

The Gallery @ Dressler

Somerset County Elementary School & Junior High School Exhibit

Winter can be dreary, so stop by the Dressler Center and immerse yourself in color! At the beginning of every year Laurel Arts is pleased to host the Somerset County student artists exhibit. It is so rewarding to watch the students grow in their artistic abilities year after year.

GRADES K-2



1st Place: Raelynn Whitehead, North Star Central

2nd Place: Hailey Sanner, Maple Ridge

3rd Place: Iris Wahl, Maple Ridge

Honorable Mention: Cecilia Ritko, St. Peter School



GRADES 3-5



1st Place: Ben Korn, Eagle View

2nd Place: Lilian DeWitt, Fish, North Star

3rd Place: Hayden Stevens, North Star

Honorable Mention: Shiloh Miller, Eagle View



GRADES 6-8



1st Place: Christine Inks, North Star

2nd Place: Mya Pelesky, North Star

3rd Place: Lauren Topper, St. Peter School

Honorable Mention: Gracie Gallagher, Somerset Area Jr. High



Upcoming 2026 Exhibits

February 10-28

Somerset County Senior High Student Art Exhibit

Opening Reception: Sunday, Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.

March 10-28

Somerset Area School District Student Art Exhibit

Opening Reception: Sunday, Mar. 15, 2-4 p.m.

April 7-May 7

Textural Visions

Artists Lorna Vincent, Shelley Poli, & Kari Roslund

Opening Reception: Friday, Apr. 10, 6-8 p.m.

Textural Visions

Lorna Vincent, Shelley Poli, & Kari Roslund

The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts is pleased to host an exhibit of these *three* dynamic artists! Ceramic and sculptural artist Lorna Vincent has a way of bringing the clay to life, perfectly capturing expressions and emotions! Artist Shelley Poli's pastels offer a deep, vivid and rich rendering of both the human form and everyday objects. Fiber artist Kari Roslund works primarily in wool paired with unconventional materials that will challenge what you think you know about creating fiber artwork!



Kari Roslund
Fiber Artist



Lorna Vincent
Sculpture/Ceramics



Shelley Poli
Pastel/Watercolor

Thank you

Somerset County Shows Up to Support Laurel Arts Fundraisers

Laurel Arts was bustling with new adventures and fundraising efforts during the fall and winter seasons. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the members of our community who sponsored, donated to, and attended these events. November started with the cozy vibes of **Channel Your Flannel**, a music-filled evening with craft cocktails, fall bites, and the musical stylings of Brian Furman, John Larimer, and John Miller III. The month concluded with a packed house for **The Sultan's Pajamas**- a murder mystery held at the Dressler Center. Board Member Rebecca Frola-Biss orchestrated the event, which included Vin De Matrix, a delectable spread of food, and of course murderous intrigue!



December got us into the holiday spirit with **Jingle & Jams: A Night of Cocktails and Christmas with Scott Blasey**. The Hitching Post provided a beautiful backdrop to Scott's soulful performance. Whether guests opted to participate in our VIP Dinner, sponsor a table with charcuterie and dessert boards by Heirloom Pines, or attend as an individual ticket, a wonderfully festive time was had by all. We continued the momentum with participation in the **Uptown Cookie & Cocoa Tour** while we hosted an **Artisan Vendor Market** in our galleries. Cookie connoisseurs were able to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts and view the Somerset County Artists Association exhibit, all while enjoying a deliciously chewy gingerbread man cookie. Artisan vendors included Peggy Black, Kathy Donnelly, David & Sandie Greene, Andrea Hochard, Joy Knepp, and the Laurel Arts Mud Ladies. A special Thank You to Jane Holt for making and donating those delicious gingerbread men cookies!

Top Left: November Fundraisers Channel Your Flannel, and Murder Mystery "The Sultan's Pajamas"

Left: Artisan Vendor Market and Cookie & Cocoa Tour at The Dressler Center

Bottom Left: Jingle & Jams draws a crowd to enjoy a great concert and start the holiday season.



Somerset County Artists Association Member Show 2025



Members of the Somerset County Artist Association showcased current work during November & December. The show made beautiful use of the galleries, showcasing art as both decorative and functional pieces to enhance the beauty of The Dressler Center.

Upcoming Events

Puzzle Fundraiser



Piece by Piece
Sponsored By: Window World
A Curated Puzzle Party @ The Dressler
March 7, 2026
5:00 P.M.
\$80 Per Team
This Family Friendly Fundraiser Includes: Pizza, Dessert & a Take Home Puzzle

Space is LIMITED
Register Your Team of 4 Today!

