

Join us and be a member of a selected group of Creative Artists.

Laurel Art Guild

Over 50 Years Supporting Local Artists.

June 2025 Edition



Efraín Montañez

Hello, vibrant artistic community!

Summer is here—a perfect time to step outside, soak in the beauty of nature, and let inspiration flow onto your canvas. Whether through bold strokes or delicate details, your artistic expression is a reflection of the world around you. Art is everywhere—it shapes our communities, enriches our culture, and fosters creativity that leaves a lasting legacy.

For over 50 years, the Laurel Art Guild has been committed to supporting artists like you, and we continue to uphold that

mission. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we are looking for new leaders to step into board positions and committee chairs. If you are a Laurel Art Guild member, I warmly invite you to join our board and help steer the future of our artistic community. If you are not yet a member but have leadership skills and a passion for the arts, visit www.laurelartguild.org to become a member and apply for available positions. Your talents and knowledge can make a real difference—we need voices like yours!

Our members also have fantastic opportunities to showcase their work. You can share your artwork, insights, and inspiration on Instagram ([@LaurelArtGuild](https://www.instagram.com/LaurelArtGuild)), Facebook ([facebook.com/LaurelArtGuild](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelArtGuild)), and our official webpage, where you can create an online portfolio and upload images of your artwork. These platforms are designed to highlight your creativity and connect you with fellow artists—all for an affordable annual membership fee.

Stay connected with us to learn about exhibition opportunities around Laurel and beyond. This newsletter is your space—share your ideas, submit articles, and post images of your work to inspire others in our community. Let's continue to shape the artistic landscape together!

We look forward to seeing your creations and welcoming new leaders to the Laurel Art Guild.

Warm regards,



Laurel Art Guild

**We are looking for people like you
for 2025- 2026 LAG Board.**

**Contact us to learn about
available chairs and positions**



The Luncheon - Claude Monet

June Program

Please join us Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the Teppanyaki Grill and Buffet, 14150 Baltimore Ave, Laurel, MD 20707 for a luncheon to honor and meet LAG's new members. We have 8 new members to honor and meet face-to-face. New members are invited to bring one or two pieces of their artwork to show. They are LAG's guests at this luncheon. Continuing members pay their own way.

Mary Ellen Simon is coordinating this event. We need to let the Teppanyaki Grill know how many places to set so please tell Mary Ellen if you're planning to attend no later than Thursday, June 12, 2025. She can be reached at st8900@verizon.net or at 301-776-6721.

Teppanyaki Grill is on the west side of Route 1, in the Lowe's shopping center, between Mulberry and Cypress streets. It is a set-price, all you can eat buffet with a large selection of dishes. Lunch is \$12.99 per person; sodas are \$2.59 with free refills. We will have a semi-private room so it should be easy to talk and show art. I hope to see many of you there

LAG's June program is the last for this program year, we will resume regular meetings in September

April & May Plein Air Report

By Carol Leo



LAG artists participated in a trip to Kinder Farm Park in Millersville, MD on April 23, and were engrossed for several hours in painting the farm buildings, animals and scenery surrounding them. Here are comments:

Stacy: I had a wonderful day. Thank you for organizing it Carol, and for recommending the location Pam. I enjoy farm scenes, so this was right up my alley. Here are the pictures I took.

Pam: I had a great time. Could only stand for so long so after 2 1/2 hours I was done for it. I finally had some time today to put the finishing touches on my 10 x 14 inch "painting". However, with my photos and this plein air recollection, I think I could work up a nice painting (in the future).

Linda: I had a wonderful time. Thank you for organizing this painting event.

Attached are some photos that I took at the venue.

Jill & Doug: We had a really nice time and enjoyed painting with everyone. See you tomorrow!

Thanks to Stacy, Pam, Mary, Linda, Jill, Doug, Carol for participating in this outdoor painting adventure.

In May, the LAG plein air artists showed up at Brookside Gardens and painted a variety of scenes and vignettes from the beautiful environment of this lavish garden

Thanks to participants, Stacy, Pam, Mary, Shannon, and Carol. All were inspired by the scenery and the exquisite spring weather.

Be watching your email for information on the June Paint-Out!

Member News

Kimberly Cusack has a show with another artist, Afra Alamir in the Oasis Gallery. The opening reception was held on May 18.

Ellen Cort and Carol Leo have work hanging in the quarterly Bowie City Hall Exhibit entitled Nature's Palette. The exhibit will run from May 17-August 25.

Carol Leo sold a print and four paintings at the WWCA exhibit held during the month of April at Brookside Gardens.



