



FALL/WINTER 2025

ART BEAT

A Publication of **ARTS CULTURE CATAWBA**

EATON

A letter from our new President

Do you feel the undercurrent of excitement? The buzz of activity? I know I can! As we kick off another year here at Arts Culture Catawba, there's an energy that's palpable. Coming off of a year where we accomplished so much, most meaningful being the completion of our 10-year cultural plan, we're ready to put that plan into action!



So much work went into making that plan possible and we owe a debt of gratitude to all of you who participated in surveys, focus groups, meetings and meaningful conversations! Also, a huge thank you to all who donated to our annual United Arts Fund and our newly formed Sustainability Society. Because of your generosity we're able to make our cultural plan a reality. Because of your support and dedication, it's clear our community sees the value of arts and culture in our area and understands what it's going to take to continue to grow and improve the offerings and resources for both artists and patrons in the future.

As a native to Hickory, I grew up at the Science Center and Museum of Art. I attended Hickory Choral Society and Symphony events and watched plays at the Hickory Community Theater. Now that I'm raising my family here, I better understand and recognize the importance these arts and cultural offerings are to the vitality of our community. The talent and level of artistry in our area is astounding – It's something to highlight and celebrate – and it's getting noticed! It is a privilege to serve on the Arts Culture Catawba board where I have a front row seat to the talent and opportunity that's available here and to be a part of a growing group who sees the value of how supporting our arts and cultural programs creates a more vibrant and enriching place to live.

Get ready! It will be an exciting year. As previously mentioned we're moving full steam ahead and putting our cultural plan into action. One of the key initiatives of our plan is to implement a community calendar that will coordinate, promote and highlight all happenings related to arts and culture in one place – Finally! Stay tuned... Be on the lookout for our calendar launch and we look forward to seeing you out and about supporting all of the things our arts and cultural community has to offer!

We appreciate your continued support!

Katherine Rogers
Arts Culture Catawba
Board President

WHO WE ARE | Staff



promotes, nurtures, and funds
excellence in individuals and
organizations who provide
creative experiences that
enrich the lives of residents
and visitors.



Ingrid Keller
Executive Director

CONTACT US

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Grants & Resources Coordinator



Angel Pittman
Finance & Office Operations Associate



Kelsey Graf
Data & Donor Services Administrator



Kendra Williford
Marketing Manager



Our administrative offices are
located in the WEST WING of
the SALT Block:

243 Third Avenue NE – Box 5
Hickory, NC 28601



Rand Brandes
Partnership Manager

Thank you to our Government Support!

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Arts Culture Catawba

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Hickory Downtown Development Association
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Hickory Public Library
Hickory Recreation Department
Keep Catawba County Beautiful
Newton Public Art Commission
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
North Carolina Extension Master Gardener
Volunteer Association
Town of Catawba Historical Association

Scan the QR Code to view
our membership link list.



2025 Sustainability Society Commitments

In Honor of our Leadership Donors

Thank you to all of our Sustainability Society Members! The Sustainability Society is made up of a dedicated group of donors who have pledged to make a gift of at least \$1000 a year for five years to support the new initiatives of the Creative Catawba Culture Plan.



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In Honor of our Leadership Donors

Thank you to all who donated to the 2025 United Arts Fund Campaign which supports our arts, science and history organizations so they can continue to help make Catawba County a great place to live and work.

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ARTS CULTURE CATAWBA...

FUNDS

In addition to the UAF, Arts Culture Catawba provides grants to individual creatives and organizations.

Artist Support Grant
Innovative Artist Grant
Projects Pool Grant
Community Cultural Grant
Edna Bost Barringer Young Artist Award
Kathryn Greathouse Legacy Scholarship

NURTURES

Professional Development

New Initiative!

–Workshops specifically catered for artists and arts organizations.
–Resources for both artists and arts organizations available through new website.

PROMOTES

Events Calendar

New Initiative!

–Our cultural event calendar is a great resource for residents and visitors, as well as arts & cultural organizations.

HICKORY COMMUNITY THEATRE

30 3RD ST NW HICKORY, NC 28601 828•328•2283

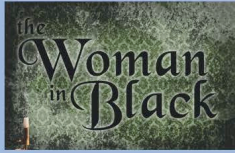
SEPTEMBER 5-20, 2025

OCT 17 - NOV 1, 2025

NOVEMBER 7-22, 2025



IN THE JEFFERS THEATRE



IN THE JEFFERS THEATRE



IN THE FIREMEN'S KITCHEN



IN THE JEFFERS THEATRE



IN THE JEFFERS THEATRE



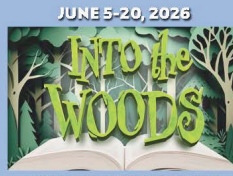
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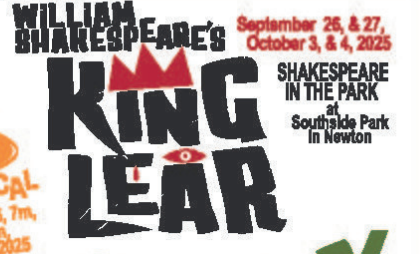


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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THESE EXCITING SHOWS!

