

AURORA

Aug. | Sept. 2016



CREATES

Arts & History Worth Discovering



public art

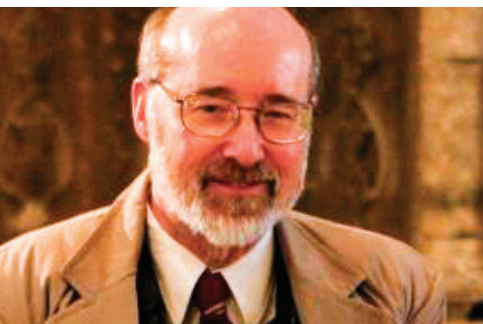


festivals

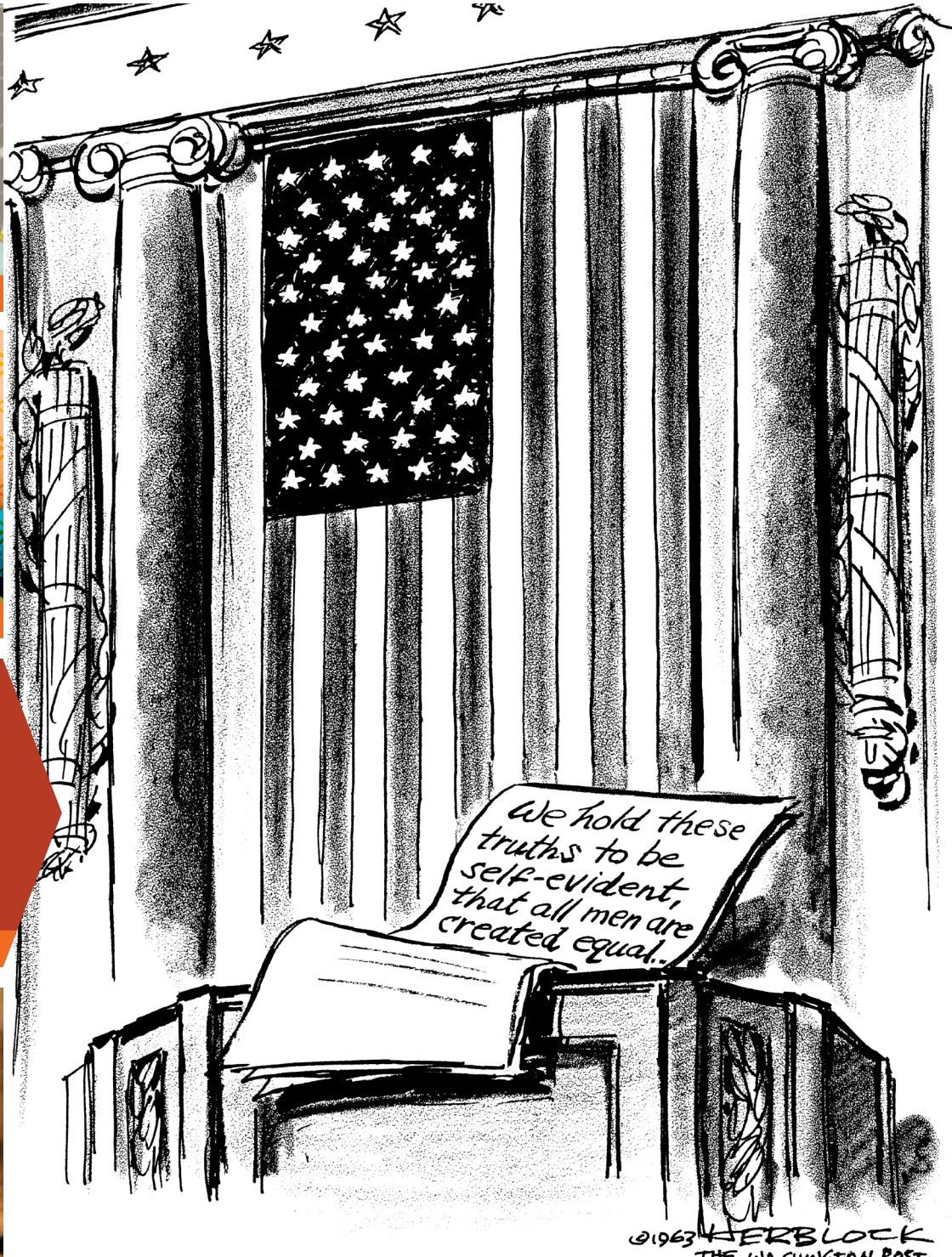
HERBLOCK

Highlights from a political cartoon master through Sept. 16

museum



spotlight



A

MESSAGE from the Editors

Summer was a busy and exciting time for the Cultural Services Divisions staff! Special kudos to **Lisa Mumpton** for her outstanding work on the 30th season of free summer concerts, to **Roberta Bloom** for coordinating the thrilling Clinton Street mural community street-painting project (see article on page 5), to **Charlie Packard** for his work preparing for the Aurora Fox Arts Center's 32nd season, to **Jennifer Cronk and Jessica Lira, Caitlin Mans and Adam Guyon** for keeping things running smoothly at the Aurora History Museum while we recruited a new museum director, and to **Maggie Chapman** for coordinating another awesome year of dance classes.

There's no excuse for you to not exercise your creative muscles in Aurora! Registration for fall classes—dance, history, theatre, music and visual arts—has already begun.

Thank you for your comments on our first issue of **AURORA CREATES**. Keep sharing thoughts and suggestions at culture@auroragov.org.

HERBLOCK

Views of a Political Cartoon

Herbert Lawrence Block was born in Chicago on Oct. 13, 1909. At the age of 11, he won a scholarship to the Chicago Institute of Art. He gravitated to the news business and did drawings and a column for his high school paper and began to send items to Richard Henry Little, who was in charge of the extremely popular contributors' column at the Chicago Tribune. Readers who submitted material to the column often signed themselves with their initials or with a pen name. He combined his first and last names and thus became Herblock.

Herblock covered 13 presidents, from Herbert Hoover to George W. Bush, touching nine decades, from the 1920s to 2001. He took the side of the have-nots of the world against the haves. He favored civil rights and candor in government. He distrusted all efforts to curb constitutional rights and believed in the values underlying democracy: freedom, justice, equality.

Herblock won three Pulitzer Prizes and shared a fourth, had his work in the collection of the National Gallery of Art and was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His greatness hinged on his principles and his courage. His principles—freedom, equality and brotherhood—endowed his vast body of work with awesome consistency. His courage enabled him to espouse those principles in a clear, blunt and very public way even under withering pressure.

