

ARTS NOW

CONNECTING ARTS,
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY
IN SUMMIT COUNTY



(left to right): Photo by Akron Zoo; Photo of NEOS Dance by Shane Wynn; Photo of artist Ace Epps by Shane Wynn

OUR STORY

ArtsNow is an innovative nonprofit that connects arts, culture, and community. An outcome of the GAR and Knight Foundation funded *Arts and Culture Landscape Study*, ArtsNow seeks to connect, collaborate, and support the incredible creative sector in Summit County.

ArtsNow strengthens Summit County by advancing its arts & culture assets and building connections between arts & culture and the broader community.

ArtsNow:

- Provides residents of Summit County access to real-time information about the diverse arts & culture offerings available in Summit County at ***SummitLive365.com***.
- Aggregates and analyzes data about arts & culture to drive sector improvement.
- Advocates for arts & culture across the public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- Convenes and connects artists to strengthen the sector's impact and relevance.
- Builds and strengthens funding for arts & culture.

For more information about ArtsNow, please contact Executive Director Nicole Mullet (nicole@artsnow.org / 330-410-3362).

LOCAL SUCCESS



The Arts Elder

John Comunale, a sculptor who works primarily in stainless steel, has been living and working as an artist in Akron since 1991. “As an artist, you struggle to make a consistent living,” he shares. And according to John, the projects and education that ArtsNow has facilitated have helped create a living for artists in our community.

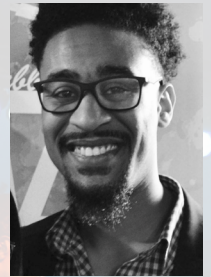
Between the education, the website, and convenings, ArtsNow has helped establish the “value in art and art as a vocation.” All good things, according to John.

The Rubber City Jazz & Blues Festival

The idea for the RCJBF began one summer afternoon in 2015 during a conversation between RCJBF Director Theron Brown and musician Dan Wilson. In 2015, Brown and his team applied for the Knight Arts Challenge and were honored to be one of 27 Akron arts project winners. The 2018 festival, with support from ArtsNow, will focus on the rich history of jazz and blues that Howard Street brought to Akron in the 1940s and 1950s. Individuals who attend will experience The Rhythms of Akron that have been instrumental in creating the spirit, identity and shape of the Akron community.



Dan Wilson



Theron Brown

Art & Culture Collaborative

Collide, the brainchild of Cuyahoga Falls residents Molly Hartong and Matt Weiss, connects students, artists, small arts businesses and the non-profit sector through resources, idea exchanges, entertainment, and social events. As they began to navigate the landscape of community organizations, they reached out to ArtsNow for help who kickstarted the planning process by convening the arts community to gather information and craft a movement to champion the arts. “When *Collide* partnered with ArtsNow, it gave us credibility,” Molly explains. “In our early phase, ArtsNow was key to keeping forward momentum going.”

