

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 4, 2021  
Contact: Erin Bruce, Integrated Membership/Media Specialist  
(269) 492-1782 | [ebruce@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:ebruce@kalamazooarts.org)  
359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203 | Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
[www.kalamazooarts.org](http://www.kalamazooarts.org)



## Art on the Mall Returns to Downtown Kalamazoo in June

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.-** The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo (ACGK) is pleased to announce that Art on the Mall will return to downtown Kalamazoo this summer. The two-day arts festival will be held on June 4 from 12 to 8 p.m. and June 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's festival will include artwork of all kinds from regional and local artists, art demonstrations, live entertainment, and more. Art on the Mall is a free event to the public.

For more than 40 years, Art on the Mall has been a part of downtown Kalamazoo's kick-off to summer arts weekend. This year's festivities may look a bit different, but there will still be plenty to experience throughout this action-packed weekend.

To remain conscious of the state of the pandemic, the Arts Council is scaling back this year's festivities to a maximum of 35 artists, spread out across the walking vicinity of the Kalamazoo Mall. The festival will also follow all CDC and City of Kalamazoo public health guidelines.

"The past two years have been tough all around, but we are excited to safely move forward with Art on the Mall this summer," said Arts Council Programs Director Bianca Washington-Ciungan.

"We want to continue to keep in mind social distancing and encourage people to think about others as they attend this event. We are happy to support our artists who will be in attendance and bring patrons to downtown businesses. We look forward to you enjoying this summer kick-off."

Live, outdoor musical performers include Yolonda Lavender, Kanola Band, Celeste Allison Trio, DJ Dan Steely, and many others. The complete list of participating artists will be announced publicly before the event.

"After a year of existing in multiple pandemics, my art has been a saving grace," said Yolonda Lavender. "I've gained a deeper appreciation for the blessing that sharing my art through performance truly is."

The Arts Council is grateful to have the support of its sponsors, Metro Toyota, Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, WMUK, and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, without whom this event would not be possible.

The Arts Council is also looking for volunteers to assist during Art on the Mall on Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5. Those interested in volunteering can email [info@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:info@kalamazooarts.org) for more information.

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### **About the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo:**

*The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo exists to infuse arts and culture into the commercial, educational, and creative economies of our region. The ACGK provides access to a broad range of artistic and cultural opportunities through grants, promotion, advocacy, and free programming to the seven-county region which it serves. For more information visit the ACGK website at [www.kalamazooarts.org](http://www.kalamazooarts.org).*