He wrote a dozen books, including "Herblock: A Cartoonist's Life," which was published in 1993. Although his work appeared on the editorial page of The Washington Post, Herblock made no effort to conform to the newspaper's editorial policies. His cartoons expressed the view of no one but himself.

Publisher Philip L. Graham was more conservative than Herblock. And a difference of opinion with Herblock mattered. When the two men split over Eisenhower's bid for the White House in 1952, Graham took the remarkable step of pulling his cartoonist from the paper for several days. That never happened again. For the next half century, Herblock reported to no one. He showed his finished cartoons to the editor "only as a courtesy."

There's a maxim in editorial cartooning that the craft is 95 percent idea and only 5 percent drawing. Herblock never ran out of ideas and never retired. He published his last cartoon on Aug. 26, 2001, and died two months later, six days short of his 92nd birthday. He concluded his autobiography with these words: "There's always a clean slate, a fresh sheet of paper, a waiting space, a chance to have another shot at it tomorrow."

"Tomorrow!"

on the cover



With the presidential election on everyone's mind, the Aurora History Museum came up with the idea to do an exhibit that featured political cartoons. "Herblock: Highlights from a Political Cartoon Master" is the fruition of that idea and runs through Sept. 16. Twenty-five of Herblock's cartoons are on display covering most of his favorite topics including the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, McCarthyism (a term he coined), Watergate, immigration, failing schools and the economy. Many of his cartoons are as relevant today as they were decades ago. Don't believe us? Come to the museum and decide for yourself. If you're not 100 percent satisfied, we'll refund the free admission!



SPOTLIGHT

Global museum expert Gordon Davis

AURORA CREATES (AC) with Dr. Gordon Davis, an Aurora-based museum consultant who has worked in museums for more than 40 years—10 of them, 2000-2009, as the director of the Aurora History Museum. In 2009, Davis was selected to lead a State Department initiative, the Iraq Cultural Heritage Project, a restoration project he directed in Iraq until 2011. The Iraq Government presented Davis the “Shield of Iraq Award” for contributing to the preservation of Iraq’s cultural heritage. He was the third recipient of the award over a 50-year period. Nowadays, Davis consults for museums across the country and the world, including the Aurora History Museum.

