

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



## Irving Arts Center

This month we shine our spotlight on a real local treasure, the lively and versatile Irving Arts Center. Built on land donated by the Carpenter family at 3333 N. MacArthur, the facility was completed in 1990, and consists of two theaters (Carpenter Hall and the Dupree Theater), four galleries, rooms for meetings and classes, and a lovely outdoor sculpture garden. It is overseen by the 11-member City of Irving Arts Board,

The Arts Center has something for everyone. Over the years, the gallery space has hosted international exhibits like the Genghis Khan tour, which brought over 50,000 visitors in 2011, but they also feature works of local artists and school children. The theaters are known for the top-notch productions of the Lyric Stage, and both the Irving and Las Colinas Symphonies (yes, Irving has two highly regarded orchestras) call Carpenter Hall home. And one is never too young to start developing an appreciation for the arts. The Irving Arts Center offers a variety of activities for children, including summer camps or classes where they can explore performance or visual arts. Children 2 years and older can go to "JumpstART" which combines storytelling and art. The Irving Arts Center aims to "Excite Imagination, Create an Impression, and Share a Passion." It's no wonder it was voted "Best in the Burbs" by D Magazine.

The Holiday Season is bringing a flurry of activity to the Arts Center, including several performances of the annual favorite "The Nutcracker" as well as "A Gospel Christmas" and "Home for the Holidays" The 24th Annual Holiday Exhibition and Tree Decorating Contest will be ongoing throughout the month (Dec 1—Dec 31), and visitors can vote for their favorite tree in person through Dec 20 or online through Dec 31.



Among the other activities this month:

- "Go Green for the Holidays" on Dec 9: the annual open house will feature artwork by Irving ISD students, a wonderland of decorated trees, holiday-themed craft projects, photos with Santa, and a performance by the group "Recycled Percussion."
- Family Funday events on Dec 3, 10 & 17: Green-themed holiday art projects and workshops for all ages
- December Family Film Fest on Dec 4, 11 & 18: These will feature the eco-friendly family film favorites WALL-E, The Lorax, and Happy Feet. The Dec 11 event also includes "Tossed and Found," making art from recycled items.

For more information, call (972) 252-7558 or go to <http://www.irvingartscenter.com/>

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### Did You Know?

The country's largest and oldest recycled art market will take place this month in New Mexico. The Recycle Santa Fe Art Festival, Dec 2-4, will have more than 100 artists dedicated to showcasing art made from discarded materials. A recycled "Trash Fashion" show and a juried art contest and just part of the festivities.

If you're looking for some unique recycled art, a book from Ripley's Believe it or Not called "Enter if You Dare" has a 28-page section of "trash-to-treasure" artwork, including the stories behind their creation. Phone book carvings, musicians' portraits made from their old cassette tapes, and wedding gowns from recycled paper are just a sampling of the featured items.

Courtesy of Earth911.com



November was all about recycling! YMCA Seniors (above) celebrated another successful America Recycles Day with KIB on November 18, while Barton Elementary was the top IISD paper recycler, and won the honor of hosting the Arbor Day Celebration on November 11 (below, L to R, KIB President Jim Scrivner, Barton Principal Kelly Giddens, Councilman Allan Meagher and City Arborist Mike Griffith).

## Wrapping up the Year with Awards Season

As the end of 2016 rapidly approaches and the weather turns cooler, KIB's focus shifts from outdoor activities to the important task of recognizing the contributions of those who make our city so great. During this time, KIB staff is busy preparing award applications for the Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) program. Awards are offered in a number of categories, and it is an honor for us to showcase Irving companies, organizations or individuals with nominations. While working on these, it makes us realize how fortunate we are to collaborate with so many dedicated people who share our mission of educating

and engaging the community in the areas of litter abatement, recycling and beautification. Nothing emphasizes that more than preparing our application for the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA). KIB requests information from city departments, schools and other sources to create an executive summary and portfolio that encapsulate all the good things happening in Irving. Our biggest challenge is fitting everything we want to say in the page limit! So thank you to all those who live, work or play in Irving for another great year in 2016.