Join us at The Dressler Center for a night of family friendly fun! Each team will receive the same puzzle and compete to determine the puzzle masters of the evening. Eternal Glory (and some pretty cool prizes) await!

Camps for Young Artists

ART VOYAGE DAY CAMP
DESIGNED FOR HOMESCHOOLERS & YOUNG ARTISTS PRE-K THRU 6TH GRADE
Tuesday Mornings 9am to 11am
\$15 per class



Must Pre-register and prepay - call/text 814-442-6217

February 10 -Valentines Day

With Valentine's Day in a few days, we will create some projects your family and friends will LOVE! Create a canvas of hearts using bubble paints, craft with conversation heart candies, and melt crayons to make a beautiful heart.

February 24 - Winter Waves

After a couple of cold months, let's pretend we are at the beach! We will create some tropical themed art and throw in a snowman or two made from sand and shells.



DON'T MISS OUT!

Follow Laurel Arts on Facebook for Updates on Current Events



Classes & Camps

The best way to get through winter? Immersing yourself in something you love! Winter is the perfect time to explore new hobbies. See our Facebook page and website for the most updated information on classes. Register by stopping in or calling either of our locations.

- 2/23: Winter Zentangle Drawings
- 3/1: Spring Needle Felting Workshop
- 3/15: Necklace Pendant Painting
- 3/10: Intro to Watercolors
- 3/19: Easter Gnome Bunny Painting with Acrylics
- 3/23: Linocut Prints Workshop
- 3/28: Pysanky Egg Workshop
- 4/7: Spring Paraso Painting on Slate

Looking to get moving this winter? We offer **Line Dancing** Mondays from 8PM-9PM and on Wednesdays from 10AM-11AM. No pre-registration is required. You should also check out our **Adult Tap** classes on Saturdays from 9AM-10AM. Pre-registration for this class IS required.



COME ONE...COME ALL...TO THE GREATEST
FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE
ON EARTH!
Join Laurel Arts...
UNDER THE BIG TOP
SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 4PM TO 7PM
OAKHURST GRILLE & EVENT CENTER, 2409 GLADES PIKE, SOMERSET
\$55 PER CHILD/ADULT COUPLE - \$20 ADD ON CHILD OR ADULT
INCLUDES: BUFFET, DESSERT, BEVERAGES, CRAFTS, ENTERTAINMENT WITH DJ DAN BRECKENRIDGE, FREE 5X7 FROM PHOTOGRAPHER BJ SINGO

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS CAN BE PURCHASED

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT LAUREL ARTS-601 GEORGIAN PLACE
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE TICKETS, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT 814-442-6217



TEEN ART CLUB

Join the...

Laurel Arts Teen Art Club

Grades 4 and up
Tuesdays 6pm to 8pm
Please register ahead by calling or texting 814-442-6217.

February 3 & 17 April 14 & 28
March 3 & 17 May 12 & 26



Studio Kids Open House
April 22nd
6-8 P.M.

Laurel Arts CreARTivity Summer Camps

All Camps are located at the EDUCATION & DANCE CENTER, 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

A 50% nonrefundable deposit is required at the time of registration. Payment in full is due no later than two weeks before the start of each camp so that supplies can be ordered in time. Please be sure to sign up early! Space is limited.

Scholarships are available. You can contact the office for more information on how to apply.

TO REGISTER: Call Marsha at (814) 442-6217 or register in person at Laurel Arts, 601 Georgian Place, Somerset • (814) 443-1835

Toddlers Age 1-4

Art Adventures

June 8-10 10am to Noon
Travel to Disney

August 10-12 10am to Noon
Farmer's Market



Pre-K- Grade 3

Young At Art

June 22-26 9A.M.-4P.M.
Recipes Around the World
Cooking Camp

July 6-10 9A.M.-4P.M.
Mythical Creatures

July 20-24 9A.M.-4P.M.
Secret Life of Pets

August 3-7 9A.M.-4P.M.
Night at The Museum



Grades 4- 9

Artolescents

June 15-19 9A.M.-4P.M.
Cooking through the Seasons

July 13-17 9A.M.-4P.M.
12 Districts of Art Camp

July 27-31 9A.M.-4P.M.
Famous Artists through Time



Laurel Arts

Become A Member & SAVE!

Family and Grandparent
Membership Levels(\$70/year)
include \$20 in Dressler Dollars
to apply to classes or camps!

To become a member, write a
check for \$70 and send it with a
note to Laurel Arts, PO Box
414, Somerset, PA 15501
Please include a note with your
contact information so we can
reach out to you detailing all of
the benefits of your
membership!

