



2025 Community Partner Summer Events

Durham Museum

STORYTELLERS: ARTISTS FROM OUR OWN BACKYARD

Now – August 31, all day

The group is known today as Job's Daughters International and is active in five countries, including the United States. What started as a mission to further engage young women in the Omaha community grew into a notable, international cause still embodying this mission today. In conjunction with *The Animation Academy*, The Durham Museum has developed a companion exhibition featuring artists and storytellers from Nebraska whose work in various media is inspiring dreamers of all generations. Through cartoons, illustrations, mixed media, musical compositions and computer animation, the work of these artists helps a story jump off the page. The display features examples from comic books and children's books to the big screen and shows how Nebraskan artists tell different types of stories through their work. Featured artists include: Bruce Arant, Michael Burton, Caitlin Cass, Trent Claus, Drew Conley, Bob Hall, Timothy James Hantula, Cale Oglesby, Henry Payer and Chip Thompson.

NATURE'S WRATH: THE 1975 TORNADO

Now – August 3, all day

Fifty years ago, two days of intense storms hit the Midwest. On May 6, 1975, the air was humid and the skies continued to darken in Omaha. The first report of tornado sightings came just after 4PM. By 5PM, the twister had dispersed and significant damage had taken place within that hour. Photographers captured moments such as the tornado's approach, seen best through winner's circle photos taken from the Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack, and the destruction left behind. What they also captured, however, were the citizens and first responders out on the streets assisting wherever possible. Using images from the Photo Archive, see the impact of this storm from different viewpoints and a community coming together in its aftermath. Research assistance was provided by The Durham Museum intern, Olivia Fiore, University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate.

OMAHA'S WORLD'S FAIR OF AVIATION, 1946

Now – September 7, all day

Omaha's Offutt Field hosted the World's Fair of Aviation in July 1946. With an event anticipated to be "the biggest thing that Omaha has done since the Trans-Mississippi Exposition," the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben stepped up as a sponsor to accomplish the task. The event included an indoor exhibit space of 120,000 square feet and also featured air shows with a wide range of military aircraft. In terms of attendance, anywhere from 80,000 to over 100,000 people experienced this incredible local spectacle." This nine-photo display features images ranging from a German V-2 rocket and "Flying Boxcar" aircraft to the opening ceremony's ribbon cutting, and was curated by The Durham Museum intern, Mina Bussa, University of Nebraska at Omaha student.

Durham Museum cont...

Museum Insider: Photo Archive in a Flash! THE IMPEACHMENT OF JUSTICE SAMUEL CHASE

Now – November 2, all day

As the United States approached its 30th birthday in 1804, the nation's leaders faced various challenges of running a young country. There were two political parties, the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans, competing for influence in government positions and a notable impeachment that set a precedent for the checks and balances between government branches. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase was the first, and only, Supreme Court Justice impeached by Congress, though he was acquitted of all charges. To learn how it played out, visit this display and view items from the Byron Reed Collection that are connected to this decisive trial. Research assistance was provided by The Durham Museum intern, Griffin Saunders, University of Nebraska-Omaha graduate.

Animation Academy: Crafts at The Platform

Now – August 30, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-noon

Pair your exploration of our summer exhibition, [The Animation Academy: From Pencils to Pixels](#), with kid-friendly crafts on The Platform, the museum's interactive play space. Example activities may include creating your own thaumatrope, building a "wonder-turner" (the earliest animation-device) or exploring depth perception with homemade 3D glasses. Come play, create and bring animation to life! No registration required.

Storytime at The Platform

Now – August 27, Wednesdays, 11:30am

Each week features a children's storybook brought to life through virtual animation! Featured books will rotate weekly: *I Am (Not) Scared*; *Flamingo Flamenco*; *Let's Pop, Pop, Popcorn!* and *Never Let a Unicorn Scribble*. Geared towards toddlers but all ages are welcome. Before or after storytime, be sure to explore our summer exhibition, [The Animation Academy: From Pencils to Pixels](#). This drop-in activity is included with museum admission. No registration required.