AC: How did you first get interested in museum work?

GD: My first real experience with museum work involved cataloging a collection of thousands of ceramic artifacts at the Ethiopian Museum of Ethnology in Addis Ababa. I returned to graduate school at Indiana University and decided on a career in museum work, working in various capacities.

AC: What have been some of your most challenging museum assignments?

GD: I was fortunate to be chosen to be the adviser to the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in charge of coordinating the building of the new \$40 million National Museum. It became such a challenging role that I spent 10 years in Bahrain opening new exhibits and training staff. The National



Iraq National Museum. Photo courtesy of Gordon Davis

Museum became a major tourist attraction in the Arab world featuring archaeology, history, natural history and art exhibits.

And then Iraq, helping with the reconstruction of the Iraq National Museum, including renovation of collection and working on the design and installation of 11 archaeology galleries at the National Museum. The work was a rare opportunity to work with 7,000-year-old Sumerian objects and more recent Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian collections, and even some more “modern” Hellenistic material showing the Greek influence in the area in the first millennium B.C. The project involved relocating over 100,000 cuneiform tablets. The project also established the Iraqi Institute for Conservation in northern Iraq to better educate and equip Iraq’s younger generation of archaeologists, conservation experts and museum staff.

AC: What was it like working in Baghdad?

GD: There were occasional setbacks to work schedules like the periodic bombings that disrupted government functions, staff attendance, traffic, equipment deliveries by contractors

who were unable to move trucks through Baghdad traffic during daytime hours, the challenge of 1,500 checkpoints to maneuver in the city of 6 million people; also security days when travel was limited, and with curfews after dark or curfews related to marching religious pilgrims. All Iraqi staff, many with shrapnel wounds, had been through incredible ordeals, but our work at the museum was never interrupted because of nearby blasts. Fortunately, the Iraq Museum was never a primary target.

AC: What are your hopes for Aurora’s History Museum?

GD: The Aurora History Museum as a major cultural resource in Aurora has the opportunity to contribute to the preservation of our collective, yet diverse, cultural heritage, and to be passionately committed to providing meaningful non-traditional learning experiences for visitors of all ages. It can also be a kaleidoscope of diversity, and a bridge to understanding how cultural and historical artifacts around us connect to a greater sense of community.

august

saturday 13

Open Day: DeLaney Farm Historic Site

Noon – 3 p.m.
170 S. Chambers Road



sunday 14

Open Day: Centennial House

Noon – 3 p.m.
1671 Galena St.



wednesday 17

Lecture: Colorful Coloradans in Aerospace

Noon – 1 p.m. • \$4 (\$3 residents)
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway



saturday 20

AuroraGlobalFest.org



**Aug. 20
1 – 7 p.m.**

A showcase of cultures and traditions, global flavors, music and dance.
International fashion show.

tuesday 23

Free Concert: Six Foot Joe and the Red Hot Rhinos

6 – 8 p.m.
Havana Street Rose Garden
10551 E. Garden Drive



saturday 27

Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway

saturday 27 and sunday 28

Street Mural Painting

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Clinton St. between Montview Blvd. and 23rd St.
Sign up by email: palt@auroragov.org



ongoing

- 1 Exhibit “A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Ethiopian Communities” Through Sept. 11
- 2 “HERBLOCK: Highlights from a Political Cartoon Master” Through Sept. 16
- 3 Collector’s Corner Opportunity to exhibit your collections at Aurora History Museum
- 4 Theatre play “Frankie and Johnny” Through Sept. 4 (Mature audience only) Vintage Theatre Productions 1468 Dayton St. • 303.856.7830

september

saturday 3

The Big Wonderful
Noon – 8 p.m.
Stanley Marketplace
2501 Dallas St.



saturday 9

Presentation and Ukulele Lesson
Noon – 3 p.m.
15051 E. Alameda Parkway

saturday 10 and sunday 11

Street Mural Painting
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Clinton St. between
Montview Blvd. and 23rd St.
Sign up by email: palt@auroragov.org

friday 16 - sunday 18

African Children's Day Festival
10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Bicentennial Park
13655 E. Alameda Ave.



saturday 17 and sunday 18

CHERRYARTS FESTIVAL at Stanley

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Stanley Marketplace
2501 Dallas St.

tuesday 20 - saturday nov. 5 exhibit
friday 30 • reception 5 p.m. • awards 6 p.m.

