



BIG PICTURE INITIATIVE

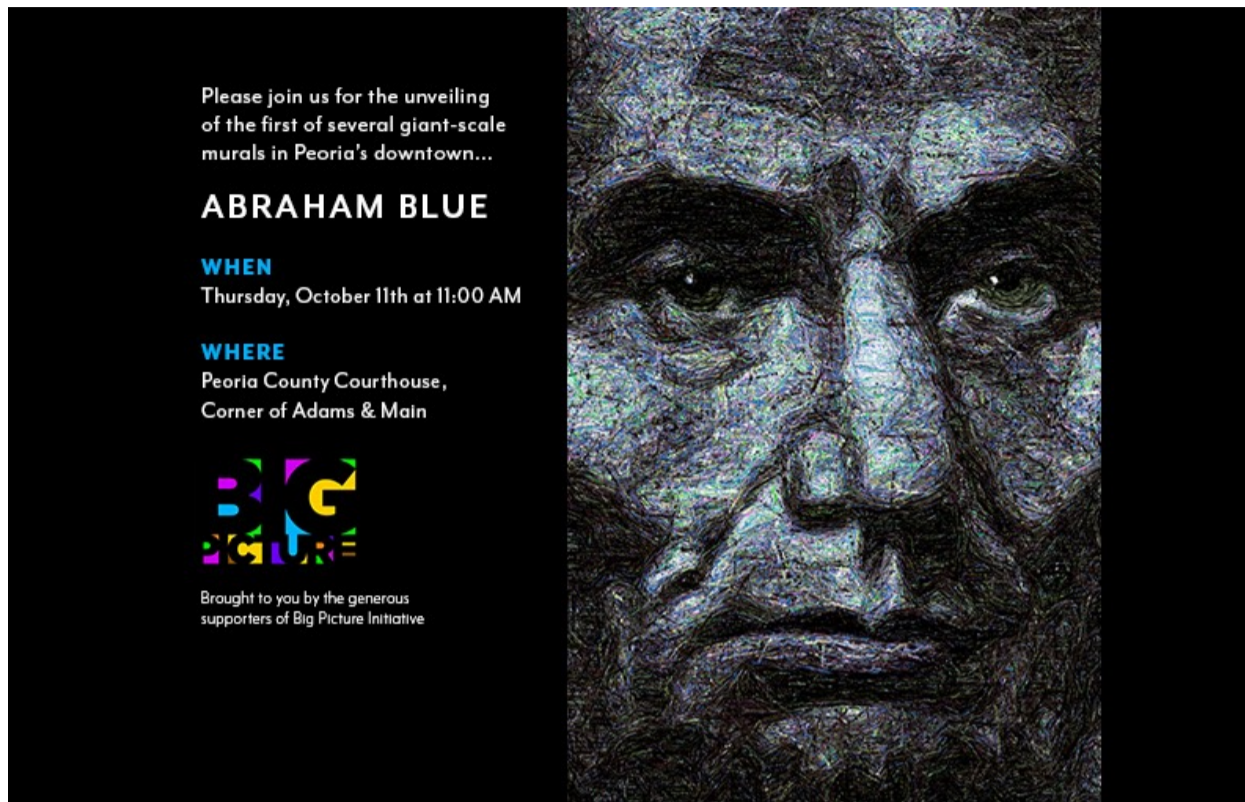
2018 Year in Review



2018 Accomplishments Overview

- “Abraham Blue,” a 50-foot-mural on Peoria County Courthouse privately funded
- Big Picture Street Festival in Peoria’s Warehouse District:
 - 4 new murals by professional artists
 - 2 new murals by the community
 - A collaboration of over 70 arts organizations and artists
 - A chalk art competition
 - Student participation
 - Exposure to new businesses in the warehouse district
 - Synergy created with people from all walks of life in our community
- Big Picture Film Festival at the Peoria Riverfront Museum
 - 20 Filmmakers from Central Illinois
 - 3 Student groups who participated in a summer school filmmaking class
 - Exposure of Central Illinois filmmakers to a Hollywood script supervisor, a Chicago filmmaker, and a local talk show host
- Arts Education for Students
 - 108 hours of teaching instruction for classes ranging from 7 to 32 students
 - Weekly classes ongoing at Common Place Center
 - 3 Summer School classes—2 mural painting at Glen Oak and Roosevelt and a video class at the Knoxville Center for Student Success

Big Picture Initiative Inaugural Mural



Mark Misselhorn, Big Picture Vice President, is joined by guest speakers Andrew Rand, Peoria County Chair; Jim Ardis, City of Peoria Mayor; Sid Ruckriegel, City of Peoria Councilperson; and John Morris, Peoria Riverfront Museum CEO and President.



