



**Rena J. Church**  
Director/Curator

# City of Aurora

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## **Aurora Public Art Commission**

20 East Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60506

## **Grand Army of the Republic, Post 20 Museum**

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**Press Release, April 21, 2017**

**The Aurora Public Art Commission and Lewis Achenbach present:  
Jazz Occurrence 2017: UNFEST, the 4th annual Jazz O Art Exhibition  
Location: Aurora Public Art Commission, third floor gallery**

**20 East Downer Place**

**Aurora, IL 60506**

**May 5 – July 29, 2017**

**Opening Reception: Friday, May 5, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Light hors d'oeuvres**

**Regular Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Saturday from Noon - 4:00 pm**

**Admission: free**

**Contact: Rena Church, Aurora Public Art Commission Director/Curator**

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**<https://www.aurora-il.org/publicarts/>**

The Aurora Public Art Commission and Lewis Achenbach present:

## **Jazz Occurrence 2017: UNFEST, the 4th annual Jazz O Art Exhibition**

The exhibit features 25 visual artists. They are: Lewis Achenbach, Walter Arnold, Bill Austin, Renee Baker, Keri Borkowicz, Fawn Clarke Peterson, Donnell Collins, Joe Gagnepain, Betty Heredia, Cheryl Holz, Jesse Howard, Preston Jackson, Jim Jenkins, Steve Lowery, Irene Lamb O'Neill, Cameron Pfiffner, E. John Pfiffner, Gerardo Rios, Michael Sawdey, Perry Slade, Jahari Thompson, Ton Van Meesche, Anne Von Ehr, Tyler Waldrop, and Anton Witek.

Jazz Occurrence celebrates the eclectic and all-encompassing nature of creative music. It is a musical event with visual accompaniment. The show will be headlined by Cameron Pfiffner, Jim Baker, Brian Sandstrom, and Tim Daisy. Lewis Achenbach will be the brushes on canvas to round out the ensemble. During the opening reception, the ensemble will play free jazz and Achenbach will paint on canvasses placed around the band. Achenbach's goal, he has said "Is to capture the frequency of the room through form and color and create an environment of complete freedom."

Achenbach, who founded Jazz Occurrence, has been drawing and painting the local jazz scene for several years. Achenbach has said that he "will be an active participant during this event. All those who attend the opening will be participants also, as the room itself will be a character in this play of sound and vision."

All four musicians have been featured regionally, nationally and internationally.

### **Cameron Pfiffner:**

Cameron Pfiffner has worked on the jazz scene in Chicago for 30 years. For the past 25 years Pfiffner, with fellow saxist Pat Mallinger, has led the band Sabertooth late night Saturdays at Chicago's famous Green Mill Lounge.

Pfiffner currently leads the 11-piece ensemble Marco Polo, which performs his own original compositions as well as his arrangements of music from many different places and time periods, focused through the idiom of jazz.

A current project is the saxophone ensemble Adolphe'S AX, which pays tribute to the musician and instrument designer Adolphe Sax, inventor of the the saxophone.

### **Jim Baker:**

Jim Baker was born in Chicago a number of years ago and has been playing in and around Chicago and elsewhere in the world for a few decades, mostly on piano and analog synthesizer; mostly in improvisational contexts; in situations involving, amongst others, Fred Anderson, Ken Vandermark, Michael Zerang, Mars Williams, Brian Sandstrom, Steve Hunt, Edward Willkerson Jr, David Boykin, Rob Mazurek, Guillermo Gregorio, Nicole Mitchell, Vincent Davis, the Thing XXL, Tortoise, Dave Rempis, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Paul Hartsaw, Janet Bean, Damon Short, and numerous others.

For a number of years, Mr Baker was the house pianist at the weekly jam sessions at Fred Anderson's Velvet Lounge; and for most of the past decade, has played weekly with the improvising quartet Extraordinary Popular Delusions (the other three Delusions: Messrs. Williams, Sandstrom, & Hunt) , who currently play nearly every Monday night at Beat Kitchen in Chicago.

He has a solo recording of piano (and synthesizer) improvisations on Delmark records entitled "More Questions Than Answers".

### **Brian Sandstrom:**

Brian Sandstrom has been involved in music his entire life. Starting with the bugle -then trumpet, guitar, and bass - he always had a fascination with jazz - from the great soloists to the 'Dixieland' group improvisations. Blues and rock and roll bands pre-college, his studies led him to classical and modern contemporary music. Professionally his upright bass playing has traveled the spaceways between Bebop and Hard Bop ( with players like Lin Halliday, Von Freeman, Ira Sullivan, Ed Petersen ) and free-jazz ( Hal Russell, Mars Williams, Ken Vandermark ). After many years he still performs with the Green Mill All-Stars, the NRG Ensemble, and Extraordinary Popular Delusions.

### **Tim Daisy**

Tim Daisy is a Chicago-based drummer, marimbist, and composer working in the fields of improvised and composed music.

He has performed and recorded original music for modern dance, sound installations, film, and improvised music ensembles of various configurations since 1997. Tim also owns and operates [Relay Records](#), documenting much of the creative work he has been involved with in Chicago and abroad since 2011.

Tim co-curates the weekly OPTION series at Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago. The programming explores contemporary perspectives on improvisation and composition in a 'salon' format, enabling local, national, and international artists to publicly discuss their practice and ideas as well as perform.

The exhibit will be on display until July 29, 2017 The Aurora Public Art Commission is located at 20 East Downer Place in Aurora Illinois.

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The **Aurora Public Art Commission** is a civic organization dedicated to the presentation of public art in all its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery visit the City of Aurora's website at [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)