



JUNE 2021



BUPdates

Greetings from our team at Bethesda Urban Partnership!



Downtown Bethesda not only boasts great dining, shopping and events, but also a variety of arts programs and a supportive community for local artists. Designated by the state of Maryland as an Arts & Entertainment District (A&E District) in 2002, Bethesda is proud to offer unique programming that highlights cultural diversity and attracts thousands of artists and attendees alike into our A&E District. Have you been curious about what it means for Bethesda to be an Arts & Entertainment District and the opportunities available? Read on to learn more about our vibrant, engaging and diverse arts scene!



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Who manages the Arts & Entertainment District?

Bethesda Urban Partnership manages the Bethesda's Arts & Entertainment District and our marketing team works alongside the A&E Board of Directors to continually create new opportunities for artists as well as creative programming for the community. Because the A&E District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, we are able to raise funds for arts programming, public art, artist opportunities and more.

What are some of the arts programs that the A&E District manages?

Visual art opportunities are a great cornerstone of our programming, we are proud to manage Gallery B, Studio B and Triangle Art Studios as well as visual art competitions including **The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards** and the **Bethesda Painting Awards**. But it doesn't stop there – we also have exciting competitions and events for songwriters, filmmakers, actors and more.



The Trawick Prize and the Bethesda Painting Awards were founded by Carol Trawick and annually award some of the largest cash prizes for visual artists in our region. Don't miss the 2021 Painting Awards exhibit that is currently on display at Gallery B through June 26 (Thurs.-Sat., 12-5pm). Megan Lewis of Baltimore, MD was announced as the 2021 Best in Show Winner and recipient of the coveted \$10,000 top prize. But the award is so much more than the money. Like winners and finalists before her, being featured in the competition is also about the connections the artists make with each other, the judges and curators. As Megan left the reception with her prize in hand, she was also being encouraged to pursue a Master of Fine Arts scholarship opportunity by a top professor. Our competitions continually open doors for other endeavors.

It has been a rewarding year for Megan in Bethesda. Have you seen the new mural on the Rugby/Woodmont Avenue Garage that was completed last fall? The colorful masterpiece is also Megan's. Her artwork was chosen by committee as part of "Paint the Town," an initiative that was launched in 2015 to bring more color and large-scale public art to the downtown. The project has resulted in other murals, including along Arlington Road, at The Bethesdan Hotel and at the Bethesda Metro, and more on the horizon.

What about music and film? Are there programs dedicated to these areas of art?

Thanks to the creativity and support of local resident Cathy Bernard, the **Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards** celebrates incredible musicians in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. Through the competition, which is juried by music industry professionals and awards a Grand Prize of \$10,000, we've been introduced to some incredible talents. Owen Danoff was crowned the first winner in 2015 and much to the delight of his new Bethesda fans, just months later he went on to compete on Season 10 of *The Voice* on Adam Levine's team. Now based in Nashville, Danoff continues to write and flourish in his music career.

Each spring we also produce the **Bethesda Film Fest**, which is generously supported by Leslie and Bruce Lane. The event features a screening of adjudicated short documentaries by regional filmmakers. Like the artists whom we meet through our other competitions, we get to know inspiring filmmakers who are the creators and producers of thought-provoking films. Lance and Brandon Kramer, local filmmakers who participated in the first Bethesda Film Fest are now getting ready to show their film *The First Step* at the upcoming Tribeca Film Fest.

What are the benefits of being named an Arts & Entertainment District?

The designation is about more than the special tax incentives in place that benefit artists, arts enterprises and developers located in our district. The designation also highlights the importance of the arts and supports programs that contribute to the cultural and economic growth of the downtown. Bethesda's residents and visitors have the wonderful opportunity to meet some of the best and brightest artists who also happen to be our neighbors.

Just like the arts are diverse, so are our opportunities for the many creative individuals in our region. The exciting, innovative strides the Arts & Entertainment District has made would not be possible without the dedicated and creative Board who collaborate to support the ongoing initiatives while also bringing new ideas to the table. The Board, generous sponsors, established partnerships and engaged community have made Bethesda the desirable arts destination that it is.

Live MUSIC AT THE STREETERY



SUMMER CONCERT FRIDAYS

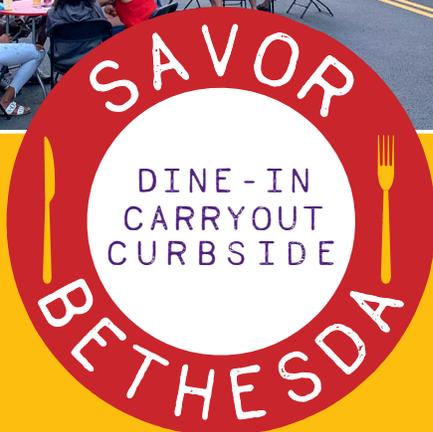
Mark your calendars for live music to kick off your weekends! Check out the incredible lineup of bands we have joining us for our Summer Concert series, now through September 24, 2021.

Concert Time: Fridays, 6-8pm

Location: Norfolk Ave. Streeterly
(Corner of Norfolk & Del Ray Avenues)

[Music Calendar](#)

RESTAURANT WEEK JULY 8-18, 2021



Menus available for \$10, \$20 and \$35
Full menus coming soon to Bethesda.org.

LET'S PULL SOME WEEDS

BETHESDA WEED WARRIORS



Become a Bethesda Weed Warrior and delight in helping to keep our downtown clean and green! No prior knowledge needed. Participants will be provided with tools, water, and lunch. SSL hours available for students. Join for as many sessions as you'd like.

Friday, June 18 & Friday, Aug. 20 • 3pm – 5pm

Sat., July 17 & Sat., Sept. 18 • 10am – 12pm

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS & SIGN-UP](#)