Doug Leunig, "Abraham Blue," artist and Big Picture Initiative co-founder



Well attended by the public and press.

Big Picture Initiative Public Art Inaugural Mural



“Abraham Blue,” a 50’x30’ mural, and the installation were privately funded and unanimously approved for installation by the Peoria County Board



Photography: David Vernon

Big Picture Initiative Public Art Inaugural Mural

Publicity and News Coverage

CI Proud.com
NEWS WEATHER SPORTS LIFESTYLE MARKETPLACE CONTESTS HYFN LOCAL COME

When you donate to Goodwill, you really are changing lives. Thank You
www.goodwillpeoria.org

Local News
Central Illinois artist's work displayed downtown

Unveiling kicks of arts festival

By: Justin Brown

Posted: Oct 11, 2018 07:27 PM CDT
Updated: Oct 11, 2018 07:37 PM CDT

Peoria - A mural created by a Central Illinois artist Doug Leung was unveiled this afternoon at the Peoria County Courthouse. The giant 50-by-30-foot "Abraham Blue" mural was unveiled on the side of the Peoria County Courthouse. The unveiling is the first event of the Big Picture Arts Festival that continues all day Saturday. More murals, arts displays and live music will be featured during downtown festival. Leung was on hand for the unveiling and expressed his appreciation for having his work on display. "This is one of the most beautiful spots in the country and people don't appreciate it here in Peoria," he said. "So we want to change that message. We want to change the idea that this is something we can actually work on together as a community. And this is just an example of that." Event organizers said it is just another step towards making the city of Peoria an arts destination. The Abraham Blue Mural will remain on the side of the courthouse for at least two weeks.

CI Proud, Oct 11

1470 WMBD 100.3
309.685.1470

MENU HOME SHOWS NEWS SATURDAY SHOWCASE KNOW THE PROS

An official dedication ceremony was held Thursday for "Abraham Blue." The giant mural of Abraham Lincoln is in place on the Adams Street side of the Peoria County Courthouse. The mural is one of several planned throughout the city as part of the Big Picture Initiative. "We wanted to do the first piece at a highly visible public location that would be a real place-making and tell a story," said Mark Misselhorn, chairman of the city's Downtown Advisory Commission. "And, I think we did that." The mural is the creation of local artist Doug Leung, who told the huge crowd gathered for the dedication the blue tint represents the 16th president's battle with depression. (Lincoln) wasn't just clinically depressed, he was suicidal," Leung said. "He survived the stigma of melancholia, back then it was called, because the people and friends and family and relationships in the community listened to him as he spoke about his pain." "As we become a healing center in Central Illinois, as we focus on the healing arts, we have to talk about it. We have to remove the stigma of depression," Leung said. Leung admits his giant mural will only be in place for two to three years. After that, "We're going to replace it with an international call for artistry to come to Peoria and show your work. And we'll let the citizens of Central Illinois actually make the decision

WMBD Radio, Oct 11

'Abraham Blue' may soon be looking down from Peoria courthouse

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MOST POPULAR

- Minnesota-bound J.J. Guedel of Washington loses a bet, and a head of hair
Nov 10 at 12:49 AM
- Washington football team falls short in quarterfinal at Crete-Monee
Nov 10 at 6:01 PM
- Wausau surges past the Peoria Mustangs
Nov 9 at 11:05 PM
- Washington tomada relief group's funds nearing the end
Nov 10 at 5:37 PM

OUR PICKS

Watch BridgeCam

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Image courtesy of Doug and Eileen Leung. "Abraham Blue" is the title of the mural that goes up on the Adams Street wall at the Peoria County Courthouse the first week of August.

By Steve Tarter
of the Journal Star
Follow
Posted Jul 1, 2018 at 8:28 PM
Updated Jul 2, 2018 at 11:55 AM

PEORIA — The Civil War memorial statue next to the Peoria County Courthouse may soon be under the scrutiny of Abraham Lincoln.

That's because the Peoria County Board's executive committee approved the use of the courthouse wall that faces

Westinghouse
Powerful dual fuel generator
WGen7500DF
★★★★★ 1,116 Amazon.com customer reviews
"Excellent generator, love every minute of it. Creative!"

