

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse School of Visual and Performing Arts Presents

ARTS FEST

UNBOXING CREATION: Anticipation and Discovery



VISUAL &
PERFORMING ARTS



UW



FROM THE VPA DIRECTOR

Welcome to ArtsFest 2024. This is the eleventh year of the festival, and the first I have had the privilege to produce. It is also my first year here at UWL as Director of the School of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), and on behalf of myself and the VPA, welcome to this year's festivities. Over the course of four days, join us for a series of artistic and intellectual celebrations of the arts featuring guest artists alongside the work of UWL students and faculty. It is an honor to have you with us, and welcome to ArtsFest 2024.

The 2024 Festival, **Unboxing Creation: Discovery & Anticipation**, explores the dynamics of external presentation versus internal reality. Simply put, "unboxing" is the act of removing something new from its packaging, and sharing the experience in the moment (usually for an online community). When we watch an unboxing, we share both in anticipating the reveal, and the discovery of how a product functions. This year's featured artists will highlight artistic products, as well as the processes and theories that lie beneath the surface. Explore these pages to see the full festival schedule and to learn more about our featured guest artists and scholars.

We are honored this year to welcome: Chicago-based jazz artists Katie Ernst and Twin Talk; expert in disability aesthetics, performance, and theory Dr. Samuel Yates; and St. Paul Minnesota-based Ceramicists Zoë Powell and Mitch Iburg of Studio Alluvium. Each bring a series of public presentations and workshops to this year's festival that further explores the dynamics of unboxing the creative process across the visual and performing arts.

Finally, thank you to all of those who made this year's festival possible - please check out our special thanks on page 3. I would especially like to thank Professors Joseph Anderson and Laurie Kinckman, former producers of the festival, for their generous support and guidance throughout the process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Rydberg', written over a light blue abstract background.

Dr. Pete Rydberg,
Director of the School of Visual & Performing Arts

2024 ARTSFEST STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Pete Rydberg, Visual & Performing Arts
Prof. Jon Ailabouni, Music
Prof. Marc Manke, Art
Prof. Greg Parmeter, Theatre & Dance

FROM THE CASSH DEANS OFFICE

Welcome to ArtsFest 2024! On behalf of the entire college, I am pleased to invite you to **Unboxing Creation: Discovery & Anticipation**, a topical celebration of the Arts in its eleventh year at UWL. As creative thinking and problem-solving are a hallmark of the educational experience in CASSH, the focus of the festival this year highlights how parts become whole, whole can be deconstructed and reconstructed into a different representation or solution or opportunity, or we can be challenged to think differently and imaginatively through our engagement with a variety of materials, individuals, stories, and situations.



From experiencing the allure and complexity of jazz music to learning about disability aesthetics in performance to engaging the creation of ceramics, the keynotes of this year's festival promise to be the most exciting yet. I am honored to welcome you to ArtsFest 2024—we hope you learn and enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Moeller".

Dr. Marie Moeller,
Interim Dean of the College of Arts,
Social Sciences, and Humanities

The ArtsFest Steering Committee extends a special thank you to the faculty, staff, and students of the departments of Art, Music, and Theatre & Dance.

We would especially like to thank the following individuals:

David Bashaw	Marc Manke	Krista Shulka
Dr. Tim Dale	Dr. Marie Moeller	Jake Speer
Hayley Harnden	Dr. Betsy Morgan	Antoni Walker
Antonio Jasiczek	Katie Olan	Bobbi Webster
Kelly Kamrowski	David Piro	Doug Wilkin
Dr. Karl Kunkel	Troy Richter	Nhouchee Yang
Deborah-Eve Lombard	Scott Schumacher	

UWL ArtsFest is possible through the generous support of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

To request disability accommodations, contact the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Office at:
608-785-8113
138 Wimberly hall
casshdeansoffice@uwlax.edu

2024 FEATURED GUESTS

KATIE ERNST AND TWIN TALK

While reedist Dustin Laurenzi, bassist-singer Katie Ernst, and drummer Andrew Green are deeply rooted in jazz tradition, they've spent their time on the band stage together making their music more elastic, spontaneous, and open, embracing new inspirations without stifling the improvisational heart of their work. All three musicians are active members in the city's bustling jazz community, each playing in numerous working bands, but they've found a true collective voice as Twin Talk. They've used live performances as opportunities to stretch—expanding on composed material and ditching set lists in favor of calling tunes on the fly—but on their latest album *Weaver* they've pushed themselves further than ever, using the recording studio as a place for experimentation, letting a new batch of compositions develop and take new shapes. As critic Howard Reich wrote recently in the *Chicago Tribune*, "These musicians listen keenly to one another, and with a sensitivity that only comes from familiarity and trust."



