

Rotary Arts Minute for 2/10/2025 Information provided by the

FREE EVENTS



[Free Thursdays at the KIA](#)

Thursday, February 6 - December 18, 2025 Free

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Enjoy free general admission and extended hours until 8:00 pm on Thursdays, thanks to generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program and

the Efrogmson Family Fund.



[ArtBreak: Virtual Artist's Talk with Leslie Barlow](#)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

During this virtual ArtBreak, learn about visual artist Leslie Barlow, whose painting *Atquezali, At Indigenous Roots* is featured in the ongoing KIA exhibition *Legendary Voices: Art for the Next Century*. Barlow's colorful, life-size oil paintings serve as both monuments to community members and explorations into the ways in which race entangles the intimate spheres of love, family, and friendship. For Barlow, art and art making are both healing and liberatory through the power of representation, witnessing, and storytelling. Barlow received her BFA in 2011 from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her MFA in 2016 from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. In 2021, she was awarded the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, and in 2019 she was awarded both the McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship and the 20/20 Springboard Fellowship. Collaboration is integral to Barlow's studio practice. She leads the Public Functionary Studio Program for emerging artists, and she worked with other organizers and artists to develop the MidWest Mixed Conference, which then grew into the organization MidWest Mosaic. In response to the murder of George Floyd, she helped start the collective *Creatives after Curfew*. She is also the founder and producer of *ConFluence*, providing a space for BIPOC art and science fiction lovers to come together. Virtual events will go live on our [YouTube page](#) on the indicated dates and times. They can be found under the "Live" tab. Recordings of select past events are available on YouTube as well. Unless otherwise indicated, no registration is necessary.



[Artful Evening: Artist's Talk with Kelly Church](#)

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Meet artist Kelly Church, an Ottawa/Pottawatomi black ash basket maker, fiber artist, educator, activist, and culture keeper. A member of the Gun Lake Band in Michigan and descendent of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Ojibwe, she comes from an unbroken line of black ash basket makers and from the largest black ash weaving family in the Great Lakes region. Through her distinctive artwork and in workshops led across the country, Church advocates for the survival of Indigenous cultural traditions and teaches about the black ash tree. The tree is central to the traditions of many Native American and First Nations tribes and critically endangered by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

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She has been named a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow, has earned a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation's National Artist Fellowship, and has been a four-time Artist Leadership Program participant with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Her black ash piece Every Dawn is a New Day, a new work acquired by the KIA in 2024, is on view in the Legendary Voices exhibition. All hybrid events will be livestreamed to our [YouTube page](#) and can be found under the "Live" tab. Recordings of select past events are available on YouTube as well.



[Artist Happy Hour – Creative Expo: Jobs, Opportunities, and Collaborations](#)

Sunday, February 16, 2025 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Presented by [Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#) at [Epic Center](#), 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

In collaboration with Kalamazoo RESA's Education for the Arts and dozens of local arts organizations, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is thrilled to present the 2nd annual "job fair" Artist Happy Hour – Creative Expo: Jobs, Opportunities, and

Collaborations happening on Sunday, February 16 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Epic Center downtown Kalamazoo. Artists and creatives of all backgrounds are invited to hear from arts organizations that offer paid opportunities for artists, teachers, technicians, and arts administrators.

Organizations that will be in attendance...

KRESA Education for the Arts
Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo
Epic Center
Tyler Little Community Box Office
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
Face Off Theatre
Crescendo Academy of Music
Fontana Chamber Arts
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp
Wellspring Dance
Black Arts and Cultural Center
Gilmore International Piano Festival
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

MUSIC



[It's Cannomania!](#)

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm

Free Admission

Presented by [Duke and The Loose Cannons](#) at Rugger's Up and Under, 711 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Duke and The Loose Cannons take it to the mat during Happy Hour at Rugger's!

Slamming down the Soul! Putting Rock on the Ropes! Jumping on Jazz from the turnbuckle!

We wrestle the jams; you rustle the grub.

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[Craft Music: Opera](#)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#) at [Bell's Eccentric Cafe](#), 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

These fast-to-sell-out concerts with a pint-sized symphony are a great way to celebrate making it halfway through the workweek!

Each concert features musical flavors that pair well with your favorite Bell's brew.

On tap at this concert are favorites straight from the opera stage!

Program Includes:

Overture to *Marriage of Figaro* | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"La donna è mobile" from *Rigoletto* | Giuseppe Verdi

"Quando m'en vo'soletta" (Musetta's Waltz) from *La bohème* | Giacomo Puccini

Suite No. 1 from *Carmen* | Georges Bizet



[Weis and Hunt at the Dark Horse](#)

Friday, Feb 14, 2025 at 06:00 pm

We are a family Friendly Music Duo and there is no price for admission.

