













Lawton Arts REVIEW

The Official Newsletter of the Arts & Humanities Division



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OUR MISSION

To encourage and promote artistic expression and diversity in the City of Lawton.

OUR VISION

To create an enduring artistic and cultural community.

WHO WE ARE

- Jason Poudrier | A & H Administrator
- Andrea Morman | A & H Deputy Administrator
- Michell Rosario | Community Events & Outreach Coordinator
- Haley Moore | Digital Media & Records Specialist
- Reagan Williams | Administrative Assistant
- Nick Sasseen | Theatrical Technical Coordinator
- Terry Gresham | Maintenance Technician
- Stavis Morman | PT House Manager
- Manuel Smith | PT Maintenance Technician

April

EVENTS



12 - 14

RENT

PRESENTED BY LAWTON COMMUNITY THEATRE
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM 7:30PM & 2:00PM



19

CHOREOGRAPHY CONCERT

PRESENTED BY LAWTON BALLET THEATRE
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



27

EMOTIONAL MASTERPIECES

PRESENTED BY LAWTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM 7:30 PM



30

LPS WORLD TOUR

STUDENT SHOWCASE

PRESENTED BY LAWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Lawton Community Theatre's Rent

Lawton Community Theatre presents *Rent* on April 12-14. The production is proud to partner with New Vision, Family Promise of Lawton, INC, and the Comanche County Health Department. New Vision provides vital medical services for substance abuse, while Family Promise supports homeless families with children. The collaboration with the Comanche County Health Department focuses on HIV and sexual health education. Together, they're not just staging a musical—they're sparking vital conversations and positively impacting the community. **Mature Audiences Only.**



Lawton Ballet Theatre's Choreography Concert



Lawton Ballet Theatre presents their fifth annual choreography concert on **April 19th at 7:00 PM**. Witness the magic created by student choreographers who have mastered the art of choreography theory. Inspired by iconic works of art such as *The Mona Lisa* and *Starry Night*, each dance piece in this year's concert is a unique reflection of these masterpieces.

This concert is free to the public, PLUS they have some incredible prizes for those that attend!

CHOREOGRAPHY CONCERT DOOR PRIZE!

This event is free to the public. Everyone who attends will receive a raffle ticket to win the grand prize!

KIDS RIDE ON CAR

Forward and Reverse Functions!

Electric Off-Road UTV Truck! Safety Belt!

Horn, Music, and Lights for Kids!

There will also be Raffle Tickets for purchase for various art bundles!

Emotional Masterpieces



Join us for a mesmerizing performance by Keith Robinson, featuring the enchanting melodies of Brahms and Elgar. Experience the profound emotions stirred by music straight from the heart. The program includes Brahms' Symphony No. 3, Coleridge-Taylor's Ballade, and Elgar's Cello Concerto. Don't miss this unforgettable evening on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit SWOKarts.com or Lawtonphil.com.

Lawton Public School's Student Showcase

Lawton Public Schools Showcase "LPS World Tour 2024"

Save the date for two special nights: **Tuesday, April 30th, and Thursday, May 2nd, both starting at 6:30 pm.**

For over 25 years, this tradition has lit up the stage with vibrant performances from Lawton's elementary students, showcasing their musical talents. It's more than just a showcase; it's a celebration of the rich tapestry of talent within the LPS community.

This showcase a testament to the collaborative efforts of the dedicated faculty who nurture and support their young artists. With each performance, the faculty demonstrates how they empower their students, fostering an inclusive environment where every unique ability shines.

From classical melodies to contemporary beats, the LPS World Tour promises an evening filled with excitement, inspiration, and the joy of shared accomplishment.

Admission to this event is free, with doors opening at 6:00 pm.



Bishop Elementary Egg Hunt

On March 28th Michell Rosario the Arts and Humanities Outreach and Events Coordinator made her appearance at Bishop Elementary School at their egg hunt and their AR Awards party. Each student who received a prize got their photo taken with the Easter Bunny.



Freedom Festival Vendor Application

Get ready for the 2024 Lawton Fort Sill Freedom Festival! The vendor application is now open and available on the City of Lawton's website. You can also find the application link on the Freedom Festival Facebook page. Be sure to like and follow the page to stay updated with all the latest information and announcements. **Deadline to apply is April 12, 2024.**

We're thrilled to bring you an amazing Freedom Festival this year, complete with new and exciting attractions that we can't wait to reveal. Whether you're interested in showcasing your products or services or want to join in on the fun as a food vendor, we invite you to apply now to become a part of this unforgettable event.