Animation Academy Trivia

Now – August 31, Saturdays, 10am-noon

How well do you know your cartoons? Put your knowledge to the test with animation-themed trivia. Then "draw up" the perfect museum experience with exploration of our summer exhibition, [The Animation Academy: From Pencils to Pixels](#). This drop-in activity is included with museum admission. No registration required.

Animation Academy: Artist Workshops

Now – August 30, Wednesdays and Saturdays, either 11am or noon

Calling all aspiring creatives! As part of our must-see summer exhibition, [The Animation Academy: From Pencils to Pixels](#), The Durham Museum is offering hands-on drawing sessions led by local creatives or museum staff. Follow step-by-step guidance and sketch a beloved animated character or enjoy a unique drawing exercise, learning insider tips and tricks! Whether you're a doodler, a budding artist or just love animation, this is your chance to sharpen your skills and have some fun. This drop-in activity is included with museum admission. No registration required.

Fontenelle Forest

Habitat Hike

July 13, 2-4pm

Join our Naturalist Educator for a guided hike through the Forest located at 1111 Bellevue Blvd. North. Come along as we explore the various flora and fauna of the location. The guided hike will be from 2:00-4:00 PM, traversing easy to moderate terrain; please dress accordingly. *Free for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Foodie Forest Fridays

June 13, July 11, 18, 25 and August 29, 12-6pm

Fontenelle Forest is partnering up with local food trucks to serve up delicious food truck eats on select Fridays from 12pm – 6pm outside the Nature Center. Fuel up for your hike or bring the whole family to play at Acorn Acres and enjoy a well-deserved meal afterwards. Food must be purchased on site, separate from daily admission or membership costs. Plus, enjoy extended hours at the Forest this summer (Monday – Friday) until 7pm, starting May 27. Food truck fare varies from sweet treats such as ice cream and snow cones to comfort food like tacos and BBQ.

Summer Birding Walk

June 28, 9-10:30am

Join us on a steamy summer morning as the Forests' migratory birds put on a show! Vireos, tanagers, flycatchers, and more are thick in the Forest, so grab your binoculars and join one of our Naturalists as we traverse the boardwalk and nearby trails on this easy-to-moderate, slow-paced hike. Whether you're a new or experienced birder, summer is the season to identify new birds or see some old favorites. Binoculars are available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Pack a water bottle and bring a good pair of walking shoes! *\$10 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Dirt Time

June 28, July 26, August 30, 9-10am

Join us at Acorn Acres to explore tracks, scat, and more to find out who has been visiting our play area! As the name suggests, this program can be messy, so please dress appropriately. We recommend bringing shoes that can get muddy, a pair of gloves to keep little hands clean, and a sense of adventure. This drop-in program is geared toward families with children but is accessible for curious folks of all ages. In the case of inclement weather, indoor activities will be available. *Free for members; regular admission for non-members.*

Statewide Arboretum Native Plant Sale

June 21, 9am-noon

Fontenelle Forest is hosting the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum for their annual Native Plant Sale at Camp Brewster! By planting native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, you are helping to keep our local environment healthy, free of harmful invasive species, and attract helpful insects such as butterflies and bees. Check out the selection of native plants and learn more from Fontenelle Forest's staff about the importance of native plants and our restoration efforts!

July Stargazing Event

July 18, 9-11pm

Head out to Neale Woods to enjoy some July constellations during a night of stargazing! This event will run from 9:00-11:00 PM. Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather, wear good walking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Please bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on while stargazing and be ready to hike a short distance on easy to moderate terrain with your chair to our stargazing viewing area. Minimum 10 people, Max 30. \$10 for member and \$25 for non-members. [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Fontenelle Forest cont....

