BRINGING PUBLIC ART TO NEWPORT //

The Scripps Howard Center and SOTA have worked together to create art for public places frequently in recent years. Their first project was in 2013 and designed for public space on the NKU campus. A second project produced sculptures that incorporated Little Free Libraries for installation in Covington and Newport. Those projects became the blueprint for the collaboration with the Southgate Street School and the Newport arts corridor.

Connecting NKU to the arts corridor grew from the seeds of those engagements and, in the Fall 2018 semester, three SOTA classes got started. Kevin Muente’s Painting students created murals interpreting Newport’s history. Those were installed across from the Newport History Museum in February 2019. Spatial Arts faculty Steven Finke (Sculpture) and JeeEun Lee (Ceramics) taught a public art class, culminating in students presenting three juried projects to the Newport Business Association for possible funding.

You can visit the project website to see more detail at nku.edu/newportpublicart.

BY THE NUMBERS //

41,400 internal and external visits to 136 SOTA openings, performances, shows, and art exhibitions this academic year!
SOTA MAKES AN IMPACT AT CAMPAIGN LAUNCH //

With inclement weather approaching, festivities for NKU’s capital campaign launch on May 2 were moved indoors. SOTA housed a good majority of activities including a dinner in Corbett Theatre and a tour of the Senior BFA Exhibitions on display in the galleries. Art students created paintings and charcoal artworks, the Dance Troupe taught the salsa and the hustle, the Musical Theatre Troupe performed favorites, and jazz and R&B combos rocked the night away. We even had President Ashish Vaidya participate in skits with the Improv Troupe!

To learn more about Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU, visit nkue.edu/campaign.

DANCE EXTENDS IMPACT //

The SOTA Dance Troupe, under the direction of Stephanie Brumer, has been busy this year with a combination of eight in-reach and outreach community performances reaching over 400 students, including the Behringer Crawford Museum, Cline Elementary, Cooper High School, NKU Community Connections, and the Celebration of Student Creativity. The Dance Area, under the leadership of Tracey Bonner, had two student-choreographed works adjudicated at the American College Dance Association Mid-Atlantic North Conference in March, presented an inclusive dance workshop, and performed student works at the Celebration of Student Creativity in April.

SOTA LIVING COMMUNITY GROWS TOWARDS THE FUTURE //

Since its launch in 2018, the SOTA Living & Learning Community in Callahan Hall held a retention rate of 96.4% for the 28 participants. Thank you for all the continued support as we grow it into the future! For more information about becoming a part of the community, contact Candice van Loveren Geis at vanloverec1@nku.edu.

UPTOWN ARTS CONTINUES TO FLOURISH //

Uptown Arts is a Cincinnati nonprofit that provides free classes in dance, acting, music and art for underserved youths. It is a great opportunity to employ SOTA students to work alongside Uptown Arts’ instructors. Denise Devlin (BFA ’07) credits the program for her love of arts education. “It taught me not only to be accountable with my talent, but to use my talent to help those less fortunate,” says Devlin. Dick Rosenthal, a longtime supporter of SOTA from the beginning and who founded Uptown Arts 20 years ago with his late wife, Lois, has welcomed over 130 School of the Arts students as Uptown Arts Scholars.

WELCOME MEGHAN BENNETT //

SOTA is proud to welcome Meghan Bennett, DMA, our new Assistant Professor of Flute Performance and Woodwinds Coordinator. Coming to us from Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Bennett leads a diverse career as an educator and solo, chamber and orchestral musician. She was awarded first prize in the Morning, Afternoon and Eau Claire Music Club Competition and has been a prizewinning finalist in the Atlanta Flute Club Young Artist Competition, the Flute Society of Kentucky Young Artist Competition and the Greater Philadelphia Flute Society Collegiate Young Artist Competition. Bennett received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin, Master of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of South Carolina.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KATHERINE RUCKLE //
Katherine Ruckle (Art History ‘17), currently attending a Graduate Program at American University in Washington D.C. and was recently accepted into the Doctoral program at Temple University. This past fall she held an internships with the Education Department of the National Museum for Women in the Arts where she researched the collection and writing educational statements for new exhibits and new exhibits; creating content for the Museum’s Blog and data analysis.

CHARITY RUST-JORDAN //
Charity Rust-Jordan (Spatial Arts ‘18) had a piece accepted into the MarkArts National Exhibition (Kansas) and has been working with SkoolAid doing a weekly after-school program with clay and up-cycled materials. She also taught a 4-week basic sculpture class at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

JEREMY PLOTT //
Jeremy Plott (Music Composition ‘15) earned his graduate degree in film-scoring in Ireland. He’s now back at NKU teaching Music Technology, plus other production and tech courses.

HOLLY PEEK //
Holly Peek (Music Education ‘18) is Choral Director at Randall K. Cooper High School and is a staff piano accompanist at NKU. She’s pursuing a master’s degree at University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

CAMERON EVERAGE //
Cameron Everage (Music Education ‘18) is Band and Choir Director at Switzerland County School Corporation. He brought five of his students to the NKU Tri-State Band Symposium this year.

RICKY WILLIAMS //
Ricky “RJ” Williams (Jazz Studies ’16) is Development Associate at Cincinnati Opera and regularly gigs around the tristate area. rickywilliamsjr.com

KAYLA UPTHEGROVE //
Kayla Upthegrove (Jazz Studies ‘18) has the distinction of being the first African American female jazz saxophonist working in Cincinnati. She is now living in Nashville, TN pursuing her music dreams.