Presented by [Weis and Hunt Duo](#) at Dark Horse Brewing Company, 511 S Kalamazoo Ave, Marshall, MI 49068-1718, Battle Creek, MI

The Weis and Hunt Duo perform a variety of music from pop to Blues, Jazz, and some country sprinkled in. Bob Weis on guitar and vocals , and Bob Hunt on the synthophone sax and Windcontroller. You will hear Dave Brubek's Take 5, Junior Walker's What Does it Take, Jerry

Rafferty's Baker Street , All of Me, Blue Sky etc...



[KCC Jazz Band presents "Lovers and Legends" Valentine's Day Concert](#)

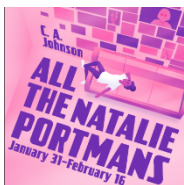
Friday, Feb 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Presented by [Kellogg Community College](#) at Binda Performing Arts Center, 450 North Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49017

The KCC Jazz Band's "Lovers and Legends" concert will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the Binda Performing Arts Center, on campus at 450 North Ave. in Battle Creek. The event is free and open to the public, though a freewill donation will be collected to support future arts initiatives at the College.

Band members under the direction of KCC Jazz Band Director Eric Campbell will perform a diverse repertoire featuring timeless classics and legendary hits including romantic ballads, soulful grooves and energetic big band numbers sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

THEATRE



[All the Natalie Portmans](#)

Through February 16, 2025

Presented by [WMU University Theatre](#) at [Western Michigan University - Gilmore Theatre Complex](#), 1921 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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By C.A. Johnson

Sixteen-year-old Keyonna and her older brother Samuel live on the brink of eviction while dreaming of a better tomorrow. Too smart, “too gay” and too lonely to fit in, Keyonna escapes into a world of rom coms, red carpets and all the iconic characters played by her muse, Natalie Portman. But when “all the Natalie Portmans” start talking back to her, Keyonna finally has to face her off-screen drama in this imaginative new play that reminds us to embrace life on the ground while still reaching for the stars.

“Tense and witty with profound reverberations.” – The Daily Beast.



[DIAL M FOR MURDER](#)

February 6 - 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm

Presented by [Farmers Alley Theatre](#), 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Experience the play that inspired Alfred Hitchcock’s iconic crime film in this clever, fast-paced adaptation, making the “Will he get away with it?” question even more thrilling.

DIAL M FOR MURDER: February 6-23, 2025

Get ready for a night of suspense and intrigue as Dial M for Murder, adapted by the acclaimed Jeffrey Hatcher, hits the stage at Farmers Alley Theatre! Coming off the heels of the enormously popular and sold out and extended productions of Jersey Boys and A Christmas Carol, Farmers Alley Theatre presents its first murder mystery play ever this February 6th thru the 23rd. From the play that inspired Alfred Hitchcock’s iconic crime thriller film, Farmers Alley Theatre presents the regional premiere of the brand-new, edge-of-your-seat adaptation of Dial M for Murder by Jeffrey Hatcher (TV’s Columbo).

This classic thriller, originally penned by Frederick Knott, is reimagined with gripping twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Set in 1950s London, the story revolves around Tony Wendice, a charming struggling writer who plots the perfect crime to eliminate his wealthy wife, Margot. But when things go awry, a thrilling game of cat and mouse ensues, filled with deception, blackmail, and a detective who won’t stop until the truth is revealed. Don’t miss your chance to witness this spellbinding tale of murder and betrayal. Perfect for fans of mystery and drama, Dial M for Murder promises an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Directed By D. Terry Williams and Starring Kate Thomsen as Margot Wendice. Jeremy Koch as Tony Wendice, Atis Kleinbergs as Inspector Hubbard, Michael P. Martin as Lesgate and Tina El Gamal as Maxine.

Farmers Alley is ecstatic to welcome back Director D. Terry Williams (The Lifespan of a Fact, The Cake) who has promised plenty of gasps for the audience as the leader of this production. Willams is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Theatre at Western Michigan University where he served as chair of the department for 23 years. He has directed over 100 productions for university, community and professional theatres, including many for Farmers Alley specifically. The cast is full of veteran actors who are local favorites: WMU Acting Professor Kate Thomsen (Disgraced and Other Desert Cities) as Margot Wendice, Farmers Alley co-founder and Managing Artistic Director, Jeremy Koch (A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, Curious Incident) as Tony Wendice, Atis Kleinbergs (Working, Bright Star) as Inspector Hubbard, Michael P. Martin (Spamalot, Peter and the Starcatcher) as Lesgate and Chicago based professional actress Tina El Gamal as Maxine.