Firefly Tracking: Community Science Day

June 21, 8:30-10:30pm

Come enjoy dusk at the Forest as we learn about fireflies, including the ones in your own backyard! These flashing, flickering insects need our help as their populations have been declining over the years – but scientists and citizens like you can help change that! Whether you call them fireflies or lightning bugs, this is your opportunity to join our naturalist educators as we learn about the nation-wide Firefly Atlas project, participate in counting fireflies on site, and take home the resources you need to continue this important work at home. This program is geared toward adults and families with science-minded children due to the upper-level concepts and meticulous activities we will be engaging with. Parents and guardians are responsible for any children in their care. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp or borrow one of ours on a first-come, first-served basis. Hiking to count fireflies on-site will be on easy-to-moderate, on the Boardwalk and surrounding trails. *\$15 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Beetles in the Wetlands: Community Science Day

June 27, 8:30-10:30pm

Are you curious about what critters live under logs? What creepy crawlies come out at night? Join us in the Wetlands as we're joined by entomology enthusiast, Andy! Plan for a night hike on easy terrain as we search for beetles that come out at night in the Wetlands. Once we catch beetles and other insects, we'll identify them and record the data on iNaturalist. Long pants and bug spray are HIGHLY encouraged. We recommend that participants bring their own flashlights or headlamps; we will have a limited number of flashlights and lanterns available. This program is geared toward adults and families with science-minded children due to the upper-level concepts and meticulous activities we will be engaging with. Parents and guardians are responsible for any children in their care. *\$15 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Fungus Among Us

June 22, 2-3:30pm

Have you ever seen an ear growing out of a tree? Gray fingers sticking out of the ground? Or red cups lining the edge of the trail? These fascinating fungi – and more! - all grow here at the Forest! Join a Naturalist Educator and a member of the Nebraska Mycological Society as we explore the myriad of mushrooms that grow throughout the year. This is a program you “mush” make “room” for in your schedule! Bring your hiking boots, a water bottle, and a sense of adventure as we traverse easy-to-moderate terrain looking for fungus. This event will occur twice per year; once at the Nature Center in June to look at early-season fungi, and once at Camp Wa-Kon-Da in October to look for fall fungi. *\$10 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Raptor Talk

July 6 and August 3, 11am-noon

Not every meat-eating bird is a raptor. A raptor is a carnivorous bird that has The Four Sharps: a sharp, hooked beak, sharp talons, sharp eyesight, and sharp hearing. This summer, join Raptor Care Specialist Ell Kinsey in the Raptor Woodland Refuge from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on the first Sunday of the month to meet a raptor ambassador, handle some artifacts, and learn a thing or two about what makes a raptor a raptor. *This event is free for members or with daily admission for non-members.*

Twilight Trekking

June 28, 8:30-10:30pm

Join us in this unique opportunity to see the Forest at night! Don't miss your chance to learn about the nocturnal creatures who call the Forest home while exploring new trails. This hike is geared toward intermediate to experienced hikers (ages 16+) and will traverse at least two miles of moderate to difficult terrain, so please come prepared with appropriate clothing and gear. Our educators recommend the following, as applicable: long pants, tall socks, water bottle, bug spray, winter coat, scarf, and/or gloves. *Please check the weather as you are preparing for this event – safety of our guests is our top priority.* *\$10 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Fontenelle Forest cont....

Yoga at the Forest

June 29, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 9am

Discover tranquility amidst the trees during Yoga at the Forest each Sunday! Each Vinyasa-style yoga class will incorporate a blend of mindful movement and breath work, all guided by experienced instructors. Whether you're a seasoned yogi or new to the practice, our inclusive classes cater to all levels, fostering a supportive community where everyone can thrive. Session will take place at the Nature Center, either outside on the lower plaza or inside the Forest Room. **PLEASE NOTE:** Yoga mats are *not* provided. If you don't have a yoga mat, we suggest bringing an alternative such as a thick towel or blanket to provide some cushioning and grip during your practice. This program is intended for ages 16 and older. *\$5 for Members and \$25 for Non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

National Moth Week Survey: Community Science Day

July 25, 8-10pm

Join us in celebrating National Moth Week with a night of community science! Did you know that there are over 1300 species of moths in Nebraska? How much do you really know about them and their role in nature? During this exciting event, we will learn about the importance of moths in our ecosystem, set up moth survey sites, and collect data for the National Moth Week database. If you're interested in learning more about the nocturnal critters in the world around us and participating in hands-on research, we encourage you to join in the fun! We encourage participants to bring their own headlamps; we will have a limited number of flashlights and lanterns available. This program is geared toward adults and families with science-minded children (older elementary and over) due to the upper-level concepts and activities we will be engaging with. Parents and guardians are responsible for any children in their care. *\$15 for members; \$25 for non-members.* [Pre-registration is required.](#)

Lauritzen Gardens

Tremendous Topiaries

Now – September 1, all day

This summer, discover a collection of TREMENDOUS topiary displays in the garden. From a flock of flamingos to a big bison, these topiaries are lifelike interpretations of animals that use live plants to mimic the colors and textures of feathers, fur, scales, and skin. See what's involved in the care of topiary plants and learn how our horticulturists maintain their artistic shape.