ART ADVENTURES

Toddlers Age 1-4

10A.M.-12 NOON MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
3 Day Session \$60 Members/ \$75 Non-Members

This series is designed for Toddlers Ages 1-4. Each session lasts 2 hours and is filled with art projects designed for small artists. Introducing art to young children can help build fine motor skills, promote creativity, prepare them for writing, and so much more. Through themed workshops, little artists will be introduced to many different art mediums, for example clay, assorted paint and chalk. They will also play games, create snacks, read stories, and more! We ask that children who are not potty trained are accompanied by an adult. Dress to get messy!

June 8-10 Travel to Disney

Let's create art with some of our favorite characters and stories. Paint with balloons for the movie UP, craft an adorable Olaf, paint a canvas with Frozen paint, and so much more!

August 10-12 Farmer's Market

Fruits and vegetables will be our inspiration for this week's art. Decorate a bag to carry your own market finds, plant some seeds to start your own fresh produce, paint with broccoli...just to name a few.

ARTOLESCENTS

Grades 4-9

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
\$175 Members/\$190 Non-Members

Art for adolescents in grades 4-9 is what this level is designed for. This age group will be able to experience a more advanced art lesson. Students will not only use their creativity to complete art projects but will also learn valuable lessons in cooking, experience new art forms, and talk about famous artists and their works.

June 15-19

Cooking through the Seasons

Warm up in Winter with some fresh baked cookies and some soups from scratch. Bake with fresh carrots and strawberries for a springtime celebration. Create delicious recipes with some summer staples like watermelon and ice cream. Savor the flavors of Autumn using apples and pumpkins. This week, we will create recipes popular during each of the four seasons!

July 13-17

12 Districts of Art Camp

Based on the popular series The Hunger Games, we will create artwork derived from what each of the 12 Districts are known for. Create with beads and gems for District 1, complete a wood burning project for the lumber district, and work with fiber arts for District 8. We will even learn a few survival skills throughout the week!

July 27-31

Famous Artists through Time

From Leonardo da Vinci to Yayoi Kusama, we will travel through time to learn about artists past and present. As we do, we will try to create our own version of what they are famous for. Some will be artists everyone has heard of such as Claude Monet and some may be new to you like Albrecht Durer, a Renaissance master who brought printmaking to a whole new level. With so many art mediums throughout the week, maybe you will find one that you love and want to keep doing!

YOUNG AT ART

Pre-K- Grade 3

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
\$175 Members/\$190 Non-Members

Designed for children ages Pre-k through 3rd grade: Students will use a variety of art mediums to craft themed projects, create delicious snacks, and participate in fun games. From painting, clay work, drawing, to printmaking and fiber arts...Each week will bring new art adventures and a chance to meet new friends!

June 22-26

Recipes Around the World
Cooking Camp

Arrive at cooking camp and receive your passport to fun! Everyone will get their very own passport that we will place a stamp in each time we prepare a recipe from another country. Orange Pudding from Costa Rica, Dulce de Leche Sandwich Cookies from Chile, and Sweet Breakfast Cakes from El Salvador... just to name a few.

July 6-10

Mythical Creatures

The creatures of fairy tales & stories will be the center of this week's camp. Trolls, unicorns, dragons, and more will be part of our creations including a wooden spoon turned into a dragon, a troll house, and a loch ness monster scene. We will even create some mythical edible treats!

July 20-24

Secret Life of Pets

During this week's camp, we will learn about all types of perfect pets; dogs, cats, turtles, mice, and more as we turn them into art. Talk about some unexpected pets like the fennec fox or the sugar glider. We will mix up a special batch of treats to donate to the local Humane Society. We may even have a visit from a furry friend or two this week!

August 3-7

Night at The Museum

We will be creating with a large variety of art mediums this week, watercolors, acrylics, clay, wire, printmaking, and more. We will watch the movie Night at the Museum & play the game which is always a camp favorite. We will end the week with our very own museum art show for friends and family to come and see.

Dance

Wicked Master Class



Entering the New Year, we were thrilled to host a Wicked Master Class at our studio, led by Broadway cast member Jennifer Mariela Bermeo, who instructed a Musical Theatre style dance class inspired by *Wicked*. Just under 40 dancers attended, including our Petite, Junior, and Senior Company members, as well as some of our older recreational dancers. It was an incredible opportunity for our students to learn from a professional performer. Their energy and enthusiasm made the experience truly special. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity and are so proud of how hard all of the dancers worked during the class! Recreational Dance Director, Aubree Maus, is currently working to add more fun and educational master classes this summer. Stay tuned for dates and additional information.