DR. SAMUEL YATES

Dr. Yates is a deaf artist and researcher who is resident dramaturg and Assistant Professor of Theatre at Pennsylvania State University. Their writing on topics such as disability aesthetics in the performance, the triple-threat as an economic unit for Broadway musicals, theatrical accessibility practices, and pedagogy are published or forthcoming in numerous journals and publications including *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Music Theatre Today*, *Studies in Musical Theatre*, and *Medicine and Literature*. Samuel's current monograph project, *Crippling Broadway: Producing Disability in the American Musical*, concerns disability aesthetics and accessibility practices in Broadway musicals, and asks how our notions of disability and the able body inform and transform theatrical performance. As a dramaturg, they have collaborated with companies such as the Abbey Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, The Huntington, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, The Samuel Beckett Centre, and Gala Hispanic Theatre. Beyond the stage, Samuel has worked as an arts and accessibility consultant with Gensler Architecture, the NEA, and 3Arts Chicago. Dr. Yates will hold a student workshop about disability in performance, as well as a public presentation and facilitated discussion about accessibility and performance.

STUDIO ALLUVIUM

Mitch Iburg and Zoë Powell are ceramic artists who have dedicated their careers to working with locally sourced clay and mineral resources. Through the years, they've been able to research clays from across the United States: Iowa, Virginia, New York, California, Minnesota, Vermont, Alaska, and Oklahoma.

They each produce a wide range of work, from functional tea and sake ware to expressive vessels and sculptural objects. In all their work, Mitch and Zoë share a general ethos of experimentation and collaboration with the natural world.

In 2018 they opened Studio Alluvium, a ceramics studio based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This studio isn't just a place for them to create their work- it functions as a space for them to share their research with the world. Through in-person and online workshops, Mitch and Zoë have taught over 700 students from 45 different countries. Their mission is to continue sharing their values of sustainability, experiential learning, and curiosity for the Earth and its resources.



THURSDAY, APRIL 25

All events are free and open to the public except for the productions of *Orlando*, which is a ticketed event. Tickets for *Orlando* can be purchased at uwlax.edu/VPA

WELCOME & OPENING RECEPTION

6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Lobby, Lowe Center for the Arts

Join Dr. Pete Rydberg for the opening of festivities! Meet and greet with hors d'oeuvres starting at 6:45 in the lobby of the Truman T. Lowe Center for the Arts, followed by a 7:15 welcome and screening of a short video from last year's ArtsFest exhibition of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Annett Recital Hall. Followed by a performance by Katie Ernst and Twin Talk. This event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



KATIE ERNST & TWIN TALK CONCERT

7:30 p.m.,

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

Chicago bassist/singer/composer Katie Ernst performs both solo and with her longstanding collaborative jazz trio Twin Talk, kicking off ArtsFest 2024 with a free public concert. This event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



"Twin Talk have made a bold musical statement, and it's one that will likely cause the serious (or even casual) jazz fan to take notice."

- Pop.m.atters

"...this trio make melodies and rhythms move like single primitive organisms."

- Ra-dio New Zealand

"...Twin Talk expresses both it's melodic rigor and appetite for adventure."

- Down-Beat Magazine



FRIDAY, APRIL 26



STUDIO ALLUVIUM DEMONSTRATIONS

Noon - 3:15 p.m.

