The Highland Arts Council (HAC), founded in 2003, actively promotes the arts in and around the community of Highland through a variety of activities and projects. HAC, a volunteer-run organization, provides a showcase for local artists and an educational opportunity for members of the community to be exposed to the arts. It enriches people’s lives through the appreciation of and exposure to local artists and encourages community access to professional visual, literary, and performing artists and a variety of art forms, music, dance, literature, and theater. Our mission is to create a forum for people who share a love and interest in the ARTS.

HAC’s Major Projects
- Art in the Park, an annual outdoor juried fine art show and sale with 60+ artists
- Art of Soul, a 5-week, two-hour educational program for the Highland residents and surrounding communities
- Commissioned Art, created for the delight of the entire community
- Art Affair, an art-focused fund raiser
- Youth Arts Expo, an event to highlight youth vocalists, instrumentalists, thespians, and visual artists
- Sponsorship of Hard Road Theatre, the local community theater company
- Sponsorship of Heartland Community Chorus, the local community chorus
- Sponsorship of Street Art Festival, a festival of chalk artists

We’re Looking for YOU!
Everyone who has a passion for the arts and the desire to join a wonderful community organization is welcome in the Highland Arts Council! You may join as a Student, Individual, Family, Corporation, or Lifetime. Whatever your situation, you will be surrounded by friends who also love the Arts.

We have a lot of fun and we work hard to promote the Arts in the Highland community. We have long time members and we have new members. We welcome those who have lots to contribute and we welcome those who can only contribute a little. Either way, the Arts Council can be whatever you choose to make it and we’re glad to have you... consider becoming a member today!

To join, go to www.HighlandArtsCouncil.org.
I. American Legion – 1130 New Trenton Road, Highland, Illinois

A. This striking mural was commissioned by American Legion Post #439 in 2015 to honor the service and sacrifice of the military men and women of Highland. Each branch of the military is depicted in silhouette, along with representations of some of the battles fought in United States history. The mural was created by Kathy Burns and Monica Jones.

II. The Highland Home – 1800 Walnut Street, Highland, Illinois

B. The Highland Home has an entire hallway filled with original artwork created by residents of The Highland Home and donations made from local artists. Enter the original part of the building any day from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tours of the Highland Home Museum can also be scheduled.

III. Highland Square – 907 Main Street, Highland, Illinois

C. Mural on the north side of the City Square, painted by Julie Korte in celebration of the Street Art Festival in 2012. It is a reproduction of the mural that was painted inside the former Bank Building and was commissioned by Highland Arts Council.

D. “The Highland Mosaic” on the Square, designed by Pat Imming and her students at the Highland Community School District, Elementary School. She brought in Libra's Kiss Rose, a mosaic artist from Boston, to help teach the concept in 1981. All of the children in her classes made individual pieces of clay art about Highland and Pat Imming arranged them to create the mosaic. The City Council made the decision to place the mosaic in the City Square in 1982. The mosaic was repainted inside the Bank Building in 2005.

E. “Memorial to Cara Gruenfelder,” created in 2010 by Alisha Bailey. The mosaic is a 5’ x 5’ component of the educational system in Highland, and Highland, Illinois, USA – was painted by Lynnette Scheuchebaum, an artist from Highland, and she donated it to the City.

F. “Fairy Fantasy,” created in 2010 by Lucy Telforth Gish and her daughter, Mari, and the first mural commissioned by Highland Arts Council, was donated to the Highland Primary School. It was placed in the hallway so that all students could appreciate its beauty.

G. “Geese in Flight” at Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005. The metal geese are positioned on the high school’s track and lands at the High School symbolizing the students’ transitions from Middle School to High School.

H. “Geometric” was also created by the manufacturing class at the High School; that art can be created while learning industrial skills.

IV. Chamber of Commerce – 1216 Main Street, Highland, Illinois

I. Celebrating Highland’s 175th Anniversary,” created in 2012 by Lucy Telforth Gish and her daughter, Mari, and commissioned by Highland Arts Council, decorates the outer wall of City Hall.

J. The mixed media painting represents the theme of the mural of the City of Highland which contains 370 pieces. Creator, Val Buchmiller of Highland who was commissioned by Highland High School, completed the three “Flowers Mural” and “The Rainbow” on the Elementary School Auditorium wall in 1985.

K. A mosaic on the ground in front of the Primary School in honor of Amanda Blake was created in 1985. The individual pieces of the mosaic were created by the Elementary students and pulled together by Kathy Burns.

L. “Fairy Fantasy,” created in 2010 by Lucy Telforth Gish and her daughter, Mari, and the first mural commissioned by Highland Arts Council, was donated to the Highland Primary School. It was placed in the hallway so that all students could appreciate its beauty.

V. “Rural Scene,” created in 1982 to depict life on the farm, represents the rural life of Highland and the area surrounding Highland.

VI. Highland Area Community Foundation Bob and Rita Hardy Beautification Project

A. St. Joseph’s Hospital Labyrinth, built in 2006. Please, feel free to walk the Labyrinth for a relaxing end to the Art Walk in Highland, Illinois.

B. “The Floating Bal” sculpture in front of the Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005.

C. “Ginkgo in Flight” at Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005.

D. “Memorial Statue for Blanche Hediger” at Glik Park was created by Alex Kovac, born in Highland, Illinois, in 2006. The statue was created in memory of Amanda Blake was created in 1985. The individual pieces of the mosaic were created by the Elementary students and pulled together by Kathy Burns.

E. “Fountain, built in 1937 in celebration of the City’s 125th Anniversary,” created in 1985, is a remembrance of the beauty of the gardens at the Highland High School.

F. “Geese on Flight” at Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005. The metal geese are positioned on the high school’s track and lands at the High School symbolizing the students’ transitions from Middle School to High School.

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L. “Memorial Statue for Blanche Hediger” at Glik Park was created by Alex Kovac, born in Highland, Illinois, in 2006. The statue was created in memory of Amanda Blake was created in 1985. The individual pieces of the mosaic were created by the Elementary students and pulled together by Kathy Burns.

M. “Fountain, built in 1937 in celebration of the City’s 125th Anniversary,” created in 1985, is a remembrance of the beauty of the gardens at the Highland High School.

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P. “Geese on Flight” at Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005. The metal geese are positioned on the high school’s track and lands at the High School symbolizing the students’ transitions from Middle School to High School.

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S. “Geese on Flight” at Highland High School was created by the manufacturing class taught by Joe Schaefer in 2005. The metal geese are positioned on the high school’s track and lands at the High School symbolizing the students’ transitions from Middle School to High School.

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X. “Fountain, built in 1937 in celebration of the City’s 125th Anniversary,” created in 1985, is a remembrance of the beauty of the gardens at the Highland High School.

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Z. The statue of Saint Francis of Assisi was created by artist, Tom Foppoe and made possible through a bequest of a donor who felt a deep connection with the Franciscan heritage of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital. Tom carved the life-sized statue from clay with intricate detail of a wolf, squirrel and bird, which accompany Francis. It was then cast in bronze and was blessed and dedicated in 2016.