THE GREEN ROOM COMMUNITY THEATRE



A BASS-HARTMAN MUSICAL
September 5, 6, 7m,
12, 13, 14m,
19, 20, 21m, 2025



October 10, 11, 12m,
17, 18, 19m, 2025



January 23, 24, 25m,
30, 31, February 1m, 2026



February 20, 21, 22m,
27, 28, March 1m, 2026

Box Office
(828) 464-6128 thegreenroomtheatre.org
10 South Main Ave., Newton, NC - Old Post Office Playhouse



HICKORY CHORAL SOCIETY

2025-2026

48th Concert Season

COOKIES & CAROLS
a children's concert
and cookie reception

December 6, 2025 | 11:00 am
Ridgeview Community Center, Hickory

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

December 12, 2025 | 7:30 pm
December 13, 2025 | 3:00pm & 7:30pm
December 14, 2025 | 3:00 pm
Corinth Reformed Church,
Hickory

Hickory Choral Society
 @hickorychoralsociety
 hickorychoralsociety.org



Our concerts are free to attend. Donors will receive membership benefits, such as reserved and preferred seating, preferred parking, and additional benefits. For seasonal membership, visit our website or call our office at (828) 322-2210.



61 SEASONS OF SOUND.
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THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD
September 13, 2025 | Foothills Pops



ELEMENTAL MUSIC
October 18, 2025 | Masterworks



ITALIAN INSPIRATIONS
November 22, 2025 | Masterworks



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS
December 5, 2025 | Foothills Pops



ROMANTIC MASTERS
January 31, 2026 | Masterworks

GRANT US PEACE
February 28, 2026 | Masterworks

FROM BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD!
April 18, 2026 | Foothills Pops

MUSICAL WANDERLUST
May 16, 2026 | Masterworks



CONCERT TICKETS

WESTERN PIEDMONT SYMPHONY
MATTHEW TROY, MUSIC DIRECTOR
WPSYMPHONY.ORG

HMA may be closed for renovation but creativity never stops.

Let's make art EVERYWHERE!



Renovating Our Space, Expanding Our Reach

While we renovate, Hickory Museum of Art is bringing creativity into the community with classes, events, and pop-ups. This year, we're bring the art to **YOU!**

Follow us on social media and scan the code to visit our website for the latest updates, class info, and event details.



ANNUAL SPONSORS



243 3rd Ave NE Hickory, NC 28601 | HickoryArt.org | 828.327.8576

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Open September 20 through January 9, 2026



Mindbender Mansion

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RETURNS
EARLY 2026

catawba
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Not a member? Join today! CatawbaScience.org/Membership
Discounts on programs & FREE admission all year long!

HICKORY LANDMARKS SOCIETY

Collecting Hickory's History since 1968



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Launching September 1st

UPCOMING EVENTS:



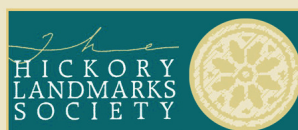
Halloween at
Propst House
October 31st, 2025



A Landmarks Christmas
December 6th, 2025

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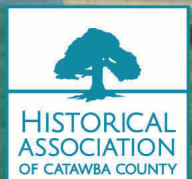
www.hickorylandmarks.org

Welcome To The Catawba County Museum Of History

The History Museum of Catawba County
offers testimony to the hardy settlers
of the Catawba River Valley and their
resourceful descendants who carved
a world-renowned furniture and textile
empire out of the backwoods.

CONTACT US FOR MORE
INFORMATION
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Renovating Our Space, Expanding Our Reach

Big changes are on the horizon for the Hickory Museum of Art. The museum is officially moving forward with its long-planned renovation. This exciting step is possible because of the success of the “**Uncrate the Future**” Capital Campaign, a community-driven effort that has already reached a remarkable milestone. And while much has been accomplished, the campaign isn’t over—HMA continues to raise funds to strengthen its long-term sustainability and ensure a bright future for the arts in our region. To learn more about “Uncrate the Future”, visit www.hickoryart.org/uncratethefuture.



“Everything we do is about presentation. But this project isn’t about aesthetics. It’s driven by necessity. The need for storage, the need of exhibition logistics, and the need to grow education – these needs will all be addressed through this renovation. Mostly, the need to ensure best practice for our accreditation. Our legacy was built on generous community support. And community support will build our future. The best is yet to come.”

Clarissa Starnes
Executive Director, Hickory Museum of Art

▲ Transforming the First Floor

What is now the Education Wing will soon become a state-of-the-art Collection Storage and Artwork Receiving Area. A new addition at the back of the building will create a private, secure, climate-controlled space where artwork can safely arrive. This change means more storage, better efficiency, and modern systems to protect the collection. From the moment a crate is delivered to the time a piece is installed in the galleries, the new setup will give the museum the stability and access it needs to bring in exhibitions that weren’t possible before.