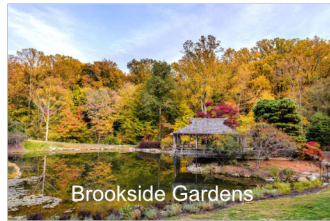


MAC SMALL WORKS

Laurel Art Guild

Show

Showcase your talent



Brookside Gardens

EXHIBITS

Brookside Gardens – October 20 – December 1

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/>



The Meeting House Gallery

Ongoing - Small Works at MAC. A new show was hung on **April 21** and it will run through **July 17**. <https://www.pgiparks.com/facilities/montpelier-arts-center>

The Meeting House Gallery, Columbia – May 3 – July 26
– Mark your calendars for the reception to be held on **Sunday, June 8, 2:00 – 4:00**. <https://themeetinghouse.org/>



John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at Patuxent Wildlife Center

John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at Patuxent Wildlife Center – the whole month of **August**. Start getting ready with work that shows nature and animals. More information will be sent closer to the date. <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center>



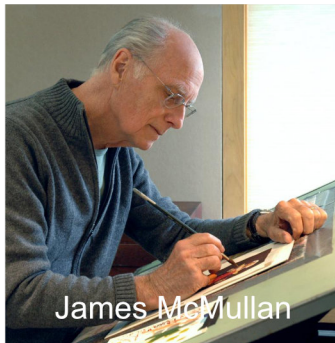
Montpelier Art Center

Watercolor through history

Watercolor painting is a versatile and expressive medium that has captivated artists for centuries. Characterized by its transparency and fluidity, watercolor allows for a range of effects from delicate washes to vibrant splashes of color. Its history dates back to ancient times, with early examples found in cave paintings and illuminated manuscripts. Over the centuries, watercolor evolved, gaining prominence in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries as artists sought to capture the fleeting effects of light and atmosphere. The medium's portability and quick-drying nature made it ideal for plein air painting and sketching.

Throughout history, many renowned artists have embraced watercolor for its unique qualities. John Singer Sargent, for instance, created over 2,000 watercolors during his career, capturing scenes from Venice to the American West. His works are celebrated for their vibrant colors and dynamic compositions. Similarly, Georgia O'Keeffe utilized watercolor to depict the expansive landscapes of the American Southwest,

infusing her works with a sense of abstraction and emotional depth. Paul Cézanne, a pioneer of modern art, also experimented with watercolor, using the medium to explore form and color in innovative ways.



James McMullan



Georgia O'Keeffe

In the 20th century, artists like Helen Frankenthaler and James McMullan further expanded the boundaries of watercolor. Frankenthaler developed the "soak-stain" technique, allowing the paint to seep into the canvas, creating luminous and ethereal effects. McMullan, known for his theatrical posters, employed watercolor to convey mood and narrative, blending realism with abstraction.

Today, watercolor continues to inspire artists worldwide. Its ability to convey lightness and transparency, combined with the unpredictability of the medium, offers endless possibilities for creative expression. Whether used for detailed botanical illustrations or abstract compositions, watercolor remains a beloved medium that bridges tradition and innovation.

BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Efrain Martinez
president@laurelartguild.org

Vice President:
Anita Carrington
vp@laurelartguild.org

Treasurer: Open
treasurer@laurelartguild.org

Secretary:
Jill Bartos
secretary@laurelartguild.org

Immediate Past President:
Mary Ellen Simon
IPP@laurelartguild.org

Appointed Officers

Membership Chair: Open
membership@laurelartguild.org

Exhibits Chair:
Diane Shipley
Co-Chair: Linda Botts Butler
exhibits@laurelartguild.org

Webmaster:
John Chold
webmaster@laurelartguild.org

Plein Air Chair:
Carol Leo
paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org

Program Chair:
Mary Ellen Simon
programs@laurelartguild.org

LAG Open Chair:
Anita Carrington
lagopen@laurelartguild.org

Scholarship Chair:
Margaret Kohn

Newsletter Editor:
Rebecca Rothey
newsletter@laurelartguild.org

Laurel Arts Council Liaison:
Open

Workshops:
Open
workshops@laurelartguild.org

Resources: Artificial Intelligence through Vanity Fair Magazine, The New Yorker Magazine and Wikipedia

20 Community Engagement Ideas for Artists



Community engagement is essential for promoting local artists and fostering a vibrant arts culture. Whether you're an artist, a non-profit organization, or a commercial business, you can play a crucial role in this effort.

Engaging the community in art-related activities not only promotes local artists but also enriches the cultural fabric of the community. It creates opportunities for artists to connect with their audience on a personal level, fostering a deeper appreciation for their work.

Additionally, these engagements can drive economic benefits by attracting visitors and encouraging local spending. By involving community members in the creative process, we can inspire a new generation of art lovers and supporters.

Here are 20 creative ideas to help your community celebrate and support artists on Artists Sunday.

20 Community Engagement Ideas

Art Walks: Organize guided tours of local galleries and artist studios. Art walks can showcase diverse artworks and provide an intimate look into artists'

creative spaces. Partner with local businesses to create a mapped route, offering visitors a cultural and social experience.

Live Demonstrations: Arrange for artists to demonstrate their craft in public spaces. Live demonstrations can be held in parks, malls, or community centers, allowing people to see the artistic process firsthand and interact with artists.

Artist Talks: Host Q&A sessions with artists to discuss their work and process. These talks can be held in galleries, libraries, or online, offering insights into the inspiration and techniques behind the artworks, and fostering a deeper connection between artists and the audience.

Pop-Up Markets: Set up temporary markets where artists can sell their work. These markets can be organized in vacant lots, community halls, or even as part of larger events, providing artists with direct access to buyers and allowing the community to support local art.

