

NWACC Spring Arts and Culture Festival

Event Schedule (March 2-5, 2026; theme: Connection) UPDATED

All events are free and open to the public. Questions can be directed at SACF@nwacc.edu.
Most events happen at [NWACC's Bentonville campus](#), unless otherwise noted.

Full Week Exhibits

Connecting the Costs of Our Education First-floor
Rotunda,
Student Center

This display explores the costs of textbooks and other high education costs in the lives of students through an interactive dialogue about the production of knowledge, the limits of the human body, and the resources to maintain educational institutions. It points towards various horizons of praxis and leaves other frontiers contingent, emergent, and moderately legible. It allows students to write their thoughts in response to open-ended questions and the ideas of others.

Connecting the Dots: The Art & Science of Data Lobby, Burns
Hall

The connection between art, science, and mathematics may not appear to be an obvious one. However, the work done by scientists and mathematicians to study and describe the world around us requires creativity. Join us for an exhibit that highlights the creativity of ongoing scientific research through data visualizations, photographs, and physical models, and prepare to connect with science and mathematics in a new way!

Puzzling Connections First-floor
Rotunda,
Student Center

Come enjoy some puzzles by yourself and with others.

Solve the Puzzle of the Seven Bridges of Königsberg

Lobby,
Burns Hall

Come and try your hand at solving a famous 18th-century puzzle, The Seven Bridges of Königsberg. The city of Königsberg had four landmasses (two riverbanks and two islands) connected by seven bridges. We will have a small-scale model of the bridges for you to interact with. To solve the puzzle, try to devise a walk through the city that crosses each bridge only once. After attempting the puzzle, learn about Euler's solution and how it led to the founding of graph theory and topology by focusing on connectivity.

Connecting to the Past

Info Commons
hallway, Burns
Hall

Channel retro nostalgia and make a screen-free 'connection' station, an ongoing, interactive display. Stop by or spend the day playing old board games, card games, Koosh balls, Rubrik's Cubes.

PRIDE at NWACC Presents Leave Your Own Story

Comm Arts long
display wall,
Burns Hall

My Culture Connects to Me interactive display

Back Wall, Room
108, Student
Center

Connections – A Collection of Works by NWACC Art Faculty

Integrated
Design Lab

Tuesday (March 3)

9:00-10:15 am

Stitching Well-Being and
Crafting Calm

Room 108, Student Center

Led by Beatriz Segura, owner of Magic Craft Hands, this interactive workshop explores how traditional fiber arts—like embroidery—can positively support mental well-being. Participants are invited to slow down, work with their hands, and experience the calming, meditative qualities of making. Through guided activities and discussion, Segura demonstrates how these crafts help reduce stress, improve focus, and build resilience by encouraging mindfulness and creative expression.

10:30-11:45 am

Local Ecology of Northwest
Arkansas: An Informative Guide

White Auditorium, Burns
Hall

What makes the ecology of northwest Arkansas unique? How deep are the roots of local plants? How have animals and plants adapted to local conditions? What challenges does this ecology face? What role might you play in addressing these challenges? Ellen Turner, emeritus biology professor at NWACC and environmental advocate, addresses these questions in a lively lecture.

12-1:15 pm

Raising the Spirit

White Auditorium, Burns
Hall

How does Black music create a space for participation, mobilize young people against injustice, create connections across difference, foster legible and novel claims about the world, and elevate the present to a better future? Dr. Najja K. Baptist – Director of African & African American Studies, Sylvia G. Swartz Endowed Chair, and Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Arkansas – explores these questions in an interactive and lively fashion that draws upon the Black prophetic tradition (in his role as an academic and preacher). Baptist, in this talk, draws upon his recent book “In the Spirit, In the Dark” (NYU Press, 2026) to bring these points home.

chosen for its personal, artistic, or historical connection to the performers. Murdock's works hold special significance: she taught several of McFarland's teachers and later retired to Northwest Arkansas, creating a direct link between artistic lineage and place. The inclusion of Florence Price's Adoration anchors the program in a broader American musical legacy, connecting past and present through expressive, enduring music. Attendees can expect an intimate and reflective concert experience that highlights contemporary chamber music alongside historically significant repertoire. The program moves fluidly between solo and collaborative works, offering varied instrumental colors and emotional range. Rather than focusing solely on virtuosity, Adoration invites listeners to engage with the stories behind the music — how relationships, mentorship, collaboration, and community shape artistic expression.