▲ A New Education Wing Upstairs

Education is moving up—literally. The second floor will house four new classrooms, each equipped with advanced technology and connected directly to the galleries. By moving classrooms upstairs, the museum will be able to welcome more students while also making visits safer and smoother. The design supports 21st-century learning and keeps the Education Wing closely tied to the art on display.

▲ A Reimagined Third Floor

The third floor will take on a whole new role as the center for staff and leadership. Offices will be designed for collaboration and growth, but the standout features are a brand-new Boardroom and catering kitchen. The Boardroom will give trustees and committees a dedicated space to meet, plan, and look ahead to the museum’s future. The catering kitchen will open the door for more receptions, rentals, and community events—making the museum not just a place to view art, but also a place to gather. Together, these additions will make the third floor a hub for both behind-the-scenes work and community connection.

The renovation officially began on September 2, 2025. Just before the work got underway, the community came together for a special “Closing the Gates” celebration on Sunday, August 31 at 4 PM. Friends and families gathered to hear remarks from Mayor Hank Guess, share light refreshments, and take part in a meaningful ceremony. As part of the event, Mayor Guess had the honor of lowering the museum’s gates for the last time before construction began—a gesture that closed one chapter and opened the door to HMA’s next.



Visit our temporary satellite museum!

While the main museum is closed for renovation, we are operating a satellite location at Valley Hills Mall [1960 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory, NC 28602]. Find us on the 2nd floor, near American Eagle, outside of Dillard's.

Enjoy free hands-on art activities, exhibitions by local artists, and more!

Hours:

Wednesday – Saturday | 11 AM – 4 PM

Sunday | 12 – 6 PM

Also open for special events and classes.

HICKORY MUSEUM OF ART

Capital Campaign Renovation Project





RANDOM ACTS OF ARTSINESS



MAKE MUSIC day began 43 years ago in France. Fête De La Musique, meaning both “festival of music” and “make music” in French, was created as a free music festival where anyone could play music or host performances. The event took place on the summer solstice, June 21 and has become a national holiday. According to makemusicday.org, almost 11% of French people (7 million) have performed in the festival, and 64% (43 million) come out each year to listen.

The holiday has since spread throughout the world and on June 21, 2025, 5,471 free events took place – including four in Catawba County!



Golden Rule Music School and Hickory Music Factory co-produced a Community Showcase in Downtown Hickory. NoCo Arts organized a Walk-About around the square in downtown Newton and a Street Jam session took place in Yount Park. AnandaRasa hosted a Community Drum Circle and Solstice Fire Ceremony at Catawba Farms. All of these events were free to the public and many of them called for amateurs to join in.

On June 30, 2025, just a few days after Make Music Day, The World Health Organization released a report that confirms social isolation and loneliness are widespread with serious but under-recognized impacts on health. The report also defines social well-being as being just as important as physical and mental well-being.

I hope that you will think about joining Make Music Day next year on June 21, 2026 – or better yet, don’t wait! Sharing musical experiences, whether participating or listening, can foster a sense of community and belonging. Events like Make Music Day and other impromptu jam sessions and concerts are just the sort of random acts of artsiness we need to build social connections that will make our lives better.

~ Ingrid Keller



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ART WALL EXHIBITION KIM BOST

OCTOBER – JANUARY
WEST WING OFFICES At THE SALT BLOCK

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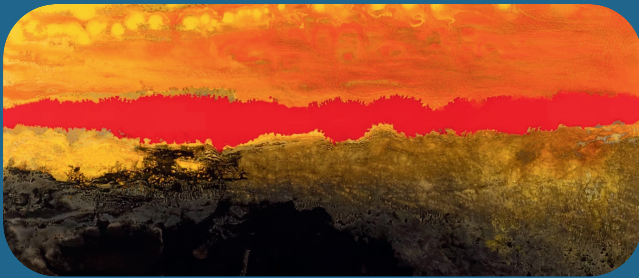


BENEFITTING ARTS, SCIENCE AND HISTORY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

HICKORY METRO CONVENTION CENTER

Doors open at 5:30 PM



UPCOMING ART WALL EXHIBITION: JOYCE VUKELA-MAYER

Artist Reception: January 15th, 2026
5–7pm WEST WING OFFICES At THE SALT BLOCK

English

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ON THE COVER:



My name is Bunny Eaton. For the past four years, I've called Hickory, NC my home. It's a place that keeps me grounded as my work carries me across the state, from Charlotte to Boone to Raleigh, managing a not-so-small fleet of art vending machines. I used to teach art, but when my business took off, I left the classroom to pursue creativity full time. Since then, I've been blessed and rewarded with a full and passionate life! My days revolve around paint and precise strokes, oil and acrylic, canvas and machine! Recently, I've been sinking my teeth into isometric painting; impossible geometry and the exploration of space. When I paint, I get lost in the mathematics that construct the space of my dreamworld. I can spend hours upon hours trying to recreate the architecture that makes up the landscape of my dreams. My dreams are vivid, strange, theatrical, and melancholy — filled with recurring places and volatile characters. And while I still don't feel like I've quite captured it in truth, I think I'll always keep painting to try and make sense of my subconscious.