

2025

Newsletter | PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL

A Letter from the Executive Director

"As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and excitement for what the Piqua Arts Council has accomplished alongside this incredible community. This past year was one of connection, creativity, and growth made possible by the artists, supporters, volunteers, partners, and sponsors who believe deeply in the power of the arts in Piqua.

From sold-out workshops and long-standing traditions like our Fine Art Exhibition to new community favorites such as Grown-Up Prom and the continued success of Rock Piqua, **this year reminded us how impactful the arts can be when they are accessible, inclusive, and rooted in community.** We expanded educational opportunities for students through Creative Classrooms, welcomed nationally recognized artists to our local spaces, and brought thousands of people together downtown to celebrate music, creativity, and culture.

As we look ahead, PAC is entering an exciting new chapter—one that builds on this momentum and moves us closer to our future home and expanded programming. None of this work would be possible without your support. Whether you attended an event, volunteered your time, sponsored a program, or made a gift, you played a vital role in making 2025 a year to celebrate.

Thank you for being part of the Piqua Arts Council family. I am honored to lead this organization and look forward to what we will continue to create together"

With gratitude,
Sara Wilson
Executive Director
Piqua Arts Council



Calendar of Events 2026

A NIGHT WITH PAC

(Invitation Only)

Thursday, January 29th
6p-8p
Crooked Handle Brewing Co. Piqua

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

PAC Members-\$375 Non-Members- \$400
Monday, March 23rd - Thursday, 26th
9a-3p
Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua

BOOGIE FOR THE ARTS

Tickets: \$50 Individual \$90 per Couple
April 25th
7p-11p
Romer's Catering, Piqua

ART 4 EVERYONE: ART EXPLORATION DAYS

TEENS- Tuesday, June 16th
9a-3p
KIDS- Wednesday, June 17th
9a-3p
Schmidlapp Free School Library, Piqua

PLEIN AIR WORKSHOP

Friday, July 17th - Saturday, July 18th
9a-3p
PAC Members-\$275 Non-Members- \$300
Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua

ART 4 EVERYONE: COMMUNITY PLEIN AIR PAINT DAY

Sunday, July 19th
10a-4p
Lock 9 Pavillion, Piqua

34TH FINE ART EXHIBITION RECEPTION

Tickets: \$35
Thursday, September 3rd
6p-8p
Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua

34TH FINE ART EXHIBITION

Friday, September 4th - Friday, September 25th
Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua
Artist Registration: PAC Members- \$35
Non-Members \$40

ROCK PIQUA

Saturday, September 19th
4p-11p
Lock 9 Pavillion, Piqua

OIL WORKSHOP

PAC Members- \$375
Non-Members- \$400
Monday, October 12th - Thursday, October 15th
9a-3p
Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua

BOURBON AFFAIR

Saturday, November 7th
5p-9p
Round Barn, Piqua
Tickets: \$100

2025

Started off the year with Kickoff

January 30 | Fort Piqua Plaza

The Piqua Arts Council began 2025 by bringing together nearly **50 members** for our annual Kickoff Celebration and Member Meeting at Fort Piqua Plaza. This signature gathering offered a meaningful moment to reflect on PAC's accomplishments from 2024 while setting the stage for the year ahead. Members enjoyed an interactive evening featuring art-themed trivia, conversation, and connection with fellow supporters who help make PAC's work possible.

One of the most anticipated moments of the night was the debut of a video highlighting PAC's future home in the former bank building. **The Kickoff Celebration remains an important tradition**, allowing PAC to honor its progress, engage its members, and confidently look toward the future of arts access and growth in our community.



Chris Leeper Watercolor Workshop

March 24-27 | Apple Tree Gallery

In March, the Piqua Arts Council welcomed nationally acclaimed watercolor artist **Chris Leeper** to Piqua for a four-day professional watercolor workshop held at Apple Tree Gallery. **The workshop sold out and brought together participating artists for an immersive educational experience that included hands-on instruction, in-depth demonstrations, and guided critique designed to strengthen technical skills and artistic confidence.**

Hosting an artist of Chris Leeper's caliber right here in Piqua reinforced PAC's commitment to providing high-level arts education within our community. Professional workshops like this play a key role in advancing PAC's mission of access, education, and long-term growth as we prepare for the future of our organization and new facility.