Ceramics Studio, Room 25, Lowe Center for the Arts

Studio Alluvium is the workspace and showroom of ceramic artists Zoë Powell and Mitch Iburg. Located in Saint Paul, Minnesota, it functions as a space dedicated to the research and use of the state's diverse clay and mineral resources. The 2024 featured artists invite the public to an afternoon of ceramics demonstrations in the UWL Ceramics Studio, Room 25 Lowe Center for the Arts. This "pop-in, pop-out" event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



TWIN TALK: JAZZ & IMPROVISATION MASTERCLASS

2:15 p.m.

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

"Inviting the unexpected in your artistic practice and collaborative work." Join reedist Dustin Laurenzi, bassist-singer Katie Ernst, and drummer Andrew Green for a public Jazz & Improvisation masterclass. Deeply rooted in jazz tradition, they've spent their time on the band stage together making their music more elastic, spontaneous, and open, embracing new inspirations without stifling the improvisational heart of their work. This event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



ACCESS DRAMATURGY: BUILDING THEATRE WORLDS THROUGH DISABILITY

3:20 p.m.

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

Festival guest Dr. Samuel Yates presents an interactive presentation tailored towards current and future theatre practitioners to explore the intersections of accessibility, research, and representation in performance. This event is free and open to the public. No advance reservations required.

“EVERYONE HAS AIDS!”: RACE, HIV PROFILING AND THE DRAMATURGY OF THE COMEDIC AIDS MUSICAL

4:30 pm

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Dr. Samul Yates offers a presentation on the inclusion and representation of HIV & AIDS in contemporary Musical Theatre. This event is free and open to the public. No advance reservations required.



SENIOR ART MAJOR OPEN FORUM #1

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

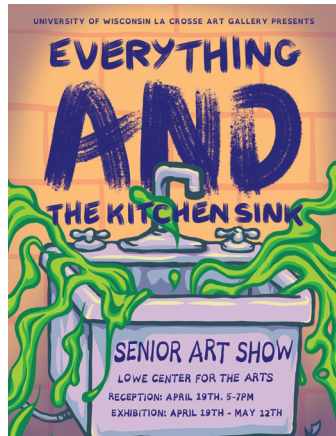
University Gallery, Lowe Center for the Arts

Senior Art majors featured in the current exhibition will be in the gallery to talk about their work with the public. There will be two open forums, each featuring a different group of artists. Free and open to the public.

Artists Featured in Forum #1

Chloe Kuester
Marble Voigt
Brevin Kruse

Maddy Atkinson
Ellen Cervantes
Kaley Lutker



ORLANDO, BY SARAH RUHL

7:30 p.m.

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

A dreamy adaptation of Virginia Woolf's famous tale, *Orlando* is a magical and poetic dance between gender and through time, a fantastical world in which courtly movement and biographical narration combine to tell the story of a being who lives outside of human expectations and enjoys twice the experience that humanity has to offer. Orlando, a young nobleman drawn into a love affair with Queen Elizabeth I yearns for something more than life at court. As he strives to make his way as a poet and lover, his travels keep him at the heart of a dazzling tale where gender and gender preferences shift regularly, usually with hilarious results. This is a ticketed event.



Additional Performances of *Orlando* will be held over the ArtsFest weekend:

April 25-28, 7:30 p.m.
April 27-28, 2 p.m.

Tickets for *Orlando* can be purchased at: uwlax.edu/VPA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

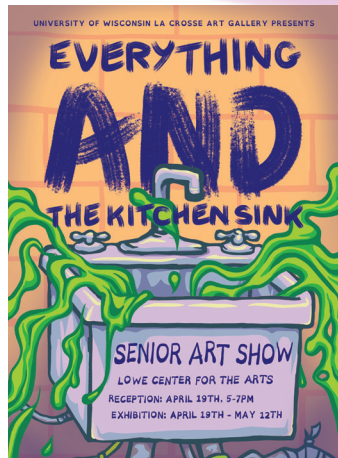


STUDIO ALLUVIUM GEOLOGY HIKE

10 a.m. - Noon

Visit uwlax.edu/artsfest on Friday April 26 for departure/rendezvous details

Featured ArtsFest artists Mitch Iburg and Zoë Powell invite the public to a morning hike where participants will learn how to identify and responsibly source local clays and minerals. Departure point TBD - stay tuned to this event site for updated information. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for a hike. This outdoor event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



