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Meet the 18 cities and towns that came together to premiere public art expressions on July 27th, 2024.



CHICAGO, IL

On July 27th, Healing Arts Chicago hosted a city-wide celebration and creative summit featuring artists, leaders, arts organizations, and health institutions, in a day of making, learning, and discussing through workshops, conversations, performances, and interactive experiences. The event took place at Malcolm X College Conference Center and featured mural art making, screen printing, life-sized pinatas, interactive puppets, chair yoga, panel discussions, food vendors, and more. Workshops were led by Healing Arts artist apprentices who have earned their community health worker certification at Malcolm X College and now provide creative services at five of the City's mental health clinics. The day highlighted the versatility of the community health worker role and demonstrated ways artists and cultural workers can be powerful members of the "wellness workforce."



IMAN CHICAGO



On July 27th, IMAN Chicago demonstrated "the world as it could be" by way of a local festival that centered reclamation, reimagining, and redemption in the newly developed Go Green Griot Plaza, located at 63rd & Racine in Englewood. The outdoor celebration featured a commemoration of the new wall and ground murals, live music, poetry, storytelling, dance, fresh foods, cooking demonstrations, movement classes, a ceramics demonstration, a community drum circle, screen printing, activities for children, and visual art activations. Headliners included Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter John Forté, poet, writer and lyricist Aja Monet, Grammy-nominated hip-hop artist Vic Mensa, and IMAN's very own singer-songwriter Binta.

EDINBURG, TX



On July 27th, the City of Edinburg's downtown came alive with art & wellness extravaganza, FridaFest. The night began with the premiere of *¡Despierta!*, an original musical about the Rio Grande Valley region, starring 75 community members. Following the musical premiere, the FridaFest outdoor grounds flooded with inspiring public art commissions; dynamic demonstrations by artists, health & wellness partners and local performers; and culminating headliner: Mexico City's flamenco-jazz band, Jenny and the Mexicats. Set against the backdrop of the city's new Arts, Culture, and Events Center (A.C.E.), FridaFest honored women's empowerment and the legacy of Frida Kahlo while embracing themes of healing, belonging, and the rich tapestry of Edinburg's cultural scene.

GAINESVILLE, FL



On July 27th, the City of Gainesville hosted Summer (You)th Celebration. Produced by Broadway director and Gainesville native Marion J. Caffey, the celebration was a culmination to the city's two year initiative working to harness the power of arts and culture to promote community healing and reduce youth gun violence. The afternoon began at the historic Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center with conversations with Gainesville artists, including curator and artist Yvonne Ferguson and filmmakers Shareen Baptiste, MyQueal Lewis, and Gabrielle Byam. In the evening, attendees settled in for a night of performances at Depot Park, including a performance by "The Voice" and "American Idol" alum, Wé Ani, and a special appearance by acclaimed television, film, and Broadway star Wendell Pierce. The day also saw arts activations from the University of Florida's Shands Hospital, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for "HeART Wall: A Love Letter to Gainesville from Gainesville"

HARLAN COUNTY, KY



On July 27th, MAMAW Fest (Mountains of Appalachia Music Arts and Wellness Festival) took place all day on the streets of downtown Harlan, Kentucky. A celebration of community care, the day featured headlining duo, The Local Honeyes, as well as local artists, vendors, musicians, and healthcare providers from around the county, culminating in an evening performance of *Angels Unaware*, the 10th theater production of arts collective Higher Ground— written, performed, and created by local community members.

HAWAI'I ISLAND, HI

On July 27th, Vibrant Hawai'i's art fellows exhibited the culmination of their year-long work in 11 artistic showcases held across Hawai'i Island. These 11 artists joyfully engaged their community in artistic sharings ranging from visual arts, natural fiber weavings, devised theater, music performances, kapa (Hawaiian barkcloth) workshops, participatory quilting, writing, marathon racing, and more. Showcase locations included Waimea, Kapa'au, Kailua-Kona, Holualoa, Kealahou (Kainaliu-town), Ka'awaloa, Hilo, Pāhoa, Mountain View, and Volcano. The day highlighted the powerful role of artists to bring community together in celebration of place, home, and connection.