Wednesday (March 4)

9:00-10:15 am

Words Between Us

Room 108, Student
Center

NWACC faculty, staff, and students read excerpts from their favorite writers that demonstrate human (dis)connection.

10:30-11:45 am

Sociology's Superpower: Making
Connections in Everyday Life

White Auditorium, Burns
Hall

This interactive lecture by Eric Vest, Professor of Sociology at NWACC, explores and unlocks the superpower found in each of us that comes by embracing the Sociological Imagination. Be prepared to think differently, make connections, and expand your understanding of the world around you.

12:00-1:15 pm

Nucleus Release Party & Open Mic Poetry
Reading

Room 108, Student
Center

This event invites those published in the Fall 2025 issue of *Nucleus* to read their work; offers open mic reading for those wishing to share their poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction; break bread with others through a reception; and get a copy of the latest edition of the *Nucleus* journal (while supplies last).

1:30-2:45 pm

Our Nuclear Past and Present: The Shared
History between the United States and
Marshall Islands on the 80th Anniversary
of the First Nuclear Test

Room 108, Student
Center

This event consists of a week-long exhibit, a presentation, a short film, and musical performance. The presentation explains the shared nuclear history between the US and Marshall Islands, where the US conducted nuclear testing from 1946-1958. It explores how the Marshallese Educational Initiative uses art and music to educate youth about the nuclear and climate legacy, and touches on traditional culture of *Aelon Kein Ad* (the traditional name of the Marshall Islands). Matthew John follows the presentation with a musical performance. The audience engages with Marshallese culture and explores shared connections to home, memory, and community; and learns about own challenges of living in diaspora.

3:00-4:15 pm

Bananas are a Gateway Crime! A
Performance and Q&A

White Auditorium, Burns
Hall

'Bananas Are A Gateway Crime!' uses absurd hero/villain dynamics to explore the unexpected ways that people can become connected, even when those connections are unwanted. Molokov, a retired supervillain, is constantly and relentlessly pursued by Captain Stalk!, whose obsession turns conflict into a bizarre form of intimacy. Through escalating chaos, support group confessions, and stolen panic produce, the show reveals how unexpected connections form through frustration, misunderstanding, and sheer persistence. It ultimately argues that even the wrong connection can shape who we are, forcing us to confront our identity, our boundaries, and the people we become in relation to others. Actor Hidgens Leonard interprets this material on stage and then takes questions from the audience.

4:30-7:30 pm

Community Chess Club

Bentonville Public Library
(Library) off-site

Drop in to the Bentonville Public Library to connect with the community and meet new people over a friendly game of chess. Boards and limited clocks will be provided. Just show up and have fun! Provided in partnership with Downtown Bentonville Inc. this event is free and open to all ages. Find more information on the [Bentonville Public Library website](#).

3:00-5:45 pm

"Join or Die" film screening with facilitated discussion and snacks

Room 108, Student Center

Come watch the documentary "Join or Die" and join a discussion facilitated (with snacks) by Weave: The Social Fabric Project about social capital. This documentary explores the state of (dis)connection and apathy of American citizens (not) engaged in politics and the importance of human connection for forming the cornerstone of any meaningful political institution. This exploration takes place by examining the actions and institutions of American society and politics empirically and through the concepts of social capital, the glue that holds society together through informal norms, developed by Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam.

4:30-5:30 pm

True Crime Investigation: All You Never Knew About The Black Dahlia

Library and MS Teams

80 years ago, Elizabeth Short was found brutally murdered on the streets of LA. Her death a mystery, possible solutions have been a source of endless fascination for investigators, professional and amateur alike. Producer and researcher Eli Frankel provides a compelling new take, connecting cases and uncovering overlooked evidence. Participants engage in interactive activities, drawing upon the FBI case archive and contemporary news coverage. [Signup and get the Teams link](#) through the library web site.