Peoria Journal Star, July 1

CORE in the News: Lincoln Blue is watching you
10.09.18 | Morton, Illinois

SHARE THIS

CORE Construction carpenters Brian Selburg, left, and Brian Thomas, unfurl a 30' x 50' mural of Abraham Lincoln on the side of the Peoria County Courthouse. The work, titled "Abraham Blue," was created by local artist Doug Leung and funded by private donations. The mural, which is part of the Big Picture Peoria project, will be formally dedicated during a ceremony 11 a.m. Thursday at the Peoria County Courthouse.

The portrait celebrates the historic speech delivered at the Peoria County Courthouse by Lincoln on Oct. 16, 1854. The nearly three-hour speech established Lincoln as a national leader, building his foundational argument against slavery that Lincoln used all the way to the White House. The original Lincoln portrait was created by Leung as a project on famous Americans that adorn the nation's currency. Leung said, "It's called 'Abraham Blue' because it's tinted blue. That symbolizes the fact that Lincoln suffered from depression but was able to overcome that problem to be a great president."

Core Construction Website, Oct 9

Big Picture Arts Festival

October 13, 2018

Street Festival
1200-1300 SW Adams
10am-6pm

Film Festival
Peoria Riverfront Museum
7-9:30pm



Community paint-by-number mural (top) and paint fling “Hello Peoria” mural



A full house in Peoria Riverfront Museum’s Giant Screen Theater

Ads for Big Picture Arts Festival



As a commercial artist and designer, Butler decided to track his revenue and expenses to see if the studio was a worthwhile venture. "In the first year, I sold \$600 worth of art, and that was exactly what I paid for rent," he explains. "So I paid for itself. I wasn't going to retire early or anything, but I was encouraged." The next year, Butler doubled his studio space—and his revenue doubled with it.

As the organization grew and transitioned from the Chickadee Raven to the Contemporary Art Center, Butler noted the garage wasn't being emptied regularly. After striking a deal to take on some of those mental tasks in exchange for a discount on his rent, he was eventually hired as the building manager. "In the process of doing all that... I got to know all about the building and how things ran," he explains. But when the CAC board approached him in 1999 about becoming director of the non-profit art center, he shook his head. "Absolutely not!"

Over the next few years, Butler watched as a rotating cast cared for the CAC, and by the end of 2002, the organization again needed an executive director. With some hesitation, he agreed to take on the role under one condition: that his work would end in April so he could return to his law business. By May, however, they still hadn't found the right candidate, and Butler had a change of heart. More than 15 years later, he still hasn't left.

A CATHARTIC EXPERIENCE

"I had so many problems to overcome, and I was doing something I had never done before," Butler admits, recalling those early days at the CAC. "It was occupying every bit of my mind and my energies and all my creative juices."

Even as the CAC was developing into a healthy, stable organization, the work took a toll on Butler. "I wanted to continue making art, but I was blocked, completely," he explains. "I just couldn't seem to do anything for several years... the first time in my entire life where I did not make art on a regular basis." The artist inside him found this time period incredibly distressing. "It was like my brain was wired to make art all the time—and so suddenly, not making art was a big deal."

That's when he came across an art therapy book that posed a challenge: What if you made art that no one would ever see? No judging, no standards, no one will see it—just enjoy it. "That hit me like a ton of bricks," he recalls. "So at night, I would sit there and draw whatever popped in my head... Sometimes it would be crazy, and sometimes it was like HOW! That is amazing that it came out of me."

All throughout his life, Butler had created illustrations for clients or artwork he thought someone might want to purchase. When he finally let that go, it was incredibly freeing—a cathartic experience," he explains. "I don't plan. I had no idea what I was going to do."

This newfound, anarchic methodology allowed Butler to

resume his art making, even as he dealt with day-to-day issues running the CAC. The results are what he perhaps best knows for today: vivid and bubbly forms that invite interpretation—a surprising and sometimes baffling experience for the viewer. "All of the crazy colors and gobbledygook... I don't even know what it's about exactly," he admits.

Butler has recently been working on a series of paintings inspired by synthetic cubism, with foreign forms passing in and out of one another in ghostly patterns—shapes that shouldn't exist, tricking and challenging the eye. "Feeling something that couldn't exist is much more of a challenge," he notes.