HONOLULU, HI



On July 27th, O'ahu welcomed all to Honolulu's Thomas Square, the site of the restoration of Hawai'i's sovereignty in 1843, as part of an outdoor celebration surrounding Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day). The day celebrated community-created works rooted in place and created in real time. Hands-on activities with organic mediums were shared, including lauhala (pandanus), 'ohe (bamboo), and niu (coconut), as well as exhibitions of *Hō'eu Mana*, a photography series highlighting art and stories of abundance that bring new life to Hawaiian 'āina (land), people, and communities. The day also included breakdancing workshops, traditional performances, and an abundance of telling of mo'olelo (stories).

KANSAS CITY, MO



On July 27th, Art as Mentorship, founded by the band Making Movies, hosted Celebrate AMERIKANA, a music and arts festival that brought together national, local, and youth performers in a celebration of the diverse origins and colors of American music *and* the historic Northeast district of Kansas City. The festival featured Rubén Albarrán of the Mexican rock band Café Tacvba, Justus West, youth performers from Art as Mentorship's Rebel Song Academy, and more from the vibrant Kansas City arts community. This festival also featured Mercado, an international open-air market showcasing local artists, creators, growers, small businesses, and local food trucks.

OAKLAND, CA



On July 27th, Edutainment for Equity hosted “No Place Like the Town” – a public dialogue and interactive art exhibition designed to collectively acknowledge both the pain and power of life in Oakland and to affirm a commitment to its current motto, “Love life” as well as the ethos of Oakland’s elders, “All power to the people.” The event featured an art, health and wellness fair, local vendors, live music, and performances by well-known Oakland artists, including internationally renowned spoken word poet Marc Bamuthi Joseph, and a live mix by DJ D Sharp, official DJ of the Golden State Warriors. Attendees participated in interactive art activities including an augmented reality self-guided exhibition of race and equity data, with facilitated activities designed to invite residents to imagine a more equitable future Oakland.

PHILLIPS COUNTY, AR

On July 26-28th, Phillips County artists and organizers brought the Phillips County residents and diaspora members together to celebrate “home” and amplify the dire need for clean water in the community. On July 27th, community members gathered during the day at Court Square Park for the “There’s No Place Like Home” Festival to celebrate the new community splash pad and enjoy local food and live performances. In the evening, a live catfish fry and live gospel choir concert, Living Waters, were held on the banks of the Mississippi River at Helena River Park. Throughout the weekend, artist collective Hollerin Space presented HOLD ON: Blue Hole Homecoming, leading a traveling, tailgating caravan along rivers and waterways of Phillips County, broadcasting the event via radio stream as well. To close, on Sunday, July 28th, 21 sponsoring churches hosted a special homecoming service, coming together under the theme “There’s No Place Like Home.”

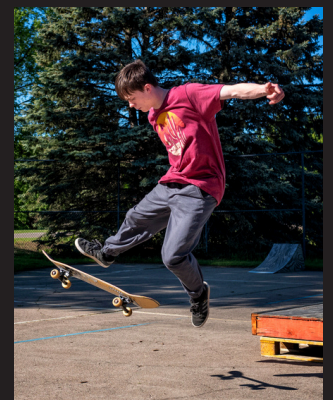


PROVIDENCE, RI



On July 27th, local artists-in-residence and community members of two Providence Housing Authority sites showcased their artistic work created over the course of an 18-month artist residency and celebrating community connection and healing through the arts. Led by artist Carolina Briones at Carroll Towers, residents unveiled a community mural installed in the building's community center. The afternoon also included a domino competition and community brunch; live jazz, reggae and merengue performances; a performance by Teatro ECAS; resident-led art lessons and a gallery exhibit of community members' work. In the evening, led by artist Vatic Kuumba at Chad Brown, residents premiered "Casa Futura," a short stop motion film with multimedia performances created with residents commemorating their past, present, and future journeys. The evening was kicked off by community-led processions and also included resident performances and gallery showings, a community dinner, as well as bomba and plena music performances from the Puerto Rican Institute for the Arts (PRIA).

RHINELANDER, WI



On July 27th, ArtStart, the City of Rhineland, local artists and youth skaters partnered to create "Push Against Loneliness," a day celebrating community and belonging in Rhineland. The event kicked off with a Skate Jam celebrating the proposed location for Rhineland's new skate park, petitioned in 2021 by youth activist and skater group, Over It!. Attendees then engaged in a "Walk Against Social Isolation" to the site of the new, interactive public sculpture, designed by artists Witt Siasoco and Norma Dycus Pennycuff. Following the sculpture dedication, the day featured various art activities, a tree planting, and concluded with a community meal and entertainment by local performing artists.