22nd ANNUAL Gateway to the Rockies Art Show



Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway

wednesday 21

Lecture: Rocky Mountain Railroad Club
Noon – 1 p.m.
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway



saturday 24

Project Worthmore Art Event
6 – 10 p.m.
Stanley Marketplace
2501 Dallas St.
projectworthmore.org



Antique Appraisal Fair
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(make reservation at 303.739.6705)
Aurora History Museum
15051 E. Alameda Parkway



save the date

Aurora Singers' "Disney on Stage"
Oct. 1 and 2
aurorasingers.org
303.343.3377

Aurora Public Schools Student Art Show Oct. 3-29
Barnes & Noble
170 S. Abilene St.

Aurora Dance Arts' "The Nutcracker" ballet
Dec. 7 and 8
9:30 a.m. and noon
The Aurora Fox Arts Center
9900 E. Colfax Ave.





An exciting and energetic street mural will be painted directly on the Clinton Street pavement between Montview Boulevard and 23rd Street in anticipation of the opening of the Stanley Marketplace. This innovative project evolved out of the collaboration between the Dayton Street Connection, Urban Design Team, Westerly Creek Village and different city of Aurora departments. Artist Yulia Avgustinovich was selected from 26 highly qualified applicants to create that mural. Avgustinovich was classically trained in Russia and

has an advanced degree in monumental public art. The community is invited to participate in painting the mural in a fun and creative event celebrating the many changes that are taking place in the northwest Aurora community. Community painting is scheduled for Aug. 27-28 and Sept. 10-11. To sign up, contact Peg Alt at palt@auroragov.org. Two and 3-hour shifts are available, and no special skills or experience are needed.

PUBLIC ART The Aurora Court Panel



When you look up as you climb the steps to the Aurora Municipal Court, 14999 E. Alameda Parkway, you will see a stainless steel frieze by Georgia artist Ayokunle Odeleye (installed July 2010). This artwork, “The Aurora Court Panel,” is one of the more ambitious projects of the Art in Public Places Commission. The double-sided stainless steel panel weighs over 6,000 pounds, is 7 feet tall, 32 feet long, 12 inches deep, and took over three years to create. It was transported from Georgia to Colorado, and its installation required three days.

Odeleye spent considerable time talking with members of the community before designing the elements of the frieze. The imagery represents many facets of

Aurora’s community, functions of the Court building and imagery of regional significance. The curves flowing throughout the design symbolize the importance of water in Aurora’s region. The falcon represents the significance of the aerospace industry and Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora. The female figure holding up the structure represents the many administrators and employees who support and maintain Aurora’s court system. The female figure holding the flask represents the bioscience and medical communities in Aurora. The worker holding a hammer represents both the potential of expansion in Aurora as well as the diverse populations who volunteer their time to help with the court system. The scales of justice symbolize the

judicial system. The book symbolizes the laws, and the key represents the importance of laws being accessible to all. The figure of the couple symbolizes a positive court’s function –civil marriage. The image of the stained glass also symbolizes marriage ceremonies that take place in the court building.

The “Aurora Court Panel” is one of eight outdoor artworks that decorate the green and buildings around the Aurora Municipal Campus. Learn more about these pieces and the other 240 pieces around our fair city by visiting the Art in Public Places Collection Guide at auroragov.org/arts.

The exhibit “Worth Discovering: 125 Years of Aurora History” closed at the Aurora History Museum in July and now it has found a new home next door at the Aurora Municipal Center (AMC). Select images live on the AMC hallway leading to the Aurora Room. The diverse collection focuses on life in Aurora

NEW EXHIBIT at the AMC

during the mid-20th century, with photos chosen from thousands available within the archival collection at the museum. The full exhibit was installed at the museum as part of Aurora’s 125th birthday celebration. Stop by the Aurora Municipal Center and get a glimpse into the distant and not-so-distant past.

FUN @ Summer Camps

Over the summer, our different programs in the Cultural Services Division offered engaging, fun yet challenging children's camps.