While the majority of his pieces begin as doodles, Butler's latest challenge is to let go of even that initial step and see where the painting carries him, diving further into the mist of surrealism dividing reality and imagination. It means approaching a blank canvas with no plans or expectations, but with inspiration alone.

FOUNDING CULTURE

As an executive director, Butler works hard running the business—often 50 to 60 hours a week. In some ways, his approach to administrative work mirrors that of his creative work: he lets the organization take on a life of its own.

With its eclectic array of programming, the Contemporary Art Center is more than an art gallery, a collection of studios or an event center. "I think of us as a cultural center," Butler explains. The building is always buzzing with life, from Winesap & Shout poetry nights and the Live at the Five Spot concert series, to salsa and swing dancing, yoga and tai chi instruction, art classes and more. Behind the scenes, Butler is the supportive backbone enabling these programs—the glue holding it all together.

Reflecting on the long, winding path that brought him to the CAC, Butler admits to being a reluctant leader. "I've always been reluctant to step forward and be in charge of something. With the Art Center, it was because this is such a cool thing. I didn't want to see this slip away," he says, nodding at the vibrant swirl of activities surrounding him.

It's Friday night, and the band is tearing down after another successful live at the Five Spot gig. As the crowd—a mix of regulars and fresh faces—packs up to leave, they stop to admire the paintings and sculptures that have recently gone on display. Soon this room will fill with students of all ages eager to learn salsa dancing... and, perhaps, find romance. Tomorrow, a completely different crowd will be learning to tanpico.

They come from all walks of life, attracted to an environment that's open to everyone—a friendly and unpretentious disposition which Butler strives to maintain. "You don't need to know anything about art to come in here," he declares. "Just walking in the gallery is an education."

Standing quietly, he observes the flurry of movement in the room. "I try not to get too uptight about things in general," he adds. "I try to stay out of the way of my art; let my art become what it wants to be. I try to stay out of the way of the organization... and let it be what it can be." Spotting a familiar face in the crowd, he smiles and waves. "I see myself as a steward of the organization," he finishes, beckoning them over to say hello.



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For more information call 308-403-0547 or visit wlvpo.org

BIG PICTURE ARTS FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 13
1200 - 1200 SW Adams St.
Warehouse District & Peoria Riverfront Museum

Live Mural Painting
Live Music
Street Chalk Art
Interactive Public Art
Paint Fling
Recycle Sculptures
Live Performances
Yog~Art
Ballet & Urban Dance
Painting Demonstrations
Art Installations
Inflatable Sculptures
Food and Beer Trucks
Film Festival
Audience Juried Awards
Family Friendly Fun

bigpicturepeoria.org

PEORIA

BIG PICTURE ARTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 10/13
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
1300 - 1200 SW ADAMS
WAREHOUSE DISTRICT PEORIA, IL
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM
GIANT SCREEN THEATER

- Camera Candy
- Live Mural Painting
- Live Music Stage
- Chalk Art Competition
- Community Painted Mural
- Giant Paint by Number
- Interactive Public Art
- Street Theater Performances
- Super Soakers Paint Fling
- Recycle Paint Sculptures
- Flash Mob
- Yog~Art
- Car Art
- Kid Art
- Dancers
- Air Brush Painting Demos
- Art Installations
- Inflatable Sculptures
- Instagramable Environments
- Selfie Stations
- Food Trucks
- Beer Truck
- Film Festival Premiere
- Audience Juried Awards
- Cash Prizes
- Family Friendly Fun

BIGPICTUREPEORIA.ORG

Amy Blaine's Explore Peoria, mailing list of 19,000



BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG

BIG PICTURE ARTS FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 13, 2018
WAREHOUSE DISTRICT & PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM

Big Picture Initiative is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating and funding jobs for artists and art teachers, increasing arts education, and promoting the growth of arts in central Illinois.
bigpicturepeoria.org

Supporting art in Peoria!

