

Downtown ArtWalk set for this weekend

By Geoff Bruce gbruce@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 4:00 pm

Downtown Beloit will be alive with the arts this weekend.

The 11th annual Beloit ArtWalk begins at 5 p.m. Friday and runs through 9 p.m. Hundreds of works by 50 artists will on display at 25 venues around the city. The program continues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

“We have a lot of local artists that will be bringing new work with them,” Downtown Beloit Association Executive Director Shauna El-Amin said. “It could be great for finding unique gift ideas for Mother’s Day.”

Venues will include popular downtown Beloit spots such as Suds O’Hanahan’s Irish Pub, Brill Jewelers, and First National Bank Plaza. Outlying venues such as the Angel Museum and the Beloit Fire Arts Incubator will be easy to get to for guests as a free trolley will run during the event’s Friday night program.

El-Amin says the ArtWalk is a popular event every year and believes that it grows each year.

“We don’t track attendance, but I can tell that it has grown a lot. I would say the visitors number in the thousands.”

In addition to the venues, the Downtown Beloit Association has named a featured artist this year. Roberta Haakinson, winner of several state art awards through the Wisconsin Regional Art Program, will feature watercolor and mixed media paintings at the Vision Center, 500 Public Avenue.

The Beloit Memorial High School Art Club will also have a presence at the event as they will auction off artistic chandeliers that they created.

“We donated our old hanging baskets to them and it’s pretty cool to see what they’ve done with them,” El-Amin said.

Other festivities include a variety of live music at many venues and a Beloit Memorial High School Theater production.

“They’ll be on the gantry stage doing something called ‘Zombie Prom’ from 6 - 8 p.m.,” El-Amin said. “They’re trying to support their trip to Scotland so it’s just another thing that the community can enjoy and support.”

El-Amin noted that the Friday night of the annual ArtWalk is the busier of the two sessions, but the

Saturday hours overlap with the Farmer's Market Pre-Sale, making for even more variety of shopping and browsing options.

"It's a great community event," El-Amin said.

Brochures containing a full list of venues and artists that will take part in the 2013 ArtWalk can be found at most downtown Beloit businesses and at the Vision Center.