Rehearsal of "Star Wars" at The Aurora Fox Arts Center



Creating a parachute at DeLaney Farm historic farm



Building a replica of Buckley Air Force Base "golf balls" at the Aurora History Museum



NEW MUSICAL by Aurora's Seniors

"The Great Cookie Caper" is an original musical comedy presented by the Seniors '88 musical ensemble and the Aurora Center for Active Adults. The show is a musical whodunit and includes laughs, tears, singing and dancing—with a little bit of romance thrown in. The script was written by Betty Falk and her daughter Chelsea. Betty is the choir director at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and has written and directed plays for Aurora Quest Academy. Chelsea wrote and directed short plays while a student at Hinkley High School. The production features 25 senior citizens with amazing singing and dancing talent and a desire to bring this magical musical to you. Performances are 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22 at Aurora South Middle School, 12310 E. Parkview Drive. Tickets are available at the Aurora Center for Active Adults, 30 Del Mar Circle, from Seniors '88 members or at the door for \$10.

OPTIONS

for Professional Development

AUDITIONS

Auditions for Aurora Fox Arts Center production of "Chinglish".

For appointment as available. Call 303.739.1969 for more information. Actors of all ethnicities, types and physical ability are strongly encouraged to audition as well those who speak native or fluent Mandarin as many roles in are performed in English and Mandarin. People experienced with modern, urban Chinese culture, Mandarin or U.S.-China business relations should contact the producer at cpackard@auroragov.org. Your expertise could be vital to creating an accurate, respectful and entertaining production.

Auditions for Aurora Symphony Orchestra

6:45 – 9 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11
Noon – 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13
Aurora Central Library
14949 E. Alameda Parkway

Auditions for Aurora Dance Arts' "The Nutcracker" ballet

12:45 – 6:30 p.m., Aug. 20
Call-backs – 12:30-5:30 p.m. Aug. 21
Aurora Center for Active Adults
30 Del Mar Circle

EDUCATION

National History Day Teacher Workshop

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 16
Aurora History Museum
Contact jlira@auroragov.org for more details.

Educators Night at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

6 – 9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 26.

LIFE ON THE MARGINS OF POLITE SOCIETY



THE AURORA FOX ARTS CENTER SEASON 32

DRACULA

Oct. 7 - Nov. 6, 2016

The Gershwins' PORGY AND BESS

Nov. 25, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017

MYTH

World Premiere
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19, 2017

CHINGLISH

Regional Premiere
March 2 - April 6, 2017

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Regional Premiere
April 21 - May 28, 2017

Ask about great rates on season subscriptions!

FOR TICKETS VISIT: AURORAFOX.ORG OR CALL 303.739.1970

DID you Know?



Learning an instrument has a positive impact on academic achievement. A study from Boston Children's Hospital reports that musical training may promote the development and maintenance of a key set of mental skills called executive functions, such as organization, gathering information and structuring it for evaluation; and regulation, taking stock of your surroundings and changing behavior in response to it. Executive functions are coordinated in the brain's frontal lobe and "allow for planned, controlled behavior," writes the research team. They enable us to manage our time and attention, organize our thoughts and regulate our behavior—abilities that are crucial to success in school, as well as later life.

One of the key findings: "Children and adults with extensive musical training show enhanced performance on a number of executive-function constructs compared to non-musicians especially for cognitive flexibility, working memory and processing speed." The musically trained children showed "heightened activation in traditional executive-function regions" of the brain along with "enhanced performance on measures of verbal fluency." "Replacing music programs with reading or math instruction in our nation's school curricula in order to boost standardized test scores," the researchers warn, "may actually lead to deficient skills in other cognitive areas."

Source: "Behavioral and Neural Correlates of Executive Functioning in Musicians and Non-Musicians" Jennifer Zuk, Christopher Benjamin, Arnold Kenyon, Nadine Gaab, PLOS ONE, 14 June 2014, Volume 9, Issue 6.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

auroragov.org/arts

Art in Public Places Program
303.739.6747

Aurora Dance Arts classes
303.326.8308

Aurora Fox Arts Center
303.739.1970

Aurora History Museum
303.739.6660

Bicentennial Art Center
303.344.1776

Fine Arts classes
303.344.1776

Fine and Performing Arts outreach
303.739.6520

Historic Preservation/ Historic Sites
303.739.6661

History Education program
303.739.6663

Music classes
303.344.1776

Pottery classes
303.344.1776

Show Wagon portable stage
303.739.6520

Aurora Summer Concerts
303.739.6520

Theatre classes
303.739.6520

