

FAQs for July 10th, 11th & 12th Fundraising Event

When will the “Till Death” fundraiser be held?

- There are three dates over a single weekend – Friday evening, July 10th; Saturday evening, July 11th; Sunday late morning, July 12th.

How are the three dates the same and different?

- The two evening dates (Friday and Saturday) feature a dinner menu while the Sunday event is a brunch. There is a price difference with brunch set at \$35 per person and dinner at \$50 per person.
- On Friday night, DJ Calvin Lloyd will play classic wedding songs during dinner. Guests may make requests. Immediately following Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch, Joey Peate will perform on the main lawn.

How will physical distancing be implemented?

- All events will take place at the Muscatine Art Center, making use of both indoor and outdoor spaces. When making reservations, guests may select their preferred location for the dinner / brunch. Options are the Music Room (cap of 18 people), Front Porch of the Musser-McColm House (cap of 12 people), Stanley Gallery Courtyard – tented (cap of 20 people), and Japanese Garden under the Pergola (cap of 10 people).
- When RSVPing for the event, guests will need to indicate all individuals who are to be seated at their table (whether or not the person making the RSVP is paying for all of the seats). The Muscatine Art Center will only seat you with those individuals that you have pre-arranged to have at your table.
- Tables for as few as two people can be arranged. Sponsors and individuals who previously purchased tables of eight or ten may break these into smaller seating arrangements.
- As part of the event, guests will be able to view the “Till Death” exhibition, but staff will release each room or seating area for their time period to visit the exhibition. This will limit the number of people in the Stanley Gallery at one time. Guests who share a table may move as a group through the exhibition, but guests should stay at least six feet apart from those who are not seated at their table.
- After dinner/brunch, Joey Peate will perform on the main lawn (traditional location for performances during the Ice Cream Social), and guests can spread out. Guests are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and/or lawn chairs. The Muscatine Art Center will set up a limited number of folding chairs.

How will dinner/brunch be served in a way that ensures safety?

- Geneva Country Club will cater the two dinners, and the Rendezvous will cater brunch. The caterers will serve meals in individual boxes and containers and beverages, including signature cocktails, will be served following CDC protocols.
- To “dress up” their tables, guests are encouraged to bring their own tableware (plates, utensils, napkins, even a centerpiece if desired). The Planning Committee hopes that guests will make this part of the fun. It is suggested that one person from each table volunteers to bring the tableware for all guests at the table. Think elegant picnic basket and fancy dishes. However, standard plates and silverware can be provided by the caterer and/or Muscatine Art Center.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the facility and outdoor dining locations.

Will I be required to wear a mask?

- Please bring your mask and wear it while visiting the exhibition, moving throughout the facility (other than your designated dining area), and spreading out on the front lawn for live music.
- While this will not be strictly enforced, the Planning Committee hopes all guests will do their part in helping to protect the health of everyone at the event.

What will happen if there is rain?

- The outdoor seating locations will be moved indoors. The Stanley Gallery Studio, the “Learn to Look” family area, the Central Hall on the Second Floor are all available for dining. In the case of heavy rain, the musician will be moved and placed outside of the Stanley Gallery’s top floor (Linkage) near the glass wall.

Will the event be rescheduled if public gatherings of this kind are prohibited in July?

- This particular set of events will not be rescheduled. An event related to the exhibition is still on the calendar for the evening of Thursday, October 29th. Guests will have the option of receiving a refund, applying the ticket cost to the October event, or converting the cost of the ticket to a donation.

What if I purchased a ticket earlier or sponsored the event and can not make any of the July events or feel uncomfortable attending a public event?

- Individual ticket holders can transfer their ticket to the October 29th event, request a refund, or convert the cost of the ticket to a donation.
- Sponsors with any concerns pertaining to the July events should contact Melanie Alexander, Director, at 563-263-8282 or malexander@muscatineiowa.gov.

Why should I participate?

- Although this set of events over July 10-12 is not what the Planning Committee originally had in mind, the purpose remains the same – to raise funds for the Friends of the Muscatine Art Center and to support their mission of making possible many of the Muscatine Art Center’s educational programs. While the Friends of the Muscatine Art Center may not immediately come to mind when there are many basic needs to address during the COVID 19 public health emergency, the Muscatine Art Center and Friends team are working to ensure continuity in serving the Muscatine community and delivering programs whether online or in person. With the Muscatine Art Center now reopened, the staff anticipates online programming to continue even with some classes meeting in person. Keep in mind that other fundraising events such as the Annual Ice Cream Social will not take place this summer. It is important to make up this lost revenue so that there is not an interruption in staffing levels as the Muscatine Art Center stretches to present content, makes the transition back to in-person classes, and responds to evolving challenges as part of reopening.
- The Planning Committee and Muscatine Art Center team are working behind-the-scenes to reduce risk of exposure to the virus while also making it possible to take part in festivities. This set of events does not pretend to be a return to normal operations, but it is an attempt to balance our desire to reconnect with friends and neighbors while protecting our health and the wellbeing of the broader community.

Is this event plan final?

- It has taken some time for the Planning Committee to navigate, and settle upon, a plan that meets safety and health concerns. We appreciate the patience of everyone who has waited for announcements of new dates and details. If minor “internal” tweaks are necessary, the Planning Committee will make adjustments, and guests will be contacted as needed. Any major barrier will result in cancellation of the event.
- If the event is cancelled, it should still be possible to visit the exhibition. The Muscatine Art Center staff will accommodate your visit to the extent that it is allowable by federal, state, and local guidelines.

What if I want to support the educational mission of Friends / Muscatine Art Center, but I cannot take any chances by visiting a public space or attending an event?

- The Friends organization is a non-profit supported through memberships as well as fundraisers and grants. Membership levels start at \$30. An additional donation beyond a membership is greatly appreciated. Checks can be mailed to Friends, 1314 Mulberry Avenue, Muscatine, IA, 52761.

I would like to attend the event, but there are so many variables. How should I proceed?

- The easiest option is to call the Muscatine Art Center at 563-263-8282. A staff member can help you select your date and dining location (available on first to reserve basis). Staff can reserve a table for you while you check with others in your party to confirm who will join you at your table. Dietary restrictions will also need to be noted.
- Checks can be made payable to Friends of the Muscatine Art Center and mailed to the Muscatine Art Center, 1314 Mulberry Avenue, Muscatine, IA, 52761.
- When you arrive, the check-in process will begin on the walkway leading to the main entrance (Mulberry Avenue side). A staff member or a member of the Planning Committee will help you find your table.