

CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2026



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

PROGRESS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PLANNING

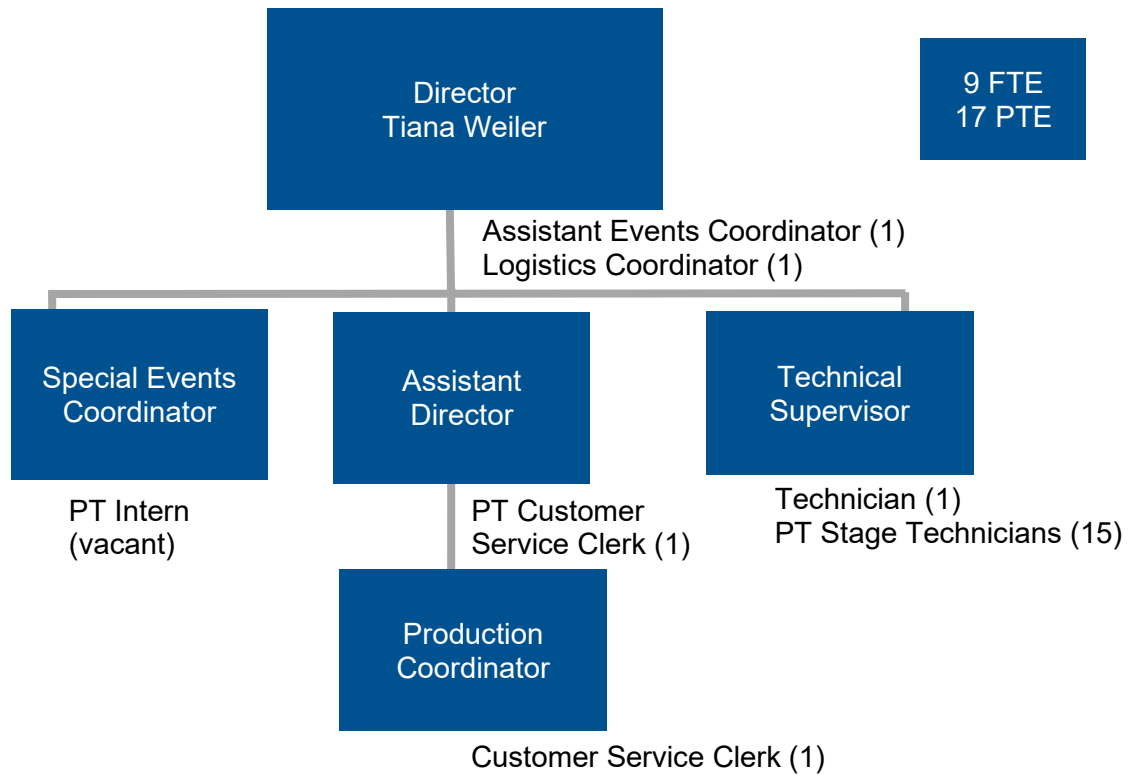


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ORGANIZATION CHART





DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Cultural Services Department has two primary responsibilities — activities related to the Al Larson Cultural Center and special events management. The Larson 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, Schaumburg Live! @ 90N, and the Volunteer of the Year Awards program. A fully equipped video production studio is housed within the building to assist Communications and Outreach to develop content for digital signage, social media, web, and the village's cable television channels.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Nineteen (19) rental events, which included six theatrical shows, two dance recitals, two concerts, and nine meetings, took place at the Larson Center in April, for a total of 149 rental hours. Rental events generated \$40,147 in revenue. Rentals are ahead of past April events.

In total, 85 events took place with 8,114 attendees.

The Village Board approved the purchase of new art for the Schaumburg Sculpture Park. Also, they approved the renaming of the Al Larson Center for the Arts to the Al Larson Cultural Center. Work will continue with the consultant developing the new logo and marketing assets.

Programming

The Season of Arts and Entertainment continued with Thursday Night Laughs on April 9, with 179 attendees, and concluded on April 11 with Broadway star Jessie Mueller performing to an audience of 371. Both programs were enthusiastically received by audiences.

Young Artists Programs

The Schaumburg Youth Jazz Orchestra performed at Encore Village on April 13, and the Prelude and Cantabile Choirs performed there on April 21. On April 26, the Spring Choral Concert featured all four choirs, more than 100 singers, and an audience of 304. The Cantabile Choir also performed as a guest ensemble in a joint concert at Margaret Mead Junior High School on April 29.

Registration is underway for three summer performing arts camps, and auditions are being promoted for the orchestras, choirs, and the *Disney High School Musical* summer production.

The 19th Annual Screen Test Student Fest, Schaumburg's international student short film festival was held April 10–11. The program featured outstanding short films by local high school students, local and international elementary and junior high filmmakers, and international high school students from around the world. The top Best in Show was awarded to Hunter Nickless of Chesapeake, VA for "*Where We Left Off*".



Special Events

The Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon took place on Wednesday, April 22 with 37 nominations received and 157 people in attendance at Maggiano's Little Italy Schaumburg again this year. The winners include Michael J. Tracy (Volunteer of the Year), Pink Tie Ball Committee of the Schaumburg Professional Firefighters Benevolent Association (Organization of the Year), and Michael-Christopher Suman (Youth Volunteer of the Year). The Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to this year's Youth Volunteer of the Year. This year's keynote speaker featured Experiential Facilitator Molly Grisham. The Prairie Plein Air Competition and Show has 43 artists registered to participate. Painting/drawing days are on Friday, April 24 through Friday, May 8. The Prairie Arts Festival layout was completed for artist booths and food vendors. There are 112 artists in 118 spaces due to six artists purchasing a double space along with 11 food trucks and vendors, children's activities, and live entertainment in four locations throughout the grounds.

The layout for the new Schaumburg Live! at 90N Midweek Series occurring on the third Wednesday of the month on May 20, June 17, July 15 & August 19 was finalized. Signage was created and ordered, and advertising placed.

The Septemberfest Arts & Crafts Show preferred application deadline was Wednesday, April 1. Sponsorship applications are being received for Septemberfest. Local stage performers are booked. Main stage headline act contracts are in negotiations. The volunteer registration link was activated for the public to sign up.

Prairie Center Arts Foundation

Grants/Sponsorships/Donations: There were \$3,100 in restricted gifts and \$2,025 in unrestricted gifts.

Events: The foundation sold beer, wine, soda, specialty cocktails, and water for Thursday Night Laughs, Screen Test Student Fest, and Jessie Mueller. Total receipts were \$1,951.

Youth Programs: No report.