If you're interested in applying to be a vendor, email Arts@lawtonok.gov for more information and to receive the vendor application. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this celebration of freedom, community, and fun!



International Festival Luau Fundraiser

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the International Festival Luau Fundraiser on May 17th at the Lawton Farmer's Market! Your ticket purchase directly supports our community's annual International Festival in September, where we celebrate diversity and culture. Tickets are \$50 each, or you can reserve a sponsorship table for \$400, which includes wine and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets and sponsorships contact Arts@lawtonok.gov or visit SWOKarts.com.



International Festival Vendor Application & Poster Contest

The 2024 International Festival vendor application is now open! You can find the application on SWOKarts.com on the International Festival page. Be sure to like and follow the International Festival Facebook page to stay updated with all the latest information and announcements. **The deadline for applications is Friday, June 21, 2024.**

The International Festival Committee is also taking International Festival Poster submissions. **Deadline for submissions is Monday, May 27, 2024.** You can find the list of guidelines and requirements also on SWOKarts.com on the International Festival page.

If you're interested in applying to be a vendor, email Arts@lawtonok.gov for more information and to receive the vendor application. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this cultural experience!



The Oklahoma Experience: Looking for Home



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT



The McMahon Auditorium Authority, in collaboration with the City of Lawton Arts and Humanities Division, The City of Lawton, and Cameron University, is excited to announce the launch of the new series theme of Let's Talk About It, "The Oklahoma Experience: Looking For Home."

Let's Talk About It is a four-part scholar-led discussion group that brings books to life and encourages thought-provoking discussions. This series is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and aims to explore the literary response to the social changes of that era.

The series continues on Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. with the reading of *Walking on Borrowed Land* by William A. Owens. The discussion will be led by East Central University Professor Dr. Ken Hada in the Cameron University Library.

Copies of the books are available for check out at the City of Lawton Arts and Humanities Office - 801 NW Ferris Ave, (580) 581- 3470.

City of Lawton Trash Off

The City of Lawton and the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority hosted its annual Trash Off event on Saturday, April 6, 2024, in the parking lot of McMahon Memorial Auditorium.

Citizens were encouraged to bring unwanted debris and recyclable items. This event was free for Lawton residents, and active-duty military. Others were welcome with a \$25 fee.

We want to thank all of the City of Lawton employees and volunteers that helped and assisted in this clean up event!



John Denney Play House

The John Denney Playhouse, located at 1316 NW Bell Ave in Lawton, is owned by the City of Lawton and is occupied by Lawton Community Theatre through a lease agreement with the City.

It suffered significant damage during the June 2023 hailstorm and the roof sustained severe damage, nearly rendering the building uninhabitable. However, with the City Manager's approval, funds from the City's insurance are being utilized to repair the roof. The Oklahoma State Contractor has been scheduled to commence work on the building in the coming weeks.



Additionally, the Arts and Humanities Office and McMahon Auditorium Authority have collaborated with a local contractor to remove a substantial amount of damaged interior drywall. Despite the ongoing repairs, the building continues to serve as storage space for Lawton Community Theatre. In the meantime, their performances are hosted at McMahon Memorial Auditorium under a temporary support agreement with the Authority until their space is fully restored.

CARNIGIE LIBRARY TOWN HALL



Thanks to the City of Lawton's support, the ADA Ramp is undergoing enhancements to both its appearance and security. The City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Arts and Humanities office and the McMahon Auditorium Authority, has successfully secured competitive bids for several upgrades.

These include installing a Cast-Iron fence around the ADA Ramp and tunnel, along with a new access gate. Additionally, a separate contractor will be painting the ramp's underside, the tunnel's ceiling, and repainting the handrails.

These improvements aim to improve access to Lawton's Umbrella Art Organization, Arts for All. In recent months, Arts for All has already made significant enhancements to its space, such as adding fresh paint and installing art rails for hanging artwork

NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE



3

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 2
PRESENTED BY FIDELITY COMMUNICATIONS
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



16

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

CAMERON UNIVERSITY'S BUDDY GREEN ROOM
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



18

OUT OF THIS WORLD

PRESENTED BY SOUTHSTAR DANCE ACADEMY
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



24 & 25

42ND ANNUAL SPRING DANCE CONCERT

PRESENTED BY SHERRI'S DANCE CENTER
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



31, 1, 2

SLEEPING BEAUTY

PRESENTED BY LAWTON BALLET THEATRE
MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

