

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

**EMPORIA  
FIRST  
FRIDAY**

**ART WALK**

**32**

Participating Venues

**973**

Passport Submitted

### MISSION

Promote cultural growth by connecting artists to the community.

**105**

Solo/Duo Pop Up Shows

**12**

Art Walks

**11**

Live Music Events

**1**

Marriage Proposal

**49**

Group/Gallery Shows



### OBJECTIVES

- 1 Provide a platform for artists to interact with customers, develop their professional skills, and monetize their creativity.
- 2 Deliver a consistent, continually evolving community event each month and encourage involvement in the Arts.
- 3 Increase foot-traffic and visibility for small businesses that serve as Art Walk venues.



## Art Walks

Once a month, our quiet town comes alive to feast on craft and talent. We buzz down the sidewalk, stop one another to show off new paintings, earrings, bowls, and bread we bought from the people we know every other day as the babysitter, the banker, the mechanic, the judge.

Our hands full of treasures, the natural next step, a nightcap at the pub. The band gives us the soundtrack of the night. We toast to creation, break bread together—tokens of companionship, our communion.

Back home, we are full. We hang our new painting, lay our earrings in our heirloom jewelry box, make the bowl the dining room centerpiece.

Everything around us—the way we live—art.



**LINZI GARCIA** loves being a poet and auntie. She is the author of *Thank You* and co-author of *While Away: Travel Poems* and *Live a Great Story*. The publicist and a poetry editor for Meadowlark Press, she also serves on the board of House of Morrow, an arts and service nonprofit. She lives in Emporia and tends bar at Mulready's Pub.

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## Thank You From Us

2024 was a busy year and a fantastic time for art in Emporia. As we reflect back, we are proud of the accomplishments of local artists and appreciative of our community's support of the Arts.

Our mission has not changed since Emporia First Friday's inception in 2016— to give artists an opportunity to show their art and connect with the community. Looking ahead to 2025, we hope to continue this endeavor— providing Emporia with a consistent, fun event that enriches us all.

We are extremely grateful for the artists, walkers, businesses, and partnerships that support our efforts. Thank you for contributing to this meaningful event.

See you at the Art Walk!

Kaila and Kat



## EFF Staff and 2024 Board of Directors

Kaila Mock, *Executive Director*  
Kat Dorcas, *Marketing Manager*  
Joel Smith, *Events Specialist*

Kristin Oberle, *Chair*  
Dave Leiker, *Vice-Chair*  
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Katherine Eusey-Zuckerman  
Mary Kretsinger  
Meghan Worthing

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**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **JANUARY 5** 5-8 pm

FEATURED ARTIST  
**NICK PERRY**

Presenting Venue: **627 BAR & GRILL**  
Sponsor: **MITCHELL MARKOWITZ CONSTRUCTION**

**46** Completed Passports  
**8** Participating Venues  
**100%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **February 2** 5-8 pm

Featured Artist  
**Jeff Quintana**

Presenting Venue: **Trox gallery and gifts**  
Sponsor: **PRAIRIELAND**

**83** Completed Passports  
**11** Participating Venues  
**61%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **March 1** 5-8 pm

Featured Artist  
**Onalee Micklin**

Presenting Venue: **De Stijl**  
Sponsor: **SELAGROUP**

**126** Completed Passports  
**16** Participating Venues  
**49%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **APRIL 5** 5-8 pm

FEATURED ART: **ESU ANNUAL JURIED STUDENT EXHIBITION**

5-15 pm in the EAC Truster Gallery:  
ESU Scholarship Award Ceremony followed by announcement of ESU Student Design Competition Winners

Presenting Venue: **EAC EMPORIA ARTS COUNCIL**  
Sponsor: **EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**112** Completed Passports  
**18** Participating Venues  
**27%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **MAY 3** 5-8 pm

FEATURED ART: FHTC Graphic Design Senior Show

**VILLA REAL**  
By Ana Mostacero

**NELU**  
By Abigail Spellman

Presenting Venue: **GRAVEL CITY ROASTERS**  
Sponsor: **FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**60** Completed Passports  
**17** Participating Venues  
**37%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **June 7** 5-8 pm

FEATURED ARTIST  
**Lexi LeBlanc**

Presenting Venue: **LET'S GET PETS**  
Sponsor: **Mary & W. Brock Kretzinger**

**75** Completed Passports  
**16** Participating Venues  
**48%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **July 5** 5-8 pm

Featured Art  
**9th Avenue Mural**

Presenting Venue: **Jeak's Lawn of Pool Store**  
Sponsor: **Tim & Janell North**

Creation and installation by Carr, Kerr & Co. A project to enrich Emporia through the arts by the Community Arts Alliance

