

# CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

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FEBRUARY 2026



**VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG**

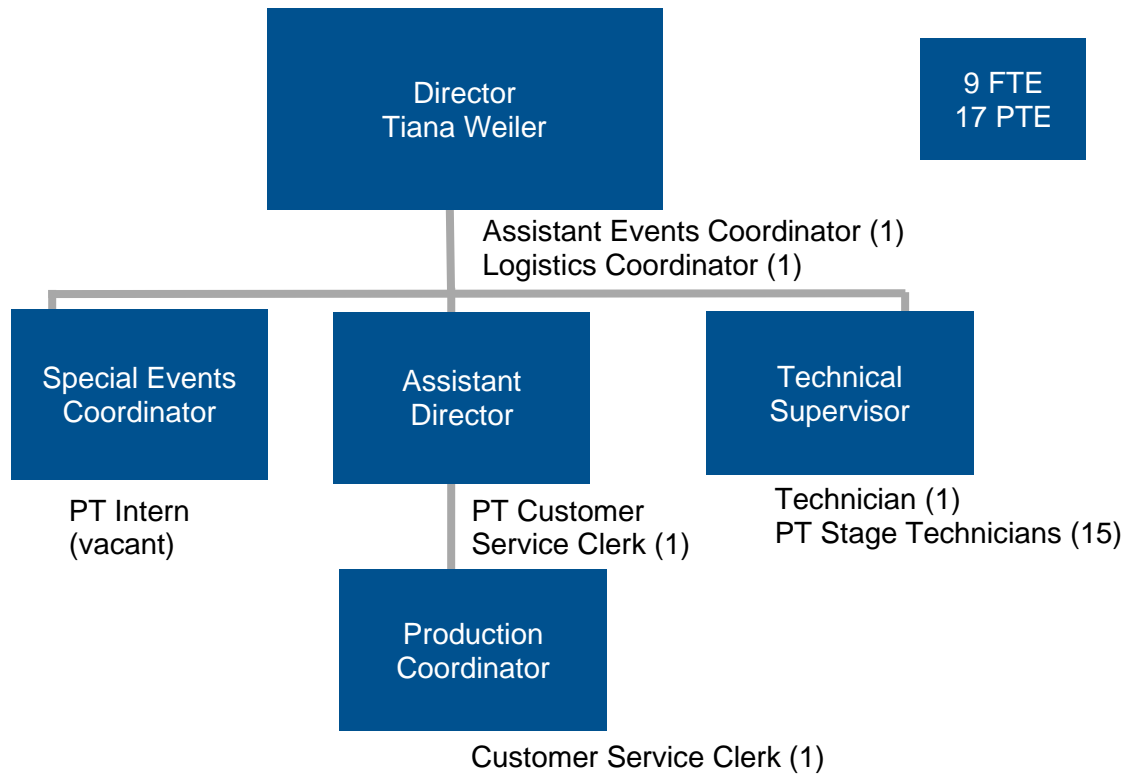
PROGRESS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PLANNING



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organization Chart.....	1
Department Overview .....	2
Key Activities .....	2
Programming.....	2
Young Artists Programs .....	2
Special Events.....	2
Prairie Center Arts Foundation.....	3

## ORGANIZATION CHART





## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Cultural Services Department has two primary responsibilities — activities related to the Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts and special events management. The Prairie Center serves as the hub of arts activities in the Northwest suburbs; music, theatre, dance, film, storytelling, children's performances, and the visual arts are offered year-round in the Center's 442-seat theatre, outdoor stage, and gallery. The Special Events Division oversees coordination of activities including Septemberfest, the Prairie Arts Festival, Prairie Plein Air Competition and Show, the annual Tree Lighting, and the Volunteer of the Year Awards program. A fully equipped video production studio is housed within the Prairie Center to assist Communications and Outreach to develop content for digital signage, social media, web, and the village's cable television channels.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

Thirteen (13) rental events, which included three theatrical shows, two dance recitals, two concerts, and seven meetings, took place at the Prairie Center in February, for a total of 116 rental hours. Rental events generated \$31,900 in revenue. Rentals are ahead of past February events.

In total, 78 events took place with 7,545 attendees.

### Programming

The Season of Arts and Entertainment continued in February with Gunhild Carling, Sweden's Queen of Swing on February 6 with 217 people in attendance and Abbey Road, The Number Ones, on Feb 14 with 414 people in attendance. Thursday Night Laughs continued January 19th with 141 people in attendance. For our annual Black History Month Program, Dreamscape Theatre presented School Girls (Or, the African Mean Girls Play) with 402 people in attendance. All events were enthusiastically received by audiences. Planning is underway for next season.

### Young Artists Programs

Rehearsals for the YAP ensembles continued in February. Planning is underway for spring auditions, summer camps, and Schaumburg Summer Theatre.

### Special Events

The Volunteer of the Year nomination and luncheon information became available. Artist and food truck vendor applications continue to be received for the Prairie Arts Festival and the Prairie Plein Air Competition and Show. Judges for the Plein Arts Competition & Show and Prairie Arts Festival have been secured for this year. The department awarded a drone display contract replacing fireworks for Septemberfest. Our annual celebration has historically featured a fireworks display in a residential neighborhood. While fireworks have been a cherished tradition, recent developments and safety considerations have prompted a review of this practice. Transitioning to a drone show reflects our commitment to public safety, community engagement, as well as environmental and fiscal responsibility. The Septemberfest sponsorship & marketing team updated and released the sponsorship assets with some new offerings. Septemberfest arts & crafts show, sponsorship and parade applications are available.



## Prairie Center Arts Foundation

**Grants/Sponsorships/Donations:** There were \$6,675 in restricted gifts and \$25 in unrestricted gifts.

**Events:** The foundation sold beer, wine, soda, specialty cocktails, and water for Thursday Night Laughs, Gunhild Carling, and Abbey Road. Total receipts were \$3,176.

The Foundation is selling donor plates for the new seats. This month's gifts totaled \$2,600.

**Youth Programs:** No report.