MUIR
OMNI GRAPHICS
High Quality Videography

Dot Chalk PRODUCTIONS

Peoria Art Guild Fine Art Fair Guide, Sept
Estimated 10,000 visitors

Digital Billboards in 4 Prominent Locations
from Sept 17-Oct 6



Posters Placed in Stores and Restaurants



Promos for Big Picture



2500 Promo Cards given out at First Fridays, Riverfront Market, stores, and distributed by our team of 40 volunteers



BigPicturePeoria.org



E-Blast and Social Media

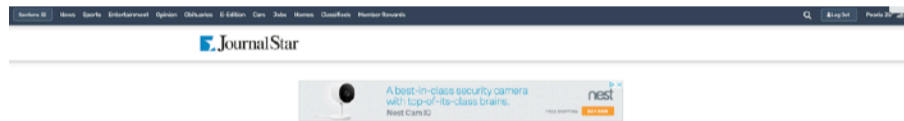


Handout at Ignite Peoria

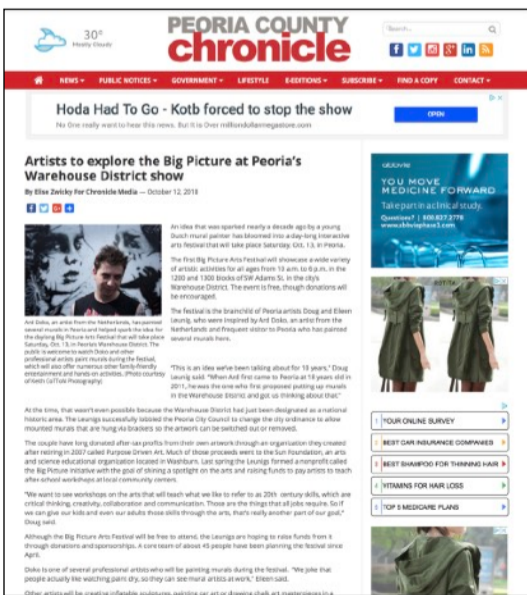


Facebook Posts

Print Exposure



Peoria Journal Star, Oct 7, Oct 10, and Oct 14



Peoria County Chronicle



Peoria Area Convention and Visitor Bureau Experience Guide



The Community Word, Aug and Oct issues

Online Media Exposure



ArtsPartners of Central Illinois



Peoria Riverfront Association



Peoria Park District



Peoria Magazines

Online Media Exposure

The screenshot shows the Peoria Riverfront Museum website. The header includes the museum's name, a 'Like 2.3K' button, and links for 'STORE', 'EMAIL SIGNUP', 'DONATE', and 'EDUCATORS'. The current date and time are 'TODAY: 12 pm - 5 pm' with a 'PLAN YOUR VISIT' link. A navigation menu lists 'PLAN YOUR VISIT', 'EXHIBITS | COLLECTIONS', 'GIANT SCREEN THEATER', 'DOME PLANETARIUM', 'CLASSES | PROGRAMS', 'JOIN | SUPPORT', and 'ABOUT'. The main content area features a sidebar with categories like 'Giant Screen Theater', 'Summer Blockbusters', 'Immersive 3D Documentaries', 'Art Films', 'Classic Film Series', and 'Film Festivals'. The main content is titled 'Big Picture Film Festival' and includes a poster for 'CHANGING THE FACE OF PEORIA' on 'October 13, 2018'. Below the poster, there is a 'Big Picture Film Festival' section with details: 'Sat, Oct 13 (submissions open July 22)', 'Giant Screen Theater', 'DIRECTION', and a description of the festival for filmmakers within Central Illinois. It also lists rules for film length, selection, and submission details.

Peoria Riverfront Museum

The screenshot shows a tweet from the City of Peoria IL (@CityofPeoria_IL). The tweet text reads: 'What are you doing today that could possible be more exciting than THE BIG PICTURE FESTIVAL! ART ACTIVITIES! LIVE PAINTING! LIVE MUSIC! FREE! FUN! FOOD AND DRINK! 10-6 in the 1200 and 1300 blocks of SW Adams Street! See you there! ow.ly/8DSj30mcl9w'. The tweet is dated '4:15 AM - 13 Oct 2018'. The City of Peoria logo and name are visible at the top left of the tweet, and a 'Follow' button is at the top right.

City of Peoria

Broadcast Media Exposure

Big Picture Team Members and Artists Were Invited to Appear on Morning Talk Shows, Afternoon Talk Shows, Radio Programs and Online Programs



The screenshot shows a news article on the website ciproud.com. The article is titled "Big Picture Street & Film Festival" and is dated October 13th. It is written by Andrew Harvey. The article features a photograph of three people sitting in a studio setting, with a "goodDAY CENTRAL ILLINOIS" logo in the background. The text of the article describes the festival as a community event in Peoria's Warehouse District, featuring live mural painting, public art, live music, dance, and film. It also mentions that the festival's purpose is to raise funds for teaching artists in schools and community centers.



