

# Art Walk a hit downtown

By Whitney Helm [whelm@beloitdailynews.com](mailto:whelm@beloitdailynews.com) | Posted: Saturday, May 16, 2015 10:00 am

The streets were buzzing as Beloit's 13th annual Art Walk kicked off on Friday.

Rosa Malone made a bold move making her first visit to the event as an artist. Malone, who said she started sewing just a few years ago, got the itch after creating a dress for her first renaissance fair in Milwaukee. After a few classes at Blackhawk Technical College, she was able to create stuffed dragons for her 9-month-old son Owen's mobile — keeping with the couple's medieval nursery theme.

From there, she said it was “time to sink or swim” and she started her business, Weave ‘n Stitch. Malone took up shop in the window of A Much Better Way at their new State Street location, 319 State St., for Art Walk.

“I love to sew, the dragons are just a small sample of what I do ... You kinda name it, I kinda do it,” said Malone.

The dragons are made of fleece fabric and are completely customizable from the top of the head to the bottom of the feet. Malone offers more than 25 different jewel and bead options.

Malone joined more than 50 other artists and 25 participating businesses in downtown Beloit, and she isn't the only first-time artist.

Beloit resident Colette Szabo has attended Art Walk in the past, but she joined Malone in the “first-time artist club.”

A year ago, Szabo began making earrings from old CDs and DVDs. After researching online, she found a three-step method that required tweaking in order to make the earrings.

“I was looking for something to use (the CDs and DVDs) with ... you don't want to throw them away in the trash,” said Szabo.

Each CD or DVD is different so there isn't a set amount of earrings to come from it.

“It depends on how the material is cutting and how it works,” said Szabo.



## Getting creative

Doreen Dalman and Steve Ballou listen to artist Colette Szabo explain the process for making earrings and necklaces from CDs and DVDs in The Villager/My Apartment on Friday.

Residents Doreen Dalman and Steve Ballou, who call themselves “regulars” at the event, stopped by Szabo’s booth to view her art work.

“It’s an integral part (of the city) and proof of the resurgence of Beloit,” said Ballou of Art Walk.

There’s only one more day to take it all in, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There are brochures with maps available at all downtown locations, restaurants and at Vision Beloit. Additional information can be found at [www.downtownbeloit.com](http://www.downtownbeloit.com).

The multi-block art gallery is made possible by Downtown Beloit Association, Kerry, Hendricks Commercial Properties, Beloit Daily News, Jones Travel, McDonald’s, Turtle Creek Bookstore and Wisconsin Distributors.