SENIOR ART MAJOR OPEN FORUM #2,

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

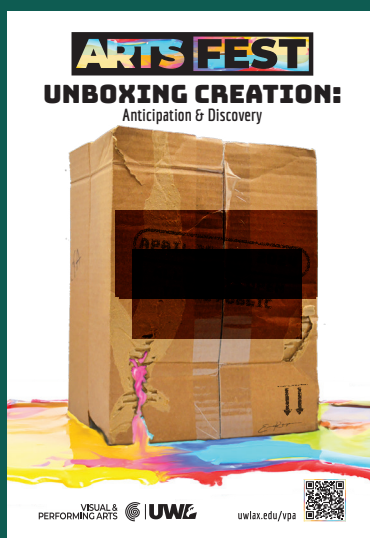
University Gallery, Lowe Center for the Arts

Senior Art majors featured in the current exhibition will be in the gallery to talk about their work with the public. There will be two open forums, each featuring a different group of artists. Free and open to the public.

Artists Featured in Session #2:

Molly Kalous
Mariyah Weber
Calvin Roberts

Andrea Grunwald
Elisa Engman
Alyssa Johnson



The 2024 ArtsFest poster & graphic design was conceived by UWL senior, **Erin Roup**.

Her work was selected as one of four finalists from ART408/308: Advanced and Intermediate Digital Art and Design following a concept pitch and first draft review by Dr. Rydberg, as well as a formal presentation to the ArtsFest Steering Committee. Each finalist worked with a team of peers from the design course to refine their final design and deliverables, and the winning design was determined by a rank choice vote from the Steering Committee. Thank to Professor Marc Manke for facilitating this project as part of his curriculum. ArtsFest patrons can view the other submitted design concepts outside the University Gallery in the Truman T. Lowe Center.

STUDIO ALLUVIUM PRESENTATION

2:00 p.m.

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

Featured ArtsFest artists Mitch Iburg and Zoë Powell discuss their work and their unique process. Studio Alluvium's mission is to investigate and honor the earth's natural resources through five main avenues: Research (locating and studying a wide variety of foraged clay and mineral resources for application in the ceramics studio); Making (using local resources to create a range of distinct art forms within the vocabularies of craft, sculpture, and contemporary art – while emphasizing sustainability and reducing dependence on large scale mining operations); Education (sharing techniques of foraging, testing, and making with a local and global audience through in-person and online workshops); Community (bringing together a global community of makers with a shared passion for the earth and its resources); Partnerships (collaborating with individuals, educators, and other creative organizations to promote shared values of sustainability, experiential learning, and curiosity for the natural world). This event is free and open to the public, no advance reservations required.



ORLANDO, BY SARAH RUHL

7:30 p.m.

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

A dreamy adaptation of Virginia Woolf's famous tale, *Orlando* is a magical and poetic dance between gender and through time, a fantastical world in which courtly movement and biographical narration combine to tell the story of a being who lives outside of human expectations and enjoys twice the experience that humanity has to offer. Orlando, a young nobleman drawn into a love affair with Queen Elizabeth I yearns for something more than life at court. As he strives to make his way as a poet and lover, his travels keep him at the heart of a dazzling tale where gender and gender preferences shift regularly, usually with hilarious results. This is a ticketed event.



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April 25-28, 7:30 p.m.

April 27-28, 2 p.m.

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uwlax.edu/VPA.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28



CERAMICS AND PRINT SALE

1-5 p.m.

Bluffs Ballroom, UWL Student Union

As part of this year's festival, we are pleased to include the Ceramics and Print Sale, hosted by the UWL Ceramics Club. This event offers a unique opportunity to support student artists and acquire one-of-a-kind pieces of art.



UWL SYMPHONIC BAND: AN AMERICAN FANFARE

2 p.m.

Bluffs Ballroom, UWL Student Union

Conducted by Dr. Tammy Fisher, the Symphonic Band and is open to students regardless of major to all UWL students for participation without audition. The group's emphasis is on musical excellence and a rewarding ensemble experience. Their April 28 program is entitled An American Fanfare, with repertoire reflecting an Americana theme.