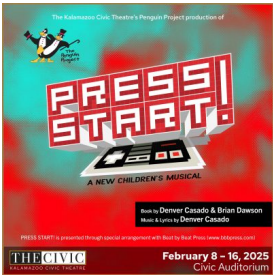
“Enough twists and sudden hitches to keep the chills and thrills running.” – The New York Times

Dial M for Murder runs for two weeks from Feb 6 through Feb 23, 2025. We are offering multiple matinees for this production: all Saturdays and Sundays will have 2pm start times. Go to our website for all dates and times. Tickets range from \$41-\$45 with Student ticket pricing is \$15 for all shows. Farmers Alley Theatre is proud to offer 15% off regular ticket prices for Military/Veterans and Teachers (please call the box office to request that discount and have ID ready to show upon arrival). \$20 rush tickets for adults and \$10 rush tickets for students are offered for all performances starting

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1 hour prior to curtain (subject to availability; theatergoers must be present at the box office). Preview performance tickets on Thursday, Feb 6th are \$25.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreted performance on Saturday, February 8 at 2pm. ASL performances generously sponsored by Barbara A. Rider and Fred W. Sammons. Tickets are available for purchase at www.farmersalleytheatre.com or by calling the Box Office at 269-343-2727. The show has adult themes and an intense fight scene. Recommended for audiences aged 13 and up. Dial M for Murder is generously supported by our Season Equity Sponsor The Tyler Little Family Foundation and by our show sponsors Elizabeth Upjohn Mason, Jack & Andy Hopkins, Ed & Doreen Thomas and Tom Bailey & Katherine Joslin.



[Press Start! A Children's Musical](#)

February 8 - 16, 2025 at 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium](#), 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre's Penguin Project Production of "Press Start! A New Children's Musical" runs February 8-16, in the Civic Auditorium. Join us as our Artists and Mentors embark on a unique adventure as they are transported into the pixelated world of video games. Beloved video game characters, who face running out of lives, organize a musical fundraiser to collect

the gold rings necessary to continue playing. Heroes, villains, and sidekicks unite in an unprecedented collaboration, showcasing teamwork like never before. This 8-bit musical promises to captivate audiences, delivering heartwarming moments and unexpected twists.

Tickets: <https://kazoocivic.ludus.com/200453501>

Performance Dates:

Saturday, February 8 at 2 PM*

Sunday, February 9 at 2 PM

Wednesday, February 12 at 10 AM

Thursday, February 13 at 10 AM

Friday, February 14 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 15 at 2 PM

Sunday, February 16 at 2 PM

*Saturday, February 8 – Sensory Friendly Performance, and ASL Interpretation and audio description services available.

For seating assistance and additional information please contact the box office at 269-343-1313

Ticket Prices:

\$15 – single tickets (all ages)

\$10 – non-school groups (15 or more tickets)

\$8 – school groups (15 or more tickets)

Group Rates – Please call the Box Office at 269-343-1313 to purchase.

About the Penguin Project: <https://kazoocivic.com/penguin-project/>

Since 2004, The Penguin Project has given differently abled children and adults, "Artists," a chance to perform and showcase their creativity. As needed, Artists are paired with Mentors who help them shine onstage. Our Artists are the stars of the show, stepping into the character, taking on lines, solos, and choreography. Meanwhile, Mentors, assist and support their Artists throughout the rehearsal process while performing side by side with the Artists on stage during the show, serve as understudies, and are an active part of our chorus. This pairing celebrates everyone and fosters friendship-building across all abilities.

Music and Lyrics by Denver Casado

Book by Denver Casado and Brian Dawson

Press Start! is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press (www.bbbpress.com)

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[Taproot: A Play on Justice & Judgment by v.f. thompson](#)

February 13 - 16, 2025 at 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm

Presented by [Queer Theatre Kalamazoo](#) and [Kalamazoo Public Library](#) at [Kalamazoo Public Library - Central Library](#), 315 South Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Set over the course of an informal meeting of an activist organization to discuss allegations against one of their members, Taproot is a full length one act play with an intermission that chronicles the tribulations and breakdown of an activist group as they struggle to process something that feels impossible to wrangle. As they argue about the proper response, tensions grow and unspoken feelings burst to the surface. By the end of the night, there are less answers than how they began, and the shape of each character's world is different.



[Blunder Bus Improv Comedy Presents: Valentines Day](#)

Friday, February 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

All aboard for Blunder Bus! *Honk Honk* This Kalamazoo-based group celebrates the comedy of everyday life, blending grounded moments with quirky twists. Some of their signature shows include Its A Blunderful Life, Blunder Bus From Hell, L is for the Way You Laugh With Me, & School's Out. Blunder Bus showcases an eclectic range of personalities, brought to life by an incredible ensemble of performers. All graduates of the Crawlspace Comedy Theatre, the current cast of Blunder Bus features Matt Claus, Jimmy Desautels, Gianna Kozel, Hayden Lane-Davies, Emma Morris, Dan Proczko, & Elissa Zimmer.