Christmas Performances



Our Performance Company dancers had so much fun traveling to local schools and nursing homes to perform a short Christmas show before the holidays. They also put on a terrific performance at Rhythms of Christmas, which included our recreational dancers as well. Our students always look forward to this time of year, when they are able to come together, work with younger dancers, and share their creativity with the community.

Upcoming Dance Events

Our **competition team** has been working diligently since the start of the dance year, putting in many hours to perfect their routines. To celebrate, we will be hosting a **Company Showcase on March 14th** at Rockwood Area High School, arranged by our Performance Company Director, Melissa Gindlesperger. This performance is for company members only and gives them the chance to perform in front of family and friends who may not be able to attend the competitions.

This season, our dancers will be competing at *Soar!* Competition in Lancaster (Mar. 20–22) and *Encore* Competition in Johnstown (Apr. 10–12). We wish them the best of luck as they head into an exciting competition season!

Our recreational dancers have also been working incredibly hard, and we can't wait for them to take the stage at our **Annual Dance Recital on May 16th**, also held at Rockwood Area High School. There will be two shows that day (times TBD), and tickets will go on sale in mid-April. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on ticket sales and additional recital information.

This has been a great dance season so far. We are so proud of all of our dancers and their commitment, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings for them!

OUR AFFILIATES

Please note: not all affiliate groups meet regularly. Please contact the individual group you are interested in for more information.

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Renee Eash, ReashROG@gmail.com, 814-619-1938. Meets 2nd Monday, 11am, Dressler Center.

Crochet Guild: Contact Kathy Martin, 814-443-3054. Meetings 1-3pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

Knitting Guild: Contact Lee Ann Schrock, leann265@yahoo.com, 814-233-6434.

Laurel Highlands Chorale: Contact Jan Burkett, 814-443-3085.

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus: Contact Lee Hoffman, 814-279-1733, or Larry Shober, 814-267-4042. Rehearsal 7pm Tuesday at Grace United Methodist Church, Somerset.

Somerset Auxiliary JSO: Contact Beth Pile, 814-442-9061, elizabethpile@yahoo.com

Somerset County Community Band: Rehearsals are 7:15pm Thursdays. Contact Jason June, 814-279-8132.

Somerset County Artists Association: contact Rebecca Frola-Biss, 814-233-6451. Meets 4th Tuesday, March through October.

Laurel Highlands Photo Friends: Contact Carol Saylor, barbados741@hotmail.com, 814-442-9519.

Woodcarvers: Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617. Meets 6:00PM-7:30PM on Wednesdays at the Dressler Center.

Affiliate News



Pictured Above: Garden Club Members work on assembling wreaths for their annual sale.

The Somerset Garden Club is looking ahead to an active late winter and spring season. Our next meeting will take place on February 9th, and we warmly welcome anyone interested in attending. Meetings are always free and provide a great opportunity to learn more about our club, programs, and community initiatives.

As spring approaches, we'll also be preparing for our annual Plant Sale in May, along with continued Uptown planning and beautification projects focused on adding color and charm throughout the community.

If you're interested in gardening, community involvement, or learning more about the Somerset Garden Club and our programs, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, please contact Renee Eash, President of the Somerset Garden Club, at 814-619-1938.

...Affiliate News Continued

Somerset Auxiliary of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra (JSO)

If you have always wanted to attend a Johnstown Symphony Orchestra (JSO) concert but couldn't because you didn't have a way to get there, the Somerset Auxiliary of the JSO will be offering van service to the concerts at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center this spring for \$10 round trip. The van will be provided by Wills Taxi Service and will leave from the Laurel Arts Dressler Center, 214 Harrison Ave, Somerset at 5:45pm, and will return to the same place around 10:00pm. Seats are limited, so reservations must be made by calling Wills Taxi Service at 814-445-6239. (This service will be provided for the March 14 and April 25 performances only)

March 14 "America @ 250 Part II: Copland 3"

The JSO performs Adolphus Hailstork's Epitaph for A Man Who Dreamed, a moving tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., alongside a newly co-commissioned work by Caroline Mallonee in partnership with the New York Philharmonic. The evening culminates in Copland's Symphony No. 3, written in the wake of World War II, with a triumphant finale that elevates his Fanfare for the Common Man to new heights.