Leashes at Lauritzen

Now – September 15, Mondays, 5-8pm

On every Monday evening now through September 15, guests and their canine friends can explore the garden and enjoy the great outdoors together during Leashes at Lauritzen. From 5 to 8 p.m. each event night, the whole family, dogs included, are invited to walk on garden trails, take photos among the flowers and foliage, and meet other dogs and dog lovers.

Free Admission Day - Juneteenth

June 19, all day

What could make a holiday even better? Free admission to Lauritzen Gardens! Explore Sofia's Play Garden, our current exhibit and our outdoor gardens and discover all that your public garden has to offer. No advance tickets are required.

Tempo at Twilight

June - September, Wednesdays, 6-8pm

We can't think of a better way to spend a summer evening than listening to live music in the garden. This year's eclectic outdoor concert lineup offers something for everyone — from a vibrant Latin concert to jazz and funk, a fun-filled family night, and the timeless energy of classic rock. Tickets are \$15 per concert, \$5 for garden members. Purchase ticket [here](#).

Omaha Children's Museum

Argentina's Niños

Now, all day

Take your family on a trip to the second-largest country in South America and learn about what it's like to be a kid growing up in Argentina! Go rock climbing in the Andes Mountains, learn about the gauchos, make empanadas, explore the Cave of the Hands, contribute to a vibrant street painting, and more!

My Wild Backyard

Now – April 12, 2026, all day

An ordinary backyard is full of life during all four seasons – if you know where to look. Mimic critters by digging, tunneling, scrambling, and flying through a variety of habitats and learn how life changes with the weather!

Character Wednesdays

June 11, 18, 25, 10am-3pm

Visit with your favorite characters every Wednesday in June! Character schedules will be shared here and on our social media pages prior to their anticipated visits.

June 11: Pete the Cat

June 18: Pixar

June 25: Paw Patrol

Character appearances will take place between 10am and 3pm and are subject to change.

Omaha Community Playhouse

Titanic The Musical

Now – June 29, varying times

Titanic The Musical captures the stories of the officers, crew members and passengers of the ever-fascinating catastrophe of the most luxurious ocean liner in the 1900s. From crew in the boiler room to first-class passengers, from the poorest families who scraped together their life savings to purchase third-class tickets, to some of the wealthiest men of the Victorian age, *Titanic* captures the entire range of humanity aboard the ship. Showcasing the grand and majestic ship herself with moments of heartbreaking intimacy, don't miss this five-time Tony Award®-winning musical that ran over 800 performances on Broadway in 1997. Tickets start at \$31. To order, call (402) 345-0606 or purchase online [here](#).

Disney's Dare to Dream JR

June 19-June 22, various times

Disney's *Dare to Dream JR*. is a 60-minute musical revue that follows an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. As the group sets out to help each other discover their dreams, they work together to explore the power of dreams to unite, inspire, and make anything possible. Drawing from a century of beloved Disney films, *Dare to Dream JR*. features songs appearing for the first time ever in a Disney stage musical, including fan-favorites from *The Princess and the Frog*, *Coco*, *Encanto*, and *Frozen II*. This musical revue is a thrilling mix of contemporary songs, timeless classics, and brand-new medleys that are sure to surprise and delight Disney lovers of all ages. *Special Event—Not part of the regular season series. Part of the Shirlee & Henry Fonda Theatre Academy's Spring Production Class.

The Rose Theater

Finding Nemo

June 6-29, varying times

Disney Pixar's *Finding Nemo* is a vibrant, puppetry filled, musical adaptation of the beloved 2003 movie. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves. Tickets start at \$32. Order online [here](#).