



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact:  
Jeff Baudry  
(414) 257-4575  
[Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

For Immediate Release

## **“Artists in The Garden”** *with Plein Air Competition*

Milwaukee, WI (Aug. 21, 2015) – “Artists in The Garden” will weave together an art fair, nature, music, and food at the Boerner Botanical Gardens, Sept. 12 and 13, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Boerner Botanical Gardens, “Milwaukee County’s Living Museum,” is located in Whitnall Park at 9400 Boerner Drive. The event is presented by Milwaukee County Parks in partnership with the League of Milwaukee Artists.

More than 40 artists—including members of the League of Milwaukee Artists, the Wisconsin Plein Air Painters Association, the Bay View Arts Guild, and the Wisconsin Pastel Society—will display and sell their work or take part in Sunday’s “just for fun” plein air competition.

Watercolors, oils, acrylics, encaustic paintings, and jewelry created by a goldsmith will be for sale at booths and in the Gallery Tent.

Inspired by their surroundings, more than 20 artists will be painting throughout the Botanical Gardens in the Richeson School of Art and Gallery plein air competition. Melinda Myers, renowned horticulturist, author, and TV/radio host will judge the competition at 2 p.m. Paintings created during the competition will also be offered for sale.

Both days of the fair, exhibiting artists and guest artists will demonstrate their creative techniques in front of the Gallery Tent. Demonstrations will be presented on the half-hour, with the last demonstration at 3:30 p.m.

Special garden and art activities are planned for kids of all ages. Throughout the day on Saturday, Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens will offer a nature scavenger hunt and will lead the hands-on, seed paper make-and-takes. Throughout the day on Sunday, Kohl’s Color Wheels, the Milwaukee Art Museum’s off-site studio program, will lead projects inspired by the museum’s featured exhibit, “Van Gogh to Pollock: Modern Rebels.” Visitors can channel “Jack the Dripper” as they splash, drip, and swirl paint on a large canvas on the ground, creating a communal mural.

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ADDRESS  
9480 Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX  
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)  
fax: 414 / 257 6466



EMAIL  
[parks@milwcnty.com](mailto:parks@milwcnty.com)

WEBSITE  
[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

For ambiance and entertainment, live music will be performed on acoustic guitar, hammered dulcimer, and Native American flute.

A variety of food and beverage items will be available for purchase. Zilli Café will offer lunch items and a full coffee bar, Boerner Restaurant will offer Sunday brunch, and the Traveling Beer Garden will offer Sprecher's craft beer, specialty sodas, root beer floats, and snacks.

Admission to the Botanical Gardens includes admission to "Artists in the Garden," related art activities, and entrance to the Garden House exhibit featuring J.J. Joyce. Rates are \$5.50 for adults age 18 and up; \$4.50 for students of any age with IDs, Milwaukee County seniors age 60 and up with IDs, and people with disabilities; and \$3.50 for youths age 6-17.

For over 70 years, the League of Milwaukee Artists has championed artistic creativity and actively contributed to the community. The League represents more than 108 local artists creating two- and three-dimensional artwork in all types of media. The league is dedicated to the promotion of visual creation, personal artistic growth, and the expansion of the arts in the state, region and community. For more information about the League, visit [www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com](http://www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com).

For more information on "Artists in The Garden," visit the event website at [milwaukeeartists.org/artists-in-the-garden.html](http://milwaukeeartists.org/artists-in-the-garden.html)

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