Social Media Streaming



Big Picture Arts Festival and Peoria Park District Golf

17 views

👍 0 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ≡ SAVE ⋮



Peoria Life
Published on Oct 9, 2018

SUBSCRIBE

On this week's episode of Happy Half Hour - we learn about the Big Picture Arts Festival this weekend in Peoria. Later, we we talk Fall Golf with the Peoria Park District!

[SHOW MORE](#)

Hot Links to Media Coverage of Big Picture

[CI Proud Local News \(Festival Recap\)](#)

[CI Proud Local News \(PreFestival\)](#)

[Core Construction Website](#)

[Enjoy Peoria](#)

[Good Day Central Illinois: CI Proud](#)

[Herald-Review](#)

[Living Well: CI Proud](#)

[Out and About with Nathan Irwin: Peoria Public Radio](#)

[Peoria County Chronicle](#)

[Peoria Journal Star, October 4](#)

[Peoria Journal Star, October 9](#)

[Peoria Journal Star, October 13](#)

[The Community Word: August](#)

[The Community Word: October](#)

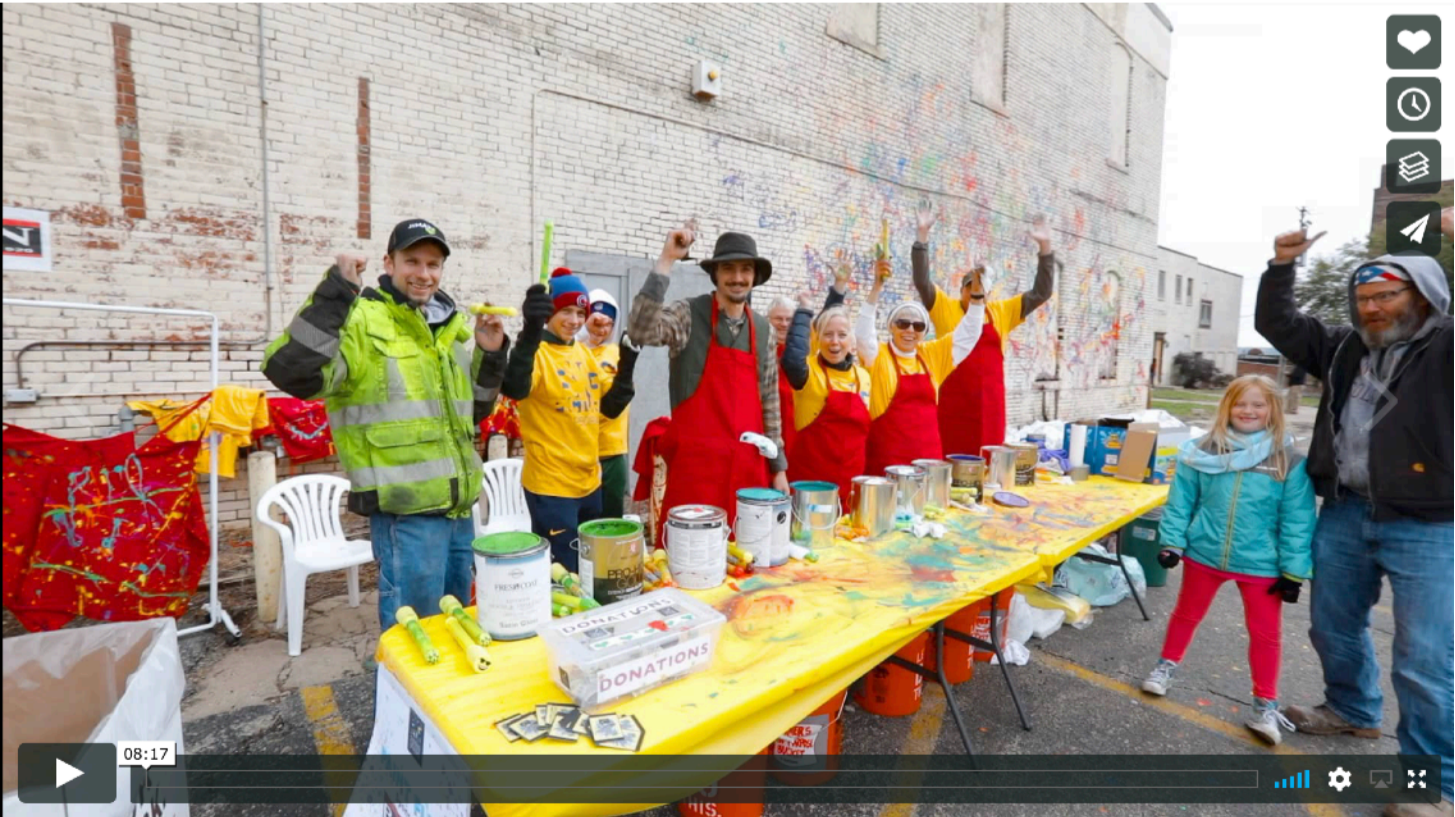
[Videogenique: Abraham Blue](#)