UWL WIND ENSEMBLE: LOVE AND LIGHT

4 p.m.

Bluffs Ballroom, UWL Student Union

UWL's Wind Ensemble concludes its first year under the baton of Professor Martin I. Gaines. The ensemble is open to any and all students on campus through audition and performs at least two concerts every semester of masterworks and diverse literature. Their April 28 program is entitled Love and Light, a diverse program that ends with the roaring brass of "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral."



CLOSING RECEPTION

5 p.m.

Bluffs Ballroom, UWL Student Union

Join Dr. Pete Rydberg for a celebration with cake and coffee as we wind down this year's festival. Let the caffeine and sugar provide an additional burst of energy for the final event of this year's festival, the UWL Symphony Orchestra.

UWL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SUMMER DANCES

7:30 p.m.

Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts

The UWL Symphony Orchestra is open to all students on campus as well as community members. The orchestra is conducted by Professor Martin I. Gaines and is tied to three different scholarship opportunities offered to students as chamber music ensembles. The namesake of the orchestra's concert, Summer Dances, comes from Brian Balmage's piece of the same title on the program. This year's concerto competition winner Sasha Forbes also plays with the orchestra on oboe.



VPA 2024-25 SEASON SNEAK PEEK

Annual Music Scholarship Gala

7 p.m., Saturday, September 14, 2024
Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts
Featuring Reed Grimm, Jack Sabol-Williams and Ben Petersen

6th Annual Game Day in the Vineyard

5:30-7 p.m., Sunday, September 22, 2024
Elmaro Vineyard, Trempealeau, WI
Featuring the UWL Screaming Eagles Marching Band

Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic, by Matt Cox

Various Dates and times, October 11-20, 2024
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

Annual UWL Art Open House

5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024
Lowe Center for the Arts

La Crosse New Music Festival

Various times, November 7, 8 & 9, 2024
The 2024 festival theme is "Maximal Minimalism" and will spotlight the legacy of Julius Eastman. Featuring Quince Ensemble & percussionist J.J. Pearse

Art in Motion: A Concert of Dance

Various Dates and times, November 1-3, 2024
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts
Our second dance concert will include pieces from the AIM repertory along with new works by choreographer Ashley Dobrogosz.

What the Constitution Means to Me, by Heidi Schreck

Various Dates and times, November 14-17, 2024
Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

The Wickham's: Christmas at Pemberly, by Lauren M. Gunderson and Margot Melcon

Various Dates and times, December 5-8, 2024
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

Much Ado About Nothing, by William Shakespeare

Various Dates and times, February 28-March 9, 2025
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

Big Band Cabaret & Dance Party

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025
Bluff's Ballroom, UWL Student Union

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, By Kevin Kling, adapted from the work of Kevin Henkes

9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 2025
Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

ArtsFest

Various times, April 24-27, 2025
Our annual celebration of the arts featuring keynote speakers and presentations, performances, and arts advocacy. Lowe Center for the Arts & Bluffs Ballroom.

Cabaret, music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and book by Joe Masteroff

Various Dates and times, April 25-May 4, 2025
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts



Impressionist Soiree: An Evening of French Music, Art, and Poetry.



6 p.m., September 18,
Annett Recital Hall, Lowe Center for the Arts
With Dr. Borja & Dr. Tollefson (music), Dr. Rooney (art), and Dr. Jacob (Global Language & Cultures)



