

Year three wrap-up from the School of the Arts



Projections on Phelps Mansion at First Friday, May 1, 2026

Festival of the Arts and Research Days

Photo credit: Robert Fischer

Happy Summer from the School of the Arts!

As we wrap up our third year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished this year.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND RESEARCH DAYS

*Mark your calendar: the Festival of the Arts returns next year the **Week of April 26, 2027 + both weekends.***

In our third year, the **Festival of the Arts** teamed up with **Research Days** and **Admitted Students Days** for a far broader reach than ever. On admitted students day, nearly 3,000 prospective and current students experienced the arts at Binghamton through live performances, screen-printing, and mini-class workshops.

Our Research Days collaboration introduced the Arts to an entirely new group of students, and we extended into the surrounding community as well, with performances and exhibitions at venues including **Phelps Mansion** and **Stellar Human**.

The role of the arts in research received a major plug in the introduction to the **Keynote Presentation by Astronaut Jeanette Epps**.

We also introduced a new initiative, with School of the Arts (SOAR) faculty presenting **short research talks** highlighting current projects, publications, and creative work.

This was all part of our incredibly **full festival schedule**, with nearly 50 events over the week, including Momenta at the Museum, Student Recitals and performances, a lighting exhibit, Chess the Musical, large-scale projections on the Library Tower, and much much more!

A QUICK YEAR IN REVIEW

Of course, the foundation of the School of the Arts is its departments and partners: **Art & Design, Art History, Cinema, Music, Theatre, Creative Writing, the Binghamton University Art Museum (BUAM), and the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts**. Together, we organized **hundreds of events** that included our students, faculty, staff and invited artists and scholars.

Thanks to the generous support of donors to the **School of the Arts General Fund**, students and faculty were provided with the resources for many of these cross-disciplinary initiatives, as well as the Festival of the Arts and more!

- School of the Arts Inaugural Visiting Artist Tony Cokes
- SOAR @ LUMA Projection Arts Festival
- Rosefsky Gallery at the 2025 Broome Art Trail
- Crossing the Boundaries: Art History Graduate Student Union's Annual Conference
- Drawing Marathon at Kilmer Mansion
- One Pulse multicultural dance performance at Chamber Hall
- Word of Mouth at the Binghamton University Art Museum
- 2025 Haudenosaunee Festival: Sharri Hopper and the Onondaga Nation Dancers
- Re/Sonic: New Music for East Asian Instruments at Chamber Hall
- Japanese Indigo Workshop with visiting artist Iviva Olenick
- Housing Materials and Methods Workshop with Luisa Casella, Paper Conservator (with Binghamton University Art Museum)

Support for the Arts

The School of the Arts was chosen to receive the final installment from the **Strategic Priority 4 fund**, which supported the following community engagement events and opportunities:

- First Friday: On by a Thread, a wearable sculpture show at Stellar Human, Binghamton
- Lighting internships at Tri-Cities Opera
- Creative Writing workshops at Broome County Jail
- Musical Theatre Cabaret at the Firehouse Stage
- Sonic Immersion: interactive sound art at HCS Arts Center
- First Friday: Art and Poetry in a Pickup Truck on State Street
- Laptop Orchestra and Source Project Arts stream at HCS Arts Center
- Metamorfsnart exhibition at HCS Arts Center
- Personal Cinema: To Whom It May Concern at the Bundy Museum
- Rendered Realities: interactive media art installation at Stellar Human
- Live Art Experience: Source Project Arts stream at HCS Arts Center
- First Friday: 3D stereoscopic performance at Phelps Mansion

The newly created Ronald G. and Betty B. Goodwin Performing Arts

Endowment helped support many professional opportunities for students this year, including:

- School of the Arts Inaugural Visiting Artist Tony Cokes
- Student internship at Fridman Gallery, Lower East Side, NYC
- Five Opera students to perform at Prague Summer Nights festival
- Grant Writing in the Arts workshop with Anna Warfield
- Student Leadership workshop with Compassionate Leaders Circle
- Three students' performance at the Vladimir Film Festival in Croatia

- On-Camera Acting workshop and film screening with Carolyn Michelle Smith
- Student and Momenta performance at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, coming April 9, 2027