[WMBD 1470](#)

Experience the Festival through the Camera



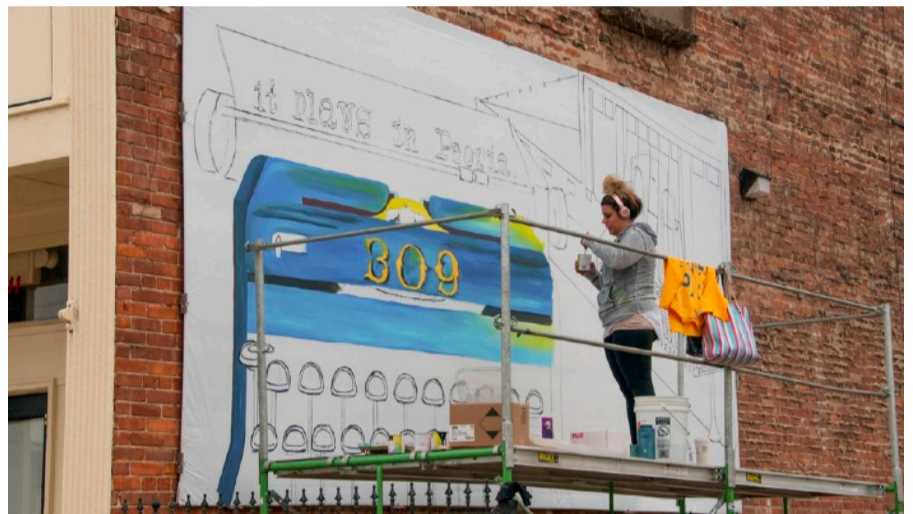
[\(click to play\)](#)



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Outcomes

- 4 new public murals by professional artists on display in the Warehouse District
- 2 new public murals created by members of the community
- Collaboration with artists and arts organizations
- Exposure to new businesses in the festival blocks
- Bradley students and Manual GLOW participation
- Synergy created with people from all walks of life in our community



Meyer Block Building Murals by Brenda Gentry and Megan Couri. 1311 SW Adams



Gabbert Art Park Murals by Brett Fitzgerald and international artist Ard Doko, 1323 SW Adams



"Hello Peoria"

Abstract art by the public during the festival, "Hello Peoria" stencil by Chelsie Tamms, and Stencil Painting by Joe Gabbert and Nick Carmack
Permanent display at 1318 SW Adams



"The Beatles"

Art by Bob Doucette, Paint-by-number design by Doug Leunig,
Painted by the public during the festival.
Currently on display at Gabbert Art Park, 1323 SW Adams

Big Picture Arts Festival Collaborative Effort

Artists and Arts Organizations

- Bob Doucette
- CWTC
- Gerald M. Brookhart Arts in Education Spring Celebration
- Gene-O Mialkowski
- Ghostbusters Peoria
- GLOW from Manual with Trish Williams
- Live Abbey Road Peoria
- Peoria Art Guild
- Quila Dixon Makeup
- Soulside Healing Arts
- The Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum
- Tom Slotten
- Tj Byard
- William Butler
- Yaku Peoria

Performances

- Bryan Blanks—Program Director
- Central Illinois Ballet
- Corn Stock Theater
- Williamsfield High School: A TRUTHRIGHT Production
- P413 Dance Troupe
- Peoria Players Theater
- The Peoria Area Performing Arts Studio
- Varwig Studios

Musicians

- Chris Stevens
- Gentle Gorilla
- Joe Couri and War Muhammad
- Matt Maeson
- Phanie Rae & The Soul Shakers
- Projekts Music
- The Road Less Traveled