**92** Completed Passports  
**12** Participating Venues  
**41%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **AUGUST 2** 5-8 pm

FEATURED ART: **PET PORTRAITS**

Presenting Venue: **MULREADY'S**  
Sponsor: **ESB FINANCIAL**

**50** Completed Passports  
**13** Participating Venues  
**54%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **September 6** 5-8 pm

Featured Artist  
**Rachel Bowes**  
Rapid Arts and Crafts

Presenting Venue: **THE MIDDLE SIGNING**  
Sponsor: **W**

**118** Completed Passports  
**16** Participating Venues  
**34%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **October 4** 5-8 pm

Featured Art  
**Meadow Dance**

Presenting Venue: **9th Avenue Green Space Mural**

Mural creation and installation by Hailey Quick

Learn more about our local ecosystem during the "Wings and Roots Celebration: an Evening of Prairie Art and Science" with special presentations and activities.

Sponsor: **LCSB**

**89** Completed Passports  
**20** Participating Venues  
**35%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **November 1** 5-8 pm

Featured Artists  
**ESU GLASS GUILD**

Sponsor: **Paula Sauder**

**63** Completed Passports  
**16** Participating Venues  
**63%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

**EMPORIA FIRST FRIDAY** **December 6** 5-8 pm

Featured Artist: **Melissa Tastove**  
Presenting Venue: **PlumBazaar**

**59** Completed Passports  
**17** Participating Venues  
**68%** of completed Passports that visited all Venues

# ----- Thank you to our 2024 Partners! -----

## Sustaining

The Mitchell Family

Paula Sauder

The Zuckerman Family

## Platinum

Emporia State University  
ESB Financial  
Flint Hills Technical College  
Mary & W. Brock Kretsinger  
Lyon County State Bank

Mitchell-Markowitz Construction  
Janell and Tim North  
PraireLand Partners  
Sela Group  
Wright CPA Group

## Gold

Rick Becker  
Charpentier Glass  
Emporia Main Street  
IM Design Group  
Lifetime Fitness  
Patsy and Mike Lloyd

Malone Dental  
Sharon and Marshall Miller  
Pam Mock and Don Mock  
Mulready's Pub  
Kristin Oberle  
Trox Gallery and Gifts

## Silver

Tammy and Mike Black  
Tirsten Brockmeier and Todd Henrikson  
Kat and Steve Dorcas  
Rachel and Tim Duncan  
Gravel City Roasters  
Nick Jacob – American Family Insurance  
Cynthia and Brad Kraft  
Kaila Mock and Joel Smith  
Moss Harp Service

Kathy and Larry Putnam  
Radius Brewing Company  
Roberts-Blue-Barnett Funeral Home  
Angie and Mark Schreiber  
Donna and Greg Seibel  
Sharon and Max Stewart  
Toso Family Eye Care  
Dave Watts – Shelter Insurance

## Bronze

The Axe Shedd  
Samantha Banks  
Rhonda Denney and Ray Fallen  
Roberta Eichenberg and  
Patrick Martin  
Pete Euler – State Farm Insurance  
Evergreen Design Build  
Anja and Colin Ford  
Susan Fowler and Bob Grover

Nancy Garcia  
Edna and Brogy Giesen  
Tracey and Doc Graham  
Mona and Randy Guyer  
Sarah Harbaugh and Mark Remmert  
Jerilynn and Duane Henrikson  
Suzanne and Lyle Klamm  
Ann and Steve Knecht  
Alana and Bryan Longwell

Daphne Mayes  
Karen and Michael McTaggart  
Old Rums Liquor  
Ruthann Resch  
Joyce and Michael Reynolds  
Karen Sommers  
The Sweet Granada  
Union Street Social

## Copper

Janet Ackerman  
Stephanie Alaniz  
Sara and Ed Bashaw  
Brian's Lawncare  
Brandi and Jordan Briceland  
Craig Carlson  
Sandra Chapman  
Coffelt Sign Co.  
LeLan Dains & Family  
Fran and James Ehlers  
Lucie and Don Eusey

Lynn Felts  
Flatland Threads  
Dennis Gilligan  
Janice Glanville  
Robbie and Don Hill  
Julie Johnson  
Kansas Girl Soap Co.  
Dave Leiker and Cheryl Unruh  
Lisa and Cecil McKenzie  
Meadowlark Press  
Kelsey Quintana

Lisa Soller and Greg Jordan  
Jane and Robert Symmonds  
Tallgrass Art & Frame  
Stephanie and Brent Thomas  
Thompson Family Dental  
Whitney and Josh Thuma  
Courtney Ward – Edward Jones  
Karen Weatherholt  
Kathy and Ken Weaver  
Aubrey and Nic Wilson  
Erin and Casey Woods