April 25 "Carmina Burana"

From the thunderous opening of O Fortuna to the vibrant, medieval-inspired movements that follow, this masterpiece is a joyous explosion of sound and color—guaranteed to bring the house down. Featuring soloists Nicole Khouzami, Shawn Roth, and Christopher Herbert, this performance promises to be an unforgettable finale to a spectacular season. Don't miss it! Tickets can be purchased by calling the JSO office, 814-535-6738 and speaking to Leah Wagner, Ticketing Specialist. Tickets start at \$10.

The Laurel Highlands Chorale (LHC) is currently gearing up to celebrate America's 250-year anniversary in style! Many of America's favorite patriotic songs are planned and are sure to please all in attendance. This year's concert dates are Sunday, May 3rd at 3:30PM and Monday, May 4th at 7:00PM. Both concerts will be held at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Berlin-Plank Road. Tickets are available at the door – still only \$5.00 – or from any chorale member. The chorale is under the direction of Jan Burkett and accompanied by Stephenie Pesi. Practices are held every Monday night at 7:00PM until 8:30PM and it's not too late to join in on the fun! Should you like to join the chorale OR for more information, please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-442-0460 (cell) or 814-926-3610 (home).



Pictured above is the Laurel Highlands Chorale 2025 Christmas Concert.

...Affiliate News Continued

The **Guild of American Papercutters** National Museum is currently hosting a fabulous collection of GAP member Janelle Washington's work through April first. That exhibition will be followed by an exhibition of current board members' works, an exhibit conceived by the museum archivist, Rebecca Raupach.



~ PARTNER WITH US! ~

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

Dear Community Partners & Neighbors,

As the new year gains momentum, we believe the arts thrive best when our county comes together. Laurel Arts ended the year with multiple fundraising efforts, and would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who participated in keeping the arts alive in 2025. Generating funding is, however, a year-round venture for nonprofits. We are currently seeking sponsors for a host of different activities that we would like to offer our community. If any of these opportunities appeal to your organization, please contact us, as we would love to discuss partnering with you! Partnership is a powerful way to support the arts while gaining visibility with our loyal and engaging audience.

We are Currently Seeking Sponsors for:

- Our Quarterly Newsletter - help bring art happenings to our membership base
- Gallery Exhibits - Talk to our Gallery Coordinator about what shows align with your brand!
- Music on the Lawn series - help keep the performing arts accessible to our community
- Special Events - Partner for a specific event that pairs well with your mission

LAUREL ARTS BOARD MEMBER FEATURE: MELISSA SHAFFER



A New Chapter for Laurel Arts: Looking Back with Gratitude, Looking Forward Together

As Laurel Arts enters a new chapter, I'd like to begin with a simple but heartfelt message: thank you.

Many of you know Laurel Arts as a place of creativity, learning, and community connection – a space that has mattered deeply to Somerset County for decades. As a musician and retired executive who was born and raised in Somerset (Laurel Arts paid me the first money I ever made as a professional musician!), I am honored to return home after 40 years away to serve as both a member of the Board and Acting Executive Director during this important moment of renewal.

This fall, Laurel Arts completed one of its most successful Annual Giving Campaigns to date, raising just over \$90,000 in new donations. The campaign reached more people than ever before, reconnecting with longtime supporters, welcoming back lapsed members and donors, hearing from former board members, and even reconnecting with

members of the Dressler family, whose legacy remains central to who we are today.

That breadth of response matters. It reminds us that Laurel Arts is not just an organization – it is a shared history, a shared space, and a shared belief that the arts belong to everyone in Somerset County.

As we reflect on that generosity, we're also asking important questions about the future. How can Laurel Arts deepen its role not only as an arts organization, but as a connector across our community?

We believe the arts are uniquely positioned to build resilience and connection – especially during times of change. Creativity brings people together across differences, supporting students, educators, businesses, faith communities, and neighbors of all ages. Creatively engaged citizens strengthen the whole life of Somerset County.

Looking ahead, Laurel Arts is focused on strengthening partnerships that help revitalize both our organization and the communities we serve – honoring our history while creating space for new ideas, new collaborations, and new energy. Serving in this dual role is both a responsibility and a privilege. Laurel Arts' strength has always come from its people, and YOUR voices, talents, and care will help shape this next chapter

Thank you for believing in Laurel Arts – past, present, and future. I look forward to continuing this journey together.

With so much gratitude,

Melissa Shaffer
Melissa Shaffer

Board Member, Acting Executive Director



Follow Laurel Arts on
Facebook and Check Our
Website for Updates on
Current Events

www.laurelarts.org



**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**



or current resident

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Somerset, PA
Permit No. 2

Laurel Arts
PO Box 414
Somerset, PA 15501