Grown-Up Prom

April 12 | Fort Piqua Plaza

In April, the Piqua Arts Council introduced **Grown-Up Prom**, a brand-new fundraising and community event that invited adults to relive the fun of prom night while supporting the arts. The night was filled with energy as attendees danced the evening away, helping raise **more than \$2,500** in support of PAC's programs and future growth. As a first-time event, Grown-Up Prom successfully reached a new demographic and expanded PAC's community engagement beyond traditional audiences. The event was made possible with support from **Fort Piqua Plaza**, along with generous sponsorship from **Piqua Carstar** and **Edison State Community College**. Grown-Up Prom exemplified PAC's commitment to creative fundraising, community connection, and increasing access to the arts as we continue to grow and build toward our future.



8th Annual Rock 'n Roll Car Show

June 28 | Downtown Piqua

The Piqua Arts Council proudly hosted the **8th Annual Rock 'n Roll Car Show** in June, welcoming the community to Downtown Piqua for a day of classic cars, connection, and celebration with **over 100 cars on display**.

This year's car show marked a meaningful milestone as the **final year of the Rock 'n Roll Car Show**, closing an eight-year tradition that played an important role in PAC's community engagement and visibility. The event was made possible through the continued support of **Piqua CarStar, Atomic City Restoration, Gardner Homes, and the Yannucci Family Fund**, along with the dedication of our incredible volunteers who have supported this event year after year. As we close this chapter, we are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported the car show over the past eight years.



KSD
KOVERMAN STALEY DICKERSON
INSURANCE

SIDNEY - TROY - PIQUA
CARSTAR
Quality Collision Service

the
Yannucci
Family



Gavin Glakas Oil Workshop

July 14–17 | Apple Tree Gallery

In July, the Piqua Arts Council hosted the **Gavin Glakas Oil Workshop**, a four-day professional educational experience that brought together **14+ artists and students** at Apple Tree Gallery. Led by nationally acclaimed oil painter **Gavin Glakas**, the workshop provided participants with hands-on instruction, peer engagement, and the opportunity to learn alongside professional artists from across the region.

One of the most impactful moments of the workshop was the participation of a teenage artist exploring oil painting for the first time. Surrounded by experienced professionals, the student gained valuable mentorship, confidence, and real-world artistic exposure—highlighting the power of access and intergenerational learning within PAC's programs. **Glakas shared, "From my perspective, it was a successful workshop... I would love to come back to teach a workshop there whenever you think people are ready for me again."** Workshops like this reinforce PAC's commitment to arts education, community impact, and expanding access to nationally recognized artists as we continue to grow toward our future.

33rd Annual Art Exhibition & Reception

September 4 | Apple Tree Gallery

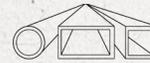


In September, the Piqua Arts Council proudly hosted the **33rd Annual Art Exhibition Reception, welcoming 100+ attendees** to Apple Tree Gallery to celebrate the talented artists who make PAC's fine arts programming so impactful. Now in its 33rd year, this long-standing exhibition remains a cornerstone of PAC's mission—bringing artists together, honoring creative excellence, and providing a professional platform for artistic recognition.

The reception highlighted a wide range of outstanding work and awarded **more than \$3,000 in prizes** to participating artists, reinforcing PAC's commitment to supporting and uplifting the arts community. The evening was made possible through the generous support of the **Yannucci Family Fund, Park National Bank, French Oil Machinery Co., and NX Painting**, along with the dedication of PAC's volunteer Board members. Special recognition goes to **Jeff Doseck**, whose leadership as Exhibition Coordinator and artistic contributions continue to elevate this annual event. As one artist shared, "This exhibition and reception is one of the best ones I have participated in and attended...My favorite exhibition as an artist."

