Society, Creighton University School of OT, and the Friends of Shalom Uganda and the Oak Park Conservatory, as well as the Forest Park Historical Society and Forest Park Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsor Showcase

Mark Hanson – State Farm Agent, 7601 Madison Street, Forest Park, IL 60130

I was introduced to Lin and FPAA shortly after I opened my agency in March, 2021. Lin Beribak and I talked about the Association and different events they are involved with. Stoop Sessions resonated with me because of State Farm and the concept of live music in the neighborhoods. I think it is important to promote the arts and showcase local talent, especially since COVID was such a disruption. I was so impressed with the talent and the neighbors coming out in large numbers. The weather worked out great as well!

I'm lucky to take over a location that has been part of the community for decades and I feel it is important to give back and be a part of events in the area. One of the best parts of being a State Farm agent in Forest Park has been the relationships I have formed in a short time. I'm very excited to be a part of the community for decades to come!

EVENTS

- Holiday Photo Booth – December 2, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- Tellers' Night – December 6, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- Makers' Market – December 10, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

MEMBER'S CORNER

FPAA is in the process of updating our website and FaceBook page.

You'll get notification when the work is complete.

PROJECTS

Looking for an opportunity to help with a project?
Have an idea? Propose a project.