Breakdancing

- BCIA and Dopestylez Crew
- DJ MacDon

Cars as Art

- Darius Donaldson

Plus

- 35 Chalk Artists and Artist Teams
- 20 Filmmakers and Filmmaking Teams including 3 students teams who participated in a collaborative education effort between Peoria Public Schools and Big Picture

Big Picture Film Festival

Peoria Riverfront Museum 7:00-9:30 PM



Big Picture Program Director Allison Walsh



Allison Walsh with judges Helen Caldwell, *Better Call Saul*; Mary Givens, *Mics Uncut*, and Seth Henrikson, *Pottersville*



Full capacity in the Giant Screen Theater



First Place Winner: Tanner Robinson and team

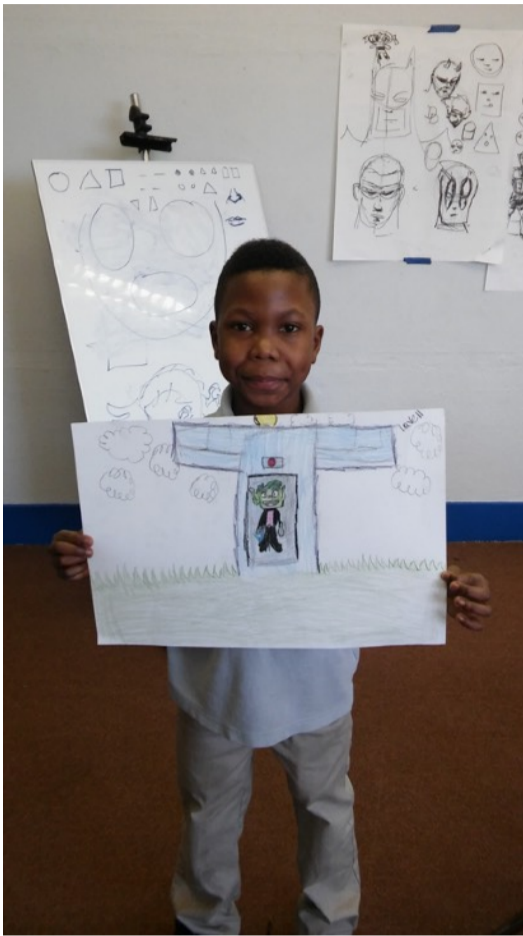


Second Place Winner: Brandon Towns



Third Place Winners: Jeffrey Nobel and Jean Quest

Arts in After-School and Summer School



Cartooning Class at East Bluff Community Center



Summer Mural Class at Glen Oak School



Summer Mural Class at Roosevelt School



Summer Mural Class at Roosevelt School

- 108 hours of teaching instruction for classes ranging from 7 to 32 students
- Weekly classes ongoing at Common Place Center
- 3 Summer School classes—2 mural painting at Glen Oak and Roosevelt and a video class at the Knoxville Center for Student Success

Thanks to Our 2018 Major Donors

Platinum Legacy

- ~Sharon & John Amdall
- ~Gilmore Foundation
- ~Doug and Eileen Leunig

Bold Visionary

- ~Flo & Sid Banwart
- ~Georgia & Christopher Glynn
- ~Tourism Reserve Fund Board

Community Builder

- ~Simantel
- ~Will & Cathy Williams

Community Canvas

- ~Andrew Rand
- ~Community Foundation of Central Illinois
- ~Molly Richmond
- ~Mary Lemmons & David Walvoord
- ~Mark & Maggie Misselhorn
- ~Prairie Center of the Arts

In the Picture

- ~apaceDesign
- ~Tom and Vicky Carney
- ~Denis and Jeanie Cyr
- ~Illinois American Water
- ~Mark & Susie Ketterer
- ~Archie Lyons
- ~Erica Mancuso
- ~Muir Graphics
- ~Sid Ruckriegel

Thanks to Our 2018 Major Sponsors



Thanks to Our 2018 Draw for a Cause Chalk Art Sponsors

The Iona Group	I Know You Like a Book	Central Illinois Landmark Foundation	Illinois American Water	Technicraft	Costume Trunk
					
Demanes Animal Hospital	William Molleck-ReMax Traders Unlimited	Videogenique	CT Gabbert	Mosers Shoes	Rotary Club of Peoria
					
Bradley University Department of Interactive Media	Lifeline Pilots	UFS	Rhythm Kitchen	CEFCU	Relics
					
A Matter of Taste	Muir Graphics	Casa De Arte	Zion Coffee Bar	Private Sponsors	
					
					