ABBY SPARKS //
Abby Sparks (Music Education ‘18) is a Graduate Assistant at University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), a Voice Instructor at Slater Music Academy, and currently studies Music Education at CCM. She conducted her student teaching for NKU abroad in Mexico. In her spare time, she’s working on a vegetarian cookbook.

KAT MOSER //
Kat Moser (Musical Theatre ’14) earned her master’s degree at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Kat currently lives in New York City and recently started a role in The Office! A Musical Parody, based on the TV show “The Office”.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT //

Julie Mader-Meersman (Visual Arts) is included in the womenofgraphicdesign.com archive, a blog run by Creative Director Tori Hinn (of Figma), and is also working as a freelance Creative Director for a special project at KnowledgeWorks, a non-profit org dedicated to educational systems forecasting.

Work by Marc Leone (Visual Arts) was featured in “Synthetica” at Weston Gallery, which ran Nov. 30-Jan. 27.

Kevin Muente (Visual Arts) was in two group exhibitions in Nov. 2018. One at UC Blue Ash entitled “Shape of Place” as well as “The Last Picture Show” at Heike Pickett gallery.

Tyler Griese (Visual Arts) won an AIA grant from Summerfair. Congratulations, Tyler!

The Corbett Trio (Hanna Hurwitz - violin, Holly Attar - viola, Amy Gillingham - cello) have been very active performing on and off campus this year. Highlights include a performance on NKU’s Spotlight on Scholarship series and at the SOTA Strings Area Recital. The group also performed and taught at School for the Creative and Performing Arts (Lexington), Colerain High School, Conner High School, and Fairfield High School.
SUBMIT YOUR STORIES
Have something newsworthy?
We would love to hear from you.
Send your stories and updates to Rick Endres, endresr1@nku.edu.

VISUAL ARTS //
Emily Sexton’s design for the Declaration of Independence from Typography I has moved from District to Regionals to Nationals in the annual ADDYs competition.

Gina Eradi, Jessica Haltman, and Christin Lafarge participated in the Summerfair Emerging Artist Exhibition at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center with their strong works. Christin received third prize for her photo works and Gina received a merit award for her paintings.

Ric Menninger (Drawing and Painting) was awarded best in 2D at Georgetown College State of the Arts student exhibition on Nov. 15. Aspen Kowsky and Liz Fagre also represented NKU in this student exhibition.

NKU Visual Communication Design (VCD) students and alumni performed very well at the 2018-19 Cincinnati ADDY Awards, pulling in 15 awards at this annual competition. Their work now moves on to compete in one of 15 districts, whose winners move on to the national competition. NKU VCD winners and award levels include:
- Emily Sexton — Student Best of Show and Gold: Publication Design
- Kyle Brinker — Student Silver: Package Design
- Daniel Calderon (Lead Creative, US Digital Partners) — Silver Award
- Tim Kyde (Marsh, Associate Creative Director) — Silver Award
- Kevin Gautraud (Lightborne, Animator) — Silver Award
- Emily Brunner (Designer, Gyro) — Silver Award
- Adam Mitchell (Designer, Leap Group) — Two Silver Awards
- Kyle Ebersole (Creative Director, Designer) — Three Silver Awards
- Oliver Meinerding (Illustrator) — Silver Award
- Jeff Maurer (Design Director, Landor) — Gold & Silver Awards

MUSIC //
Kaitlin Fierro was awarded a scholarship from Wyoming Music Club in Feb. 2019.

Reid Wassmer, Music Education spring 2019 prospective graduate was awarded the President’s Award. Read more at: inside.nku.edu/nkumagazine/2019/may/may2019grads/reidwassmer.html

Jordan Figgs was announced as a co-winner for the Norse Advising Center’s Outstanding Student Award.
Our Commonwealth Theatre Company is proud to present the Noël Coward comedy of FALLEN ANGELS and the farewell production of CHURCH GIRLS: THE MUSICAL. A buffet dinner will be served in the NKU SOTA Art Gallery with performances taking place in the NKU Robert & Rosemary Stauss Theatre.

**Fallen Angels**  
*By Sir Noël Coward*  
*June 7-23, 2019*

Before Julia and Jane married their husbands Fred and Willy – there was Maurice, a former French lover. While the women’s blissfully ignorant husbands are away on a golf trip, he shows up and reminds them of what they might be missing. Following an evening of drunkenness and fevered anticipation, Julia and Jane become concerned that indiscretions from their past will be revealed, and comedic antics ensue. FALLEN ANGELS is a sparkling, hilarious comedy about rivalry and manners, resulting in a champagne cocktail of wit and charm.

**Church Girls: The Musical**  
*By Ken Jones*  
*Lyrics by Christine Jones*  
*Music by Jamey Strawn*  
*July 5-21, 2019*

The “ladies” of Umatilla Second Christian Church Women’s Auxiliary League are back and producing their annual Mother’s Day pageant. As the “church girls” prepare for their pageant, chaos and calamity bring out less than ‘saintly’ behavior. The result is Heaven sent hilarity! Making its farewell performance, CHURCH GIRLS: THE MUSICAL is a campy, cheeky, audacious musical comedy that will hit your funny bone and keep you laughing.

**EVENT DETAILS**

- **Dates:** June 7-23 & July 5-21 (Monday and Tuesday: no performances)  
- **Times:** Wednesday through Saturday performances at 8 p.m., Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.  
  Sunday matinées at 6:30 p.m., Dinner served at 5 p.m.  
- **Place:** Fine Arts Center on NKU Campus  
- **Tickets:** $40 single tickets or $65 for two-show package (includes buffet dinner and show)  
- **More information:** [nkue.edu/ctc](http://nkue.edu/ctc) or 859-572-5464