



MUSE AND MAKER

Newsletter of The Community Council for the Arts

An abstract painting with dark, moody tones of blue, green, and black, accented with bright yellow and white brushstrokes. The text is overlaid on this artwork.

You're
TOAST TO THE FUTURE
Invited

ARTWORK BY
Joanne McCobb

November 15th, 2025
7:00pm-11:00pm

A square QR code located to the right of the event date and time.

Annual Fall Gala

Tickets \$75 Per Person (\$85 At The Door)
(Includes 2 Drink Tickets)
Heavy Horsd'oeuvres - Cash Bar- Music
Live and Silent Auctions
artkinston.com or Call (252)-527-2517
Arts Center 400 N Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501

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Newsletter of The Community Council for the Arts

Letter from the Director

I'm looking forward to October at the Community Council for the Arts! Exciting things are happening—from pumpkin-making in the pottery studio to crochet ghosts in our textile lab, our fall classes are full of creativity and fun. The crisp fall air always seems to bring fresh energy into our Arts Center, and I can feel it already.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for workshops in September and supported our Come to the ARTS Table event. I'm especially grateful to those who have already purchased a Fly Away raffle ticket—your support helps us reach our goals. If you haven't gotten your ticket yet, there's still time! Call us or visit artkinston.com to secure your chance to win.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our pARTnership members. Your membership is the key to the success of the Community Council for the Arts, and we couldn't do this work without you.

With gratitude,
Jeffrey Williford
Executive Director



Public Art with Sonya Clark

Kinston's Public Art Trail reflects the city's cultural and musical heritage through murals, sculptures, and installations that celebrate its artistic legacy. It enhances community pride, social engagement, education, and emotional well-being. Public art projects rely on careful planning, grants, and donations. Supporting initiatives like the Community Council for the Arts ensure these creative expressions remain accessible and continue to enrich the community. One place to see public art is the "Heritage Arch" at Maplewood Cemetery, located at Queen Street and Shine Street. The archway was built out of steel with bronze leaves welded by Rose Clark.

Cemeteries are quietly becoming some of the most unexpected- and powerful- public art spaces in cities around the world. When thoughtfully designed and curated, they offer a unique blend of history, memory, nature, and creativity. Cemeteries, when reimagined, become not just places of mourning- but of meaning. They invite us to reflect, connect, and create. Maplewood Cemetery is more than just a burial ground – it's a quiet keeper of local history and potential canvas for public memory.





In the Galleria Giftshop
Meadowbrooke Gourds
Hand-Crafted Smiles! They're back—and cuter than ever!

From whimsical bats and buzzing bees to jolly Santas and frosty snowmen, our Meadowbrooke Gourds are ready to brighten your holidays.

Each gourd begins its journey as a seed planted in May. After drying naturally on the vine through the winter, they're carefully washed, scraped, and transformed into delightful works of art. Finished with vibrant paint or rustic stain and sealed with a clear coat, every piece is made to last—and made to make you smile.

Come find your favorite and let the holiday cheer begin!



This year's Holiday Arts and Makers Market is proud to spotlight a beloved Kinston company: House of Morgan Pewter.

Founded in 1980 by Kent and Martha Morgan—after a spark of inspiration at a Colonial Williamsburg pewter-making demo—what began as curiosity has grown into a cherished family tradition. In 2020, with Kent and Martha as mentors, Matt and Amanda Morgan stepped in to carry the legacy forward, blending timeless craftsmanship with fresh creativity. Each year, House of Morgan casts, polishes, and finishes thousands of handcrafted pieces, including ornaments, jewelry, keychains, bag charms, and custom designs for businesses, cities, and states. Their work was recently featured in *Our State* magazine, a testament to their enduring artistry. Whether you're discovering their collection for the first time or reconnecting with familiar favorites, we invite you to explore House of Morgan Pewter at the Holiday Arts and Makers Market



Celebrate the season with an afternoon of creativity. In this hands-on clay workshop, participants will craft their own sculptural pumpkin — Guidance and all materials provided.

Pumpkin Patch

Clay Workshop

With Artist in Residence Joanne McCobb
and Elanna

At the Community Council for The Arts

Sunday, October 5th

🕒 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Open to all ages and skill levels.

Space is limited — reserve your spot today!

Go to Artkinston.com or call
(252) 527-2517 to Reserve

No Experience Required!

\$35 PER PUMPKIN



CROCHET A GHOST!

WITH RENEE HERLONG

\$15

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 9TH

5PM-7PM



Antique &
Gently Used
Frame Sale



At The
Arts
Center

400 N Queen St,
Kinston, NC 28501

Sip & Shop
Thursday
October
23rd
4PM-7PM

Event Runs 10/23-10/29

Artkinston.com
(252) 527-2517



ARTWORK BY
Joanne McCobb

A Pre-Party for the Fall Gala

Sip & Shop

Free & Open to the Public!
Thursday, November 6th, 2025
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Place your Silent Auction Early Bids
Get a first look at Live Auction Items

Save the Date — the Annual Fall Gala takes place on
Saturday, November 15th, 2025 at 7:00 PM!
Arts Center 400 N Queen Street Kinston NC, 28501



In the Pottery Studio



Pottery Classes With Joanne McComb:

Following session: - Wednesday Wheel Throwing, All levels, from 5:30pm-8:30pm Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, BREAK for Thanksgiving, Dec. 3, 10

New Wheel Throwing class for Thursday morning. All levels, from 9:00am-12:00pm Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, BREAK for Thanksgiving, Dec. 4

Monday Combined Class, Hand Building for all skill levels and/or Wheel throwing for non beginners, from 5:30pm-8:30pm Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10

Following session: - Monday Combined Class, Hand Building for all skill levels and/or Wheel throwing for non beginners, from 5:30pm-8:30pm Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8

Open studio for Oct.:

Wednesdays; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 10-5:00 pm, (wheel class starts at 5:30)

-Additional days and times are available by appointment.