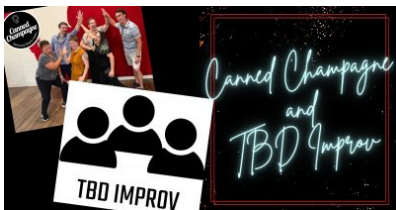
Show Date: February 14

Show Time: 7:30-9p

Tickets: \$12

Doors Open: 6:30p

Intended for mature audiences.



[Canned Champagne & TBD – Improv Comedy](#)

Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Canned Champagne
Described as “an eclectic group of improv-ers...a variety pack, if you will,” Canned Champagne is classy, yet down to earth; effervescent, yet digestible; bursting with flavor, yet sturdy in their aluminum casing. Graduates of the Crawlspace Comedy Theatre improv program, this group is ready to have fun and get silly!

TBD

Veteran Improvisors Tom Blandford, Bryan Day, & Dann Sytsma's powers combine to create TBD!

Show Date: February 15

Show Time: 7:30-9p

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30p

Intended for mature audiences.

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[Legendary Voices: Art for the Next Century](#)

Through February 16, 2025

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

For 100 years, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts has served as an art museum and community-based art school for local, regional, and national audiences. In honor of our centennial, the KIA is proud to present *Legendary Voices: Art for the Next Century*. This exciting exhibition pairs and occasionally groups artworks from different periods, artists, and genres creating compelling connections and dialogues, while also illuminating the breadth of the KIA's collection. Themes such as abstraction, environment, identity, and portraiture converge with artistic expressions and innovative practices offering shared narratives and often unexpected parallels. These thoughtful and at times, unusual, selections offer new perspectives and deeper insights into artistic processes spanning several centuries, while also emphasizing notable events and moments during the last century.

Legendary Voices: Art for the Next Century also explores how artists grapple with the human condition, question society's most pressing issues, and draw from their unique cultural contexts and individual experiences. Expect new and familiar works in dialogues that offer fresh ways to consider age-old subjects and genres of artmaking, while also celebrating the distinctiveness of the KIA's collection, its arts school, and educational programs.



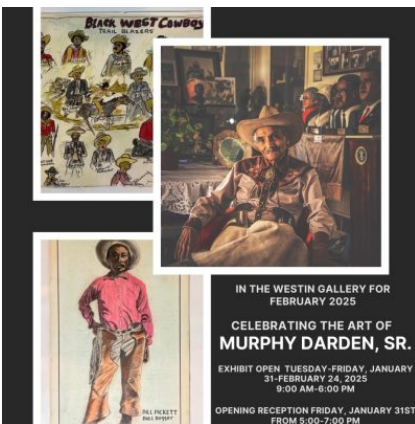
["Where They Live: Drawings by Emily Luyk"](#)

Through February 13, 2025

Presented by [Kellogg Community College | Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center](#), 450 North Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017

Luyk's exhibit, titled "Where They Live," will run through Feb. 13 in the Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center's Eleanor R. and Robert A. DeVries Gallery, on campus at 450 North Ave. in Battle Creek.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular gallery hours, which are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays.



[The Art of Murphy Darden, Sr.](#)

Tuesday – Friday, February 4 - 21, 2025 from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Presented by [James C. Westin Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#), 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Art of Murphy Darden, Sr. will be exhibited in the Westin Gallery from, Tuesday, February 4 through February 21, 2025. Stop in to see the work of a Kalamazoo legend Tuesday – Fridays 9:00 am – 6:00 pm with an opening reception Friday, January 31, 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Art will be on sale at the exhibit and proceeds will go to benefit grants programs of the Arts Council. Born in 1928 in the Deep South, Murphy Darden, Sr. was what is sometimes called an "outsider artist," one who has come up outside the traditional art world. He was self-taught, learning

about art by drawing as a kid with his twin brother, Irvin. Always on a limited income, he used materials he had at hand. Murphy was creating and always working on some artistic pursuit or other, right up until he died. The lifelong mission of Murphy Darden, Sr. was to educate us about the cruelty of slavery and discrimination and to celebrate what African



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Americans were able to achieve in the face of overwhelming odds. He believed in telling the truth about Black History so that it would never happen again. He used his passion as an artist and black historian to educate. He spoke out against the injustices of slavery and the unfairness of discrimination that occurred from the post-Civil War period up to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. He believed in telling Black History – the truth of it – as it was and proclaiming the rights gained during the Civil Rights Movement to protect those rights into the future.