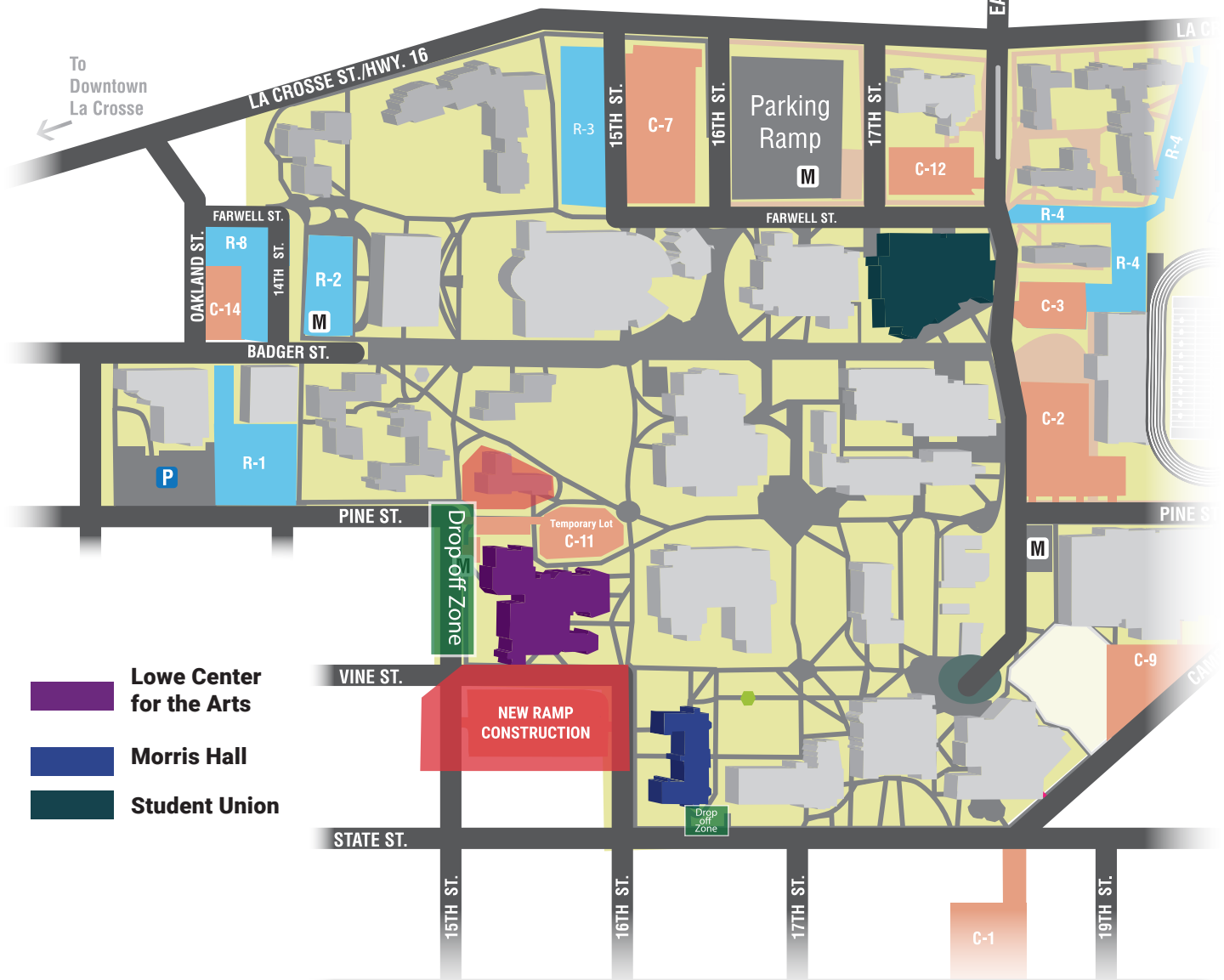
Scan here to join our mailing list to stay up to date on all VPA programming!






 Commuter Parking (C Lots)
 Resident Parking (R Lots)

 Motorcycle/Moped Parking
 Parking Pay Station

 1/4 mile



 **Low Center for the Arts**
 **Morris Hall**
 **Student Union**

PARKING INFORMATION

Visual & Performing Arts is growing! A new parking ramp is being built adjacent to the Truman T. Lowe Center for the expanding arts programs. During the construction, we encourage VPA patrons to park in the existing parking ramp at 17th & Farwell Streets.

A dedicated patron drop-off zone on 15th Street is available for groups and those with mobility challenges.

Street parking surrounding the Lowe Center is free after 6 p.m. and on weekends.

If you have questions, please call the School of Visual and Performing Arts at (608) 785-6634, or the University at (608) 785-8000, or visit the VPA website for a Google Maps link directing you to the parking ramp.