The Harpur Dean's Graduate Investment Fund, supported by alumnus **Mitchell J. Lieberman '80 and Susan Lieberman**, provided programmatic support for graduate students to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2027, take part in Theatre Week in New York City, and attend the RPM Festival in Boston. The fund also supported the following individual graduate student projects in the arts:

- Research presentation at Docomomo Conference in Los Angeles, USA
- Research Presentation at Association for Art History (AAH) Annual Conference in Cambridge, UK
- Research on the Situationist International's influence on North American radicals
- SAH Latrobe Biennial and Frick Symposium conference presentations
- Research on Yang Haegue's installation art
- *Devotion*, a 16mm thesis film
- *Residue*, a film project exploring expired film stock and decomposition
- Wilderness Film Expedition workshop in handmade emulsions and eco-friendly developers
- Poetry manuscript book prize submissions
- AWP Conference participation
- Pond Hill Writers' Retreat participation
- *Not Like That At All*, a coming-of-age novel
- Travel support for Prague Summer Nights Festival performance
- Composer/Performer at New Music on the Point Festival participation
- *FORX* music album development and release
- *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, the musical
- Research on Shakespeare in Bangladeshi academic theatre
- *Cielito Lindo*, a performance research residency in Mexico and related thesis performance

Cross-Disciplinary Mixers and Events:

- GradShare! and Grad Student Arts Grant Info session
- Two StressFreeBing Art Mixers with the Binghamton University Art Museum
- SOARJam2: An interdisciplinary jam session at Chamber Hall

Increased visibility of the Arts to prospective students:

- Auditions in NYC for Musical Theatre BFA and Bachelor of Music in Performance increased our presence in New York City
- Tours of the Arts Building at all major Admissions events introduced prospective students and families to our offerings

- School of the Arts students designed many of the posters that graces our halls in the Fall

Lithium Landscapes:

The Lithium Landscapes project brings together artists from the School of the Arts with a battery chemist and environmental engineer at Binghamton University's NorthEast Center for Chemical Energy Storage, directed by Nobel laureate M. Stanley Whittingham. This year, the team visited the Rochester Institute of Technology and Kodak battery projects, partnered with Southern Arkansas University for tours of lithium mines and related sites, and began preparing an interactive lithium-ion battery performance with local elementary schools.

It has been quite a year!

Wishing you a restful and inspiring summer,

Christopher Robbins
Founding Director, School of the Arts
Harpur College, Binghamton University

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Students and Departments: Open Call for Tabling at ART FEST 2026**

Please submit this **form** if your arts organization / student group would like to participate in the Art Fest 2026.

The Fest will be held on **August 28th, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.** with a free lawn ticket(s) to the "So Good: The Neil Diamond Experience" concert to follow, courtesy of the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts.

We will reach out to you in August with more information.

- **Call for artists: Broome Arts Festival**

BCAC's inaugural outdoor art festival event is in celebration of their 40-year history of promoting the arts in Broome County! It's a single-day event to take place on State Street, on Saturday, September 19th, with a rain date of Sunday, September 20th. Read more and apply **HERE**.

- **First Friday Funding**

Support is available for student, staff, and faculty projects at Binghamton's First Friday. Apply here.

- **Want your event documented? Let us know!**

If you have an event you'd like photographed or filmed, please submit a

request at least two weeks in advance to our Student Media Team. Media Team Request Form

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2026

Please see below for highlights from each department, and check out the [School of the Arts calendar](#) for much, much more. [Subscribe from your phone](#) for easy access.



ANDERSON CENTER

Summer Concert Series

Rick Springfield

7/17 | 8 p.m.

Osterhout Concert Theater |

[Ticketed](#)

ANDERSON CENTER

Summer Concert Series

Bad Co. Legacy

8/13 | 8 p.m.

Osterhout Concert Theater | [Ticketed](#)





SOAR & ANDERSON CENTER

Art Fest 2026

8/26 | 6.p.m.

Grand Corridor | Free Admission

Registration for tabling required

ANDERSON CENTER

Summer Concert Series

***So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience
starring Robert Neary***

8/28 | 8 p.m.

Osterhout Concert Theater | [Ticketed](#)



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