SEATTLE, WA



On July 26th, Wing Luke Museum hosted JamFest, a free and all-ages outdoor event in the historic Canton and Maynard Alleys and along Seventh Avenue to highlight the rich historical, cultural, and artistic vibrancy of Seattle's Chinatown-International District. The day included sound baths, Cantonese opera, martial arts and community workouts, performances and demonstrations led by the Seattle Chinese Community Girls Drill Team, cabaret shows, printmaking workshops led by Artist Erin Shigaki, and joyful expression led by event emcee Aleksa Manila. Through music, dance, mixed media installations, murals, games, and more, the event proudly celebrated the community's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander migrant roots and culture.



THE BRONX, NY



On July 27th, Urban Health Plan (UHP) brought back "Fiesta San Juan," a time-honored, daylong community celebration to highlight the deep connection between the arts and health in the Bronx borough of New York City. "Fiesta San Juan Presents Arts for EveryBody" kicked off with a parade, led by a local marching band, delighting community members and inviting them to join the fun. Event goers spent the day at UHP's main site, El Nuevo San Juan Health Center, where music and dance performances by hip hop and rap artists as well as merengue, salsa, swing and Bengali dancers entertained all day long. Bronx residents enjoyed cooking demonstrations, visual arts exhibitions, conversations on social prescribing, and community art classes led by local artists and UHP Arts for EveryBody's partners both indoors and outdoors.

TUCSON, AZ



On July 27th, Borderlands Theater hosted “Art is Vital: An Art and Wellness” fiesta to celebrate Latiné and Chicax home and heritage in the heart of Tucson. The evening kicked off with a concert reading of *Anita*, a new musical about the power of joy to create a sense of home and belonging, and was followed by live mariachi music, heritage food booths offering Mexican, Cuban and Salvadorian cuisine, art exhibits and art activities, poetry tarot card readings, and interactive activities promoting the connection between arts participation and wellbeing. Tucson Mayor Regina Romero also announced the winners of the “Art is Vital” art contest, as a part of the ongoing narrative strategy campaign to build a local understanding of arts and culture as being essential to individual and community health.

UTICA, MS



On July 27th, Homegrown Utica Fest took place on Main Street to celebrate and showcase local food culture, the arts, and community connectedness. Led by Sipp Culture in partnership with the Town of Utica, Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center, the Utica Library, and a team of community members, the day was a celebration of a larger, community-wide initiative to drive access to healthy foods and foster sustainable working relationships within the town. Festivities included live music, food and craft vendors from the county, presentations of public art commissions, and art activations on Main Street, at Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Clinic and within the Utica Library. Residents were invited to add their handprints to a new community mural and celebrate the groundseeding of Sipp Culture’s new Main Street Cultural Space, illustrating the revitalization possible through strong local collaborations driven by art and culture.

WINSTON-SALEM, NC



On July 27th, arts and health leaders in Winston-Salem presented “Creative Wellness Community Day,” an arts and health fair hosted by local Federally Qualified Health Center, United Health Center. The day opened with traditional West African dance and djembe drumming and featured interactive creative spaces for youth and families, an ice cream truck, and live performances by local artists in disciplines such as spoken word, singing, storytelling, and more. Free health screenings were provided in addition to various health resource vendors, all in celebration of Winston-Salem's commitment to healing through the arts.

WASHINGTON, DC



On July 27th, led by Words, Beats and Life, “DMV Made” brought together creatives from throughout the DMV region to celebrate home on the National Mall. This outdoor festival centered on hip-hop theater, performance poetry, and live music, including jazz, go-go, punk, hip-hop, and renowned music ensembles The Blackbyrds and Sweet Honey in the Rock as headliners. The day included live mural painting, large-scale crochet workshops, educational workshops, puppeteering, face painting, bubble making for children, and a celebration of food from the many cultures that comprise Washington, D.C. DMV Made was an opportunity to showcase the human and material treasures of the region on a national stage while also coordinating across health systems to promote storytelling, art access, and the impact of arts on social isolation and cohesion.