Following the exhibition reception, the **33rd Annual Fine Art Exhibition** remained on view at Apple Tree Gallery throughout the month of September, welcoming **250+ community members** to experience the work of talented local and regional artists. As one of PAC's longest-running traditions, the exhibition continues to serve as an important platform for artists while inviting the broader community to engage with fine art in an accessible and welcoming setting. Special thanks to Apple Tree Gallery for generously hosting the exhibition throughout its entire run and helping make this cornerstone event possible year after year.

the
**Yannucci
Family**



**JACKSON
TUBE SERVICE**



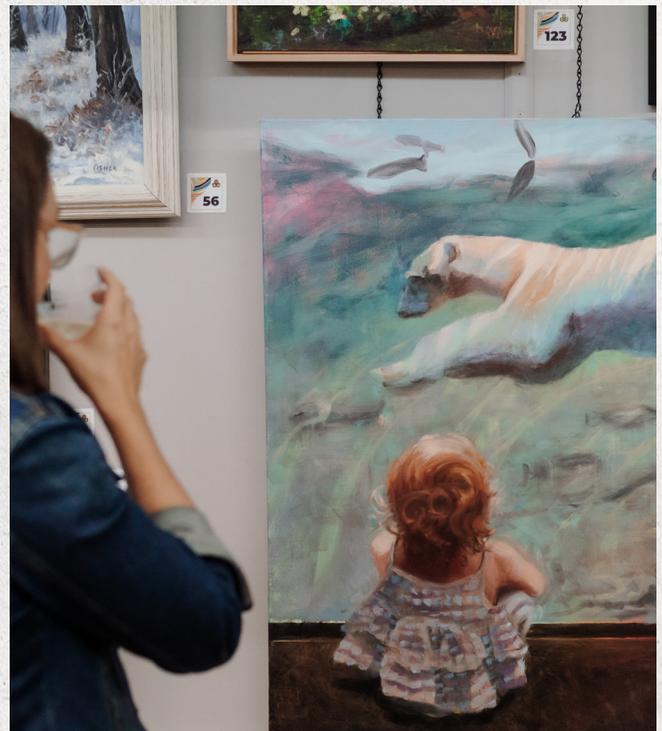
**Comfort
INN™**



**Ohio Arts
COUNCIL**



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the ARTS**
arts.gov

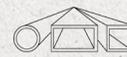
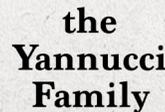
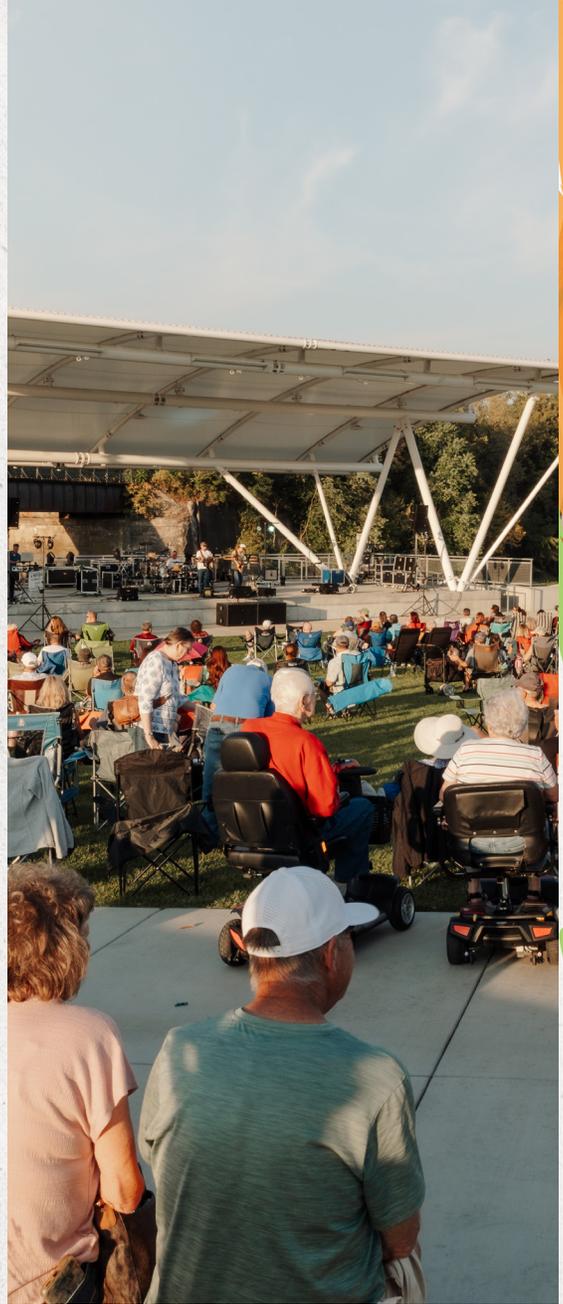