Art Contests: Create competitions with public voting to engage the community. Contests can be themed and held online or in-person, encouraging participation from a wide audience and

providing artists with exposure and potential prizes.

Collaborative Murals: Engage the community in creating a mural with local artists. Collaborative murals can be painted on public buildings, schools, or community centers, promoting community pride and providing a lasting piece of public art.

Workshops: Offer hands-on art workshops for all ages. Workshops can be tailored to different skill levels and art forms, encouraging community members to explore their creativity and learn new techniques directly from artists.

Social Media Takeovers: Let artists take over the organization's social media for a day. This provides a behind-the-scenes look at an artist's daily life, reaching a broader audience and increasing engagement on social media platforms.

Art Installations: Display temporary art installations in public spaces. Installations can be placed in parks, plazas, or along streets, turning everyday environments into interactive art experiences that attract and engage passersby.

Virtual Exhibitions: Host online galleries and virtual tours of artists' work. Virtual exhibitions can reach a global audience, providing an accessible platform for artists to showcase their work and for viewers to explore art from the comfort of their homes.

Art Scavenger Hunt: Create a city-wide hunt with art-related clues and prizes. Scavenger hunts can guide participants to different art pieces or locations, encouraging exploration and discovery of local art and artists.

Art Film Screenings: Show films about art and artists followed by discussions. Screenings can be held in theaters, community centers, or outdoor venues, providing entertainment and educational value, and sparking conversations about art.

Art and Music Festival: Combine local art displays with live music performances. Festivals can create a vibrant atmosphere, drawing larger crowds and offering a multi-sensory experience that celebrates local culture and talent.

Storytelling Sessions: Artists share the stories behind their works. These sessions can be intimate gatherings or broadcast online, allowing artists to

connect with the audience on a personal level and providing deeper insights into their creative journey.

Interactive Art Installations: Encourage public participation in creating art pieces. Interactive installations can be designed to invite community members to contribute, making the creation process a communal experience and fostering a sense of ownership and connection.

Art Talks at Schools: Organize artists to speak and demonstrate at local schools. These talks can inspire young students, introducing them to different art forms and career possibilities, and fostering a love for art from an early age.

Charity Art Auctions: Host auctions with proceeds benefiting local causes. Charity auctions can be held online or in-person, offering a platform for artists to sell their work while supporting community initiatives and attracting bidders with a philanthropic interest.

Public Art Challenges: Invite the community to create art in public spaces. Challenges can be themed and time-bound, encouraging spontaneous creativity and providing a platform for emerging artists to showcase their talents.

Artistic Flash Mobs: Coordinate

spontaneous art performances in public areas. Flash mobs can include live painting, dance, or music, surprising and delighting onlookers, and creating buzz and excitement around the local art scene.

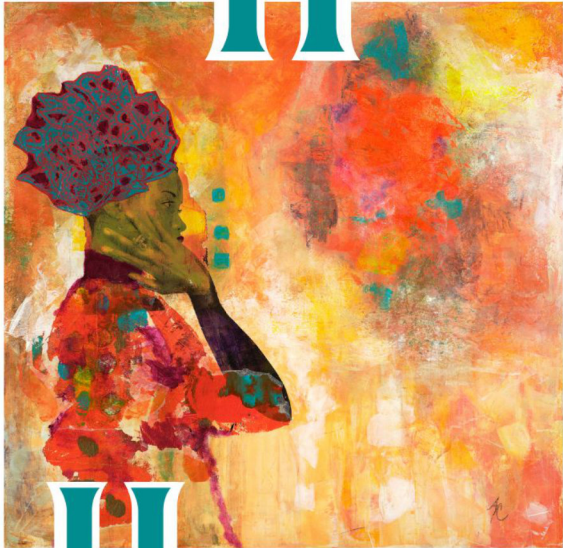
Themed Art Exhibitions: Host shows around specific themes relevant to the community. Themed exhibitions can address local history, social issues, or cultural celebrations, providing a focused platform for artists to express their perspectives and engage the community in meaningful dialogue.

These community engagement ideas are designed to create excitement and involvement around Artists Sunday but they can be used any time of the year. By implementing these strategies, artists, non-profits, and businesses can promote local artists, enrich the community, and make Artists Sunday a memorable event. Let's get started and make this day a success for our artists!

Resource:

[www://artistsunday.com/2024/08/03/20-ideas-on-how-to-engage-your-community-to-support-local-artists/#google_vignette](https://artistsunday.com/2024/08/03/20-ideas-on-how-to-engage-your-community-to-support-local-artists/#google_vignette)

Visions of HOPE



& HAPPINESS

May 3
to
July 26
2025

Meet the Artists
RECEPTION

June 8
2:00-4:00PM



Featuring works by
**Laurel Art Guild
Artists**

Linda Botts Butler
Shannon Cockett
Anita Henley Carrington
Carol Leo
Delia Mychajluk
Margaret Panebianco
Raymond J. Robinson
Diane Shipley
Mary Ellen Simon
Eva Zang

5885 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

themeetinghousegallery@gmail.com
themeetinghouse.org/art-gallery

