



Dear Friends,

With spring just around the corner, we are looking forward to warmer days and gathering with our Ashe County friends who we have missed over the winter months. The Ashe County Arts Council is looking towards summer and excited to invite you to participate as a host of ***Friends for the Arts***. This is a reimagining of *Feast for the Arts*, a long time tradition of gathering together with friends in celebration and support of the arts. We hope you will join us.

This year, we are encouraging you, as a host, to create an enticing event that reflects your talents and interests. Our community is so creative and we can't wait to hear everyone's new ideas. Gather with friends for a paint party, a hike or picnic, a float trip down the river, paint wine glasses, play bingo or lawn games, host a card party, gather to clog or square dance, make pottery, host a jam session, stargaze, host a photography workshop. Of course for the chefs in our midst who always delight us with their culinary talents, hosting a dinner party, luncheon, or brunch continue to be great options. The possibilities are endless! If you've got an idea, we are happy to discuss it with you.

As hosts, you provide the time, the place, the friends, and whatever it takes to make it fun. This is an opportunity to enjoy time with your friends in an event of your creation, and your guests are simply asked to make a minimum donation to the Arts Council (typically \$40 per person, or whatever amount is appropriate for your event and guests). Your event can be any size or age group you choose – young, old, big, small or in between. Hosts are encouraged to hold their gatherings between May 1st and June 22nd, 2026. Our goal is to confirm hosts by April 10.

Keep in mind that you don't have to go it alone. Partner with a friend to help with the planning and hosting duties. Events can take place in homes but also consider parks, downtown galleries or reserve the Arts Center (free to hosts for this fundraiser) as the venue for your event. The more the merrier – if you know anyone who might like to host parties of their own, just let us know – we'll be happy to contact them to make the arrangements.

***Friends for the Arts***, as the largest fundraising event of the year and income from the event allows the Arts Council to increase its programming in the community and schools, and your help with this effort will support the Arts Council, a noted leader for the last 46 years. We hope you'll join us as a host for the 2026 celebration – our goal is to confirm hosts by April 10. Please give us a call at 336-846-2787 with your questions or to be added to the list of 2026 hosts. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

The Friends for the Arts Coordinating Committee