Halloween Arts Class with Lyndsay Segrave

Ages 6-12.

Cost \$10 Per Child

Oct. 23, 5-6:00PM



Surprise Art Class with Sully McRae (Hint- Fall Paper Mache)

Ages 6-13.

Cost \$10 Per Child

Oct. 15, 5-6:00PM

September Visitor of the Month

Simona James of Roxboro, NC

For your chance to win a \$25 Gift Certificate to the Arts Council, sign our guestbook when visiting.

Create With Us
MUSIC
at the
Arts Center

Keys For Kids

Free Piano Lessons! Kids Age 5-18 can learn to play the piano at no cost with professional musician Mike Kinzie! Whether you're a beginner or just want to build your skills, this program is a fun, welcoming place to grow musically. No experience is necessary.

Thanks to support from the North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina Arts Foundation, all lessons and materials are provided free of charge!

-Call Mike Kinzie (252)-350-1620 and schedule your free lesson.



Private Music Lessons

-Mike Kinzie

Now Booking Saturdays! Join Mike Kinzie for lessons on a variety of instruments, including Suzuki Violin. Lessons are held in the lower level of the Arts Center.

Call Mike Kinzie for scheduling (252)350-1620.

Beginner Guitar

-Abijah Graham

Abijah Graham, a national touring UMO graduate with over 13 years of experience, offers 30 minute beginner guitar lessons for ages 7 and up -great for both children and adults!

Contact The Arts Center to register (252)527-2517.

TAPS
TRADITIONAL ARTS
PROGRAM FOR
STUDENTS

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH IN
GRADES 5TH-12TH
COMPLETELY FREE!

FREE
ENTRY

EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 4:00PM-5:30PM

ARTS CENTER
400 N QUEEN STREET
KINSTON NC, 28501

FOR SIGN UP OR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE ARTS CENTER
@DIRECTOR@KINSTONCCA.COM
OR CALL AT (252) 527-2517

ILLUSIONS
OPEN
MIC
NIGHT

October 25th

Community Council for the Arts
400 N. Queen Street
Kinston, NC

Doors Open at 8:00pm
Show: 8:30pm-11pm

Show: \$10
Open Mic: \$7 Hosted By: Chyna

Featuring: Law Bullock

Cash App: \$ClevetteRoberts

Umbrella Organizations

The Kinston Area Railroad Modelers Association

Trains run most Saturdays from 10:00-2:00PM.
Call the Arts Center for more information.

Neuse Quilters

-Night Owls- 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30PM
-Morning Quilters- Wednesdays from 10-Noon
All meetings held at Queen Street Methodist.

The Lenoir County Artists League

Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1-2:00PM at the Arts Center. All are welcome.
Call the Arts Center for more information.

Down East Woodturners

Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday each month from 6-9PM at the Arts Center.
Down East Woodturners are a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) Woodturner.org
Call the Arts Center for more information.

Lighting Up The Arts!! After months of work rewiring, the installation of new lighting around the rooftop surround is in place and once again lighting up the Arts Center. Words of appreciation for support of this project from local businessman known as _Round Table Viking_ and to Stacy Heath and his crew from East Coast Power and Lighting for their work!



Dear Friends,

It is with heartfelt joy and admiration that we announce the departure of Olivia Simmons Alford, our fulltime Events and Development Director, as she embarks on an exciting new life chapter. Olivia has accepted a position performing “Joyful” at Epcot, Disney World in Orlando—a remarkable opportunity that beautifully aligns with her talents and lifelong aspirations. She leaves our arts family October 3, 2025.

Over the past year, Olivia has contributed meaningfully to our organization’s growth and vitality. She played an integral role in expanding the TAPS (Traditional Arts Programs for Students) and Keys for Kids programs, collaborated closely with our Summer Camp instructors and Camp Director Joanne McCobb, and supported a wide range of organizational activities with enthusiasm and care. Her creativity, reliability, and team spirit have left a lasting impression.

We will deeply miss Olivia’s radiant smile, warm presence, and collaborative spirit. While her departure is bittersweet, we celebrate this milestone and send her off with our warmest wishes as she pursues her dream.

With gratitude and excitement,

Sandy Landis

Transitional Consultant

Who We Are

Jeffrey Williford, *Executive Director*
director@kinstoncca.com

Sandy Landis, *Transitional Consultant*
slandis@kinstoncca.com

Martha Bishop, *Bookkeeper*
opsmanager@kinstoncca.com

Bonnie Souliere, *Galleria Giftshop Coordinator*
giftshop@kinstoncca.com

Sonya Clark, *Administrative Assistant*
assistant@kinstoncca.com

Joanne McCobb, *Artist in Residence/Summer Camp Director*
artist@kinstoncca.com

Jamil Burton, *Rental Assistant*

Board of Directors

Jeff Howard, *President*

Lyndsay Segrave, *President-Elect*

Amy Whitfield, *Treasurer*

Julisa Lopez, *Secretary*

Mary Kelly

Timothy Maddox-Fisher

Heather Mintz



Artkinston.com



2025 Major pARTner Sponsors



Community Council for the Arts
400 N. Queen Street
Kinston, NC 28501

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Hours of Operation:

Tues.-Fri. 10 AM-6 PM

Sat. 10 AM-4 PM

Closed Sun.-Mon.

Hours are subject to change.

The Arts Center is open to the public and admission is free.



The Community Council for the Arts is the regional center unifying community ties through exposure to the arts and providing rich cultural experiences while promoting tourism, economic development, and educational opportunities for all.



This Project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.