Rock Piqua Food Truck & Music Festival

September 20 | Lock 9 Pavilion, Downtown Piqua

In September, the Piqua Arts Council hosted **Rock Piqua Food Truck & Music Festival**, drawing **approximately 2,000 community members** to Downtown Piqua for a full day of live music, food, and celebration at Lock 9 Pavilion. This beloved community festival showcased incredible local talent alongside national performers, creating an accessible and high-energy arts experience for all ages.

The festival featured a special headlining performance by **Nashville artist Kyle Elliott**, complemented by standout local acts **Reflektion and Sean "Cadillac" McSwain**. With the support of 25+ dedicated volunteers who braved the heat throughout the day, Rock Piqua successfully raised more than \$10,000 to support PAC's programming and future growth. **The event was made possible through generous sponsorship from the Yannucci Family Fund, Palmer Bolt & Supply Co., French Oil Machinery Co., Edison State Community College, Scott M&A Corporation, Morris Comfort Systems, A.M. Leonard, Koverman Staley & Dickerson, Submarine House, the City of Piqua, and Crooked Handle Brewing Company.** Rock Piqua continues to be a cornerstone event—bringing the community together, expanding access to live music, and reinforcing PAC's mission to connect people through the arts.



PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL

Carol Strockwasson Pastel Workshop

October 13–16 | Apple Tree Gallery

In October, the Piqua Arts Council hosted the **Carol Strockwasson Pastel Workshop**, bringing artists and students together for a four-day educational experience led by a **well-known regional pastel artist from Indiana**. Held at Apple Tree Gallery, beyond technical skill-building, the workshop stood out for the strong sense of connection it fostered among participants. Incredible friendships were formed throughout the week, and PAC welcomed **two first-time workshop attendees**, expanding access to our professional education programs. Volunteers played an essential role by coordinating daily lunches. Workshops like this reflect PAC's ongoing commitment to access and education while providing meaningful opportunities for artists to learn, grow, and connect close to home.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov

BOURBON
Affair

Bourbon Affair

November 1 | The Round Barn

In November, the Piqua Arts Council hosted **Bourbon Affair**, our largest and most impactful fundraiser of the year, **welcoming 180 attendees** for an evening that blended community connection, culinary arts, and philanthropic support.

Held at the Round Barn, **Bourbon Affair** raised more than **\$20,000**, providing critical support that allows PAC to operate year-round and continue offering high-quality programs, workshops, exhibitions, and community events. The evening was expertly emceed by Sean Ford of Miami County United Way and made possible through the generosity of Round Barn, Baker's Catering, and our many event and course sponsors, including Alverto Orthodontics, Soak-N-Suds, Ultimate Fence, Scott M&A McDonald's, Piqua Center, Robert Brothers Comfort, Piqua & Sidney CarStar, Fred & Lynn Labs, Pursuit Spirits, and Bakehouse Bread & Cookie Company. Dozens of volunteers contributed their time throughout the planning process and event night, ensuring a seamless and welcoming experience. Bourbon Affair remains a cornerstone of PAC's financial sustainability—supporting organizational growth, expanding access to the arts, and helping secure the future of PAC and its mission.



