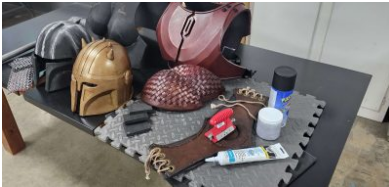


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FREE EVENTS



Southwest Michigan Makers Network meetup

Sunday, January 12 – March 23, 2025 at 3:00 pm
 Presented by [Serendipity Spot, LLC](#) and [Kzoo Makers](#), 1102 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

The Southwest Michigan Makers Network meetup will be held twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays from 3:00-4:30 pm. You will have a chance to introduce yourself and a maker-related topic, then mingle and participate in a group activity. Bring a project if you have one you'd like to share. You are invited to come down and see who is in your network. Connect on Discord <https://discord.gg/mT86YZXm33> Looking forward to seeing you there! P.S. If you would like to join remotely, please connect to the Kzoo Makers voice chat on Discord.



Gallery Gathering: Karl Knaths' Wounded Tree and Harold David Landes' Pink Tree

Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:30 pm
 Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

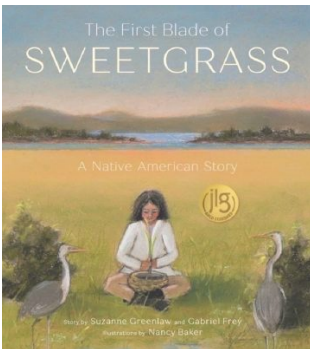
Take a closer look at two paintings featured in the Legendary Voices exhibition: Karl Knaths' Wounded Tree and Harold David Landes' Pink Tree. How do these artists approach similar subject matter in distinctive ways? Gallery stools will be available. Please note that this event will not be livestreamed or posted on YouTube. [Gallery Gatherings](#) are short, lightly-moderated conversations about selected artworks from ongoing exhibitions. Chairs and gallery stools are available for guests.

This program is free, but preregistration is encouraged.



Free Thursdays at the KIA

Thursday, February 6 - December 18, 2025
 Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
 Enjoy free general admission and extended hours until 8pm on Thursdays, thanks to generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program and the Efrogmson Family Fund.



Art Detectives: The First Blade of Sweet Grass

Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 10:30 am
 Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Let's learn about landscapes! We'll begin with a book to see how the illustrator expresses them, visit the galleries to observe how artists portray them, and finally, you'll create one of your own to take home. [Art Detectives](#) is a free program for children 4-8 years old (but all ages are welcome). Join us as we read a story, look at art, and make a project to take home. Caregivers must stay with their children at all times. This is a free program; preregistration is encouraged. Adults, remember to register your children!

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HISTORY & HERITAGE



["Social Justice Through a Hip-Hop Lens" with Ed Genesis](#)

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Presented by [Kellogg Community College](#) at Kellogg Community College Kellogg Room, 450 North Ave.

Genesis, a longtime hip-hop artist based in Kalamazoo, will speak on the topic of "Social Justice Through a Hip-Hop Lens," examining how the art form relates to social justice issues including racism, mass incarceration, class, violence, and gender. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include a light free lunch for those attending in the Kellogg Room.

KIDS & FAMILY



[Wonder Walk: I Spy...](#)

Friday, February 7, 2025 at 10:30 am

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

There are so many things to find in the art on the walls. Let's take a walk through the galleries and see what we can spy with our little eyes.

The Wonder Walk will include close looking at a few artworks as well as gallery games and activities. This is a great way to introduce your little one to art and the

museum. Wonder Walks is for children 2-4 years old (but all are welcome) and is free with the cost of admission.

Caregivers must stay with their children at all times. Preregistration is encouraged. Adults, remember to register your children!

MUSIC



[Alexandre Kantorow with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Chenery Auditorium](#), 714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

Julian Kuerti, Conductor

Alexandre Kantorow, Piano

Named a Gilmore Artist in 2024, French pianist Alexandre Kantorow has been enjoying a career of meteoric acceleration. He returns to Kalamazoo to perform what has been called the "Mount Everest of concertos" – Brahms' Second Piano Concerto. The evening begins with Kantorow tackling Rachmaninoff's rarely performed First Piano Sonata. He was the first French pianist to win the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition along with the Grand Prix – awarded together only three times in competition history.

Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Zaide Pixley in Room 130

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[Symphonic Beats: Celebrating Hip Hop Culture](#)

Friday, February 7, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#) and [Soul Artistry LLC](#) at [Kalamazoo Central High School](#), 2432 North Drake Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Curated by hip hop educator, emcee, and artist Dr. Kandace “DC” Lavender, this event highlights and honors hip hop and its significance as an artistic movement centering the contributions and voices of African Americans within this cultural phenomenon.

Experience the spoken word, poetry, dance, and musical artistry of our community in a concert featuring a DJ, dancers, rappers, singers, and instrumentalists backed by your

Kalamazoo Symphony!



[1871 Tap Room](#)

Saturday, Feb 8, 2025 at 8:00 pm

Presented by [Weis and Hunt Duo](#) at 1871 Tap Room, 107 S Main St Plainwell, MI 49080

Appearing at the Tap Room is the Weis and Hunt Duo. This is variety music at its finest. Bob Weis is the Vocalist and plays a nice melodic Guitar. Bob Hunt is on the synthophone, sax and windcontroller. Our specialty is the ability to play at levels so Wait people can hear to take orders and patrons can carry on normal conversations. We use a Bose sound system that is as pristine as it gets. You will hear songs from Dave Brubeck, Jerry Rafferty, Glen Fry, Irvin Berlin, Willie Nelson, Larry Carlton etc..

THEATRE



[Disney's The Lion King](#)

January 29 – February 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm

Presented by [Western Michigan University - Miller Auditorium](#), 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

More than 100 million people around the world have experienced the awe-inspiring visual artistry, the unforgettable music, and the uniquely theatrical storytelling of this Broadway spectacular – one of the most breathtaking and beloved productions ever to grace the stage.

Winner of six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, THE LION KING brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. Tony Award®-winning director **Julie Taymor** brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. THE LION KING also features the extraordinary work of Tony Award®-winning choreographer **Garth Fagan** and some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award®-winning artists **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**. There is simply nothing else like THE LION KING.

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[All the Natalie Portmans](#)

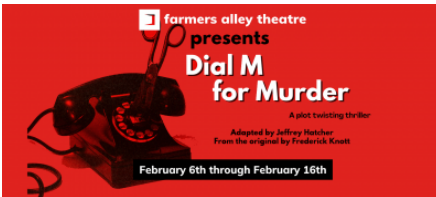
Thursday – Sunday, January 31 - February 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm

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

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.



[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. 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 16th. 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. Williams 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. Dial M for Murder runs for two weeks from Feb 6 through Feb 16, 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 1 hour

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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.



[Crawlspace Eviction – Improv Comedy](#)

Friday & Saturday, February 7 – February 8, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

Since 2003, Crawlspace Eviction has been delivering laughs, chortles, and guffaws to Kalamazoo. See what happens when what's next is ANYBODY'S

guess? Get ready for a face-melting good time!

Show Dates:

February 7 – [TICKETS](#)

February 8 – [TICKETS](#)

Show Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30 pm

Intended for mature audiences.



[Titanic the Musical](#)

Sunday & Saturday, February 8 - 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm

Presented by [WMU University Theatre](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Story and Book by Peter Stone | Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Orchestrations by Ian Weinberger

Produced on Broadway by Dodger Endemol Theatricals, Richard S. Pechter and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

The Schools of Music and Theatre & Dance present an exciting collaboration for the College of Fine Arts! Epic and majestic, with moments of heartbreaking intimacy, Titanic captures the triumph and tragedy of the hopeful passengers on the ill-fated Ship of Dreams. "A masterpiece of modern theatre that is packed with emotion...Maury Yeston's melodic tunes soar through the auditorium as if on wings." – Anne Cox, Stage Review

VISUAL ARTS



[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

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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.



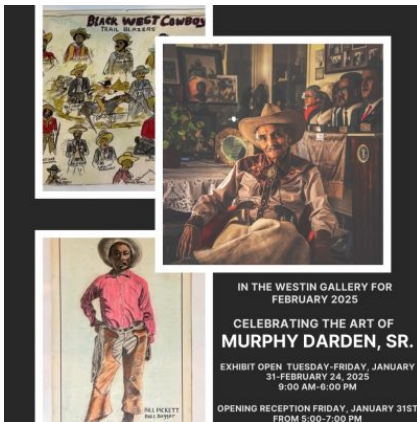
["Where They Live: Drawings by Emily Luyk"](#)

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 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.