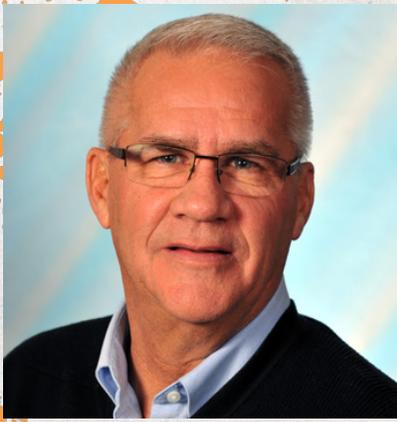
Ultimate Fence



PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL







Mike Cox, **President**



Melanie Walker, **Vice President**



Lisa Mcgraw, **Treasurer**



Lynn Labs, **Secretary**

Staffing Updates

2025 also brought important staffing transitions as the Piqua Arts Council continued to grow and evolve. In March, we shared our gratitude with **Daniel Kennedy**, who concluded his time with PAC after serving as our Graphic Designer and contributing greatly to our visual identity and communications.

From May through December, PAC welcomed **Janine Sadler** as Community Program Director. During her time with PAC, Janine supported community programming and helped advance several key initiatives throughout a busy and impactful year.

As we closed out 2025, we were excited to welcome **Abby Utsinger** to the team as our new **Program Coordinator & Graphic Designer**. This role strengthens PAC's capacity to support programs, events, and communications as we move into the next chapter of growth and expanded opportunities for our community.



Sara Wilson, **Executive Director**



Abby Utsinger, **Graphic Designer & Program Coordinator**



PIQUIA ARTS COUNCIL

2025

Newsletter | PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL

Grant & Foundation Support

In 2025, the Piqua Arts Council experienced meaningful growth in grant and foundation support, strengthening our ability to expand access to the arts and invest in long-term sustainability. PAC received **\$15,000 from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation** to support our **Creative Classrooms program—doubling our funding from the previous year** and allowing us to reach even more students through in-school and field trip arts experiences.

Additional support was provided through the **Piqua Community Foundation**, including gifts from **Dan French (personal giving)**, the **Donnelley Donor Advised Fund**, and the **Kathryn L. Johnston Family Fund**, helping sustain PAC's educational and community-focused programming. PAC was also awarded **\$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts**, a significant national recognition of our work and impact. Further support from the **Edward Feldt and Joan F. Jones Fund through The Dayton Foundation** and a **\$4,000 grant from the Schmidlapp Fund** contributed to program growth, organizational stability, and expanded access to the arts. Together, these investments reflect strong confidence in PAC's mission and help ensure the arts remain accessible, vibrant, and impactful throughout our community.



Become a PAC Member Today!



Creative Classrooms Program

In 2025, the Piqua Arts Council expanded its **Creative Classrooms** program thanks to generous support from the **Martha Holden Jennings Foundation**, allowing PAC to deepen arts access for students across Piqua City Schools and Piqua Catholic Schools. Through this initiative, PAC removed financial barriers and ensured students experienced high-quality, professional performing arts—many for the first time.

Second grade students from **Washington Primary and Spring Creek Primary** attended live performances at the **Victoria Theatre**, including *Mister C* and *123 Andrés*, while also enjoying **two in-school performances** at their schools. PAC further supported arts exposure by sending **Piqua Intermediate** students to experience *The Nutcracker* in December and funding a performance of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* for **K-2 students at Piqua Catholic School**. In partnership with the Kiwanis Club, PAC also supported bringing the **Dayton Children's Traveling Opera** directly into local schools for engaging, in-school performances. Creative Classrooms reflect PAC's commitment to education and access, ensuring students throughout our community can learn, explore, and be inspired through the arts.



Sponsored by the Martha Holdings Jennings Foundation



PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL



PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL

427 N Main St, Piqua, OH 45356

NON-PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PIQUA, OH
PERMIT #64

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

MISSION

We are dedicated to making the arts accessible to our community through presentation, support and education.

VISION

Our vision is to enrich the community by presenting high quality innovative and diverse arts and cultural programming.

PRINCIPLES

High professional standards, inclusion of a diverse population, equitable payment of artists, and recognition of volunteers and supporters.

www.piquaartscouncil.org



Follow Us @piquaartscouncil

2025

Newsletter | PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL



PIQUA ARTS COUNCIL