

Arts Alive Back at SHS

Festival Includes Art, Music and Dance Performances



Story by Nicole Rafacz
D211 Student Press Corps

March 11, 2025

In March hundreds of Schaumburg high school students took a deep dive into the arts through Arts Alive, the biennial event at which professional performers take over the school and students also show off their creativity and talent.

Students had the chance to see a broad showcase of performances across genres, immerse themselves in hands-on art and view a film festival, among other opportunities.

"I always look forward to the variety of professional performances we are able to bring to the school. This year, I'm especially looking forward to the drumming group – Ayodele – and the Indian Dance School," said Jamie Micheletto, teacher and co-chair of the Arts Alive Committee. "This year, we're elevating our Visual Fest to an engaging, interactive experience for students where they can participate in actively creating art through many different media! We're calling it ArtPop, and it is going to be poppin'!"

In addition to professional groups, SHS student clubs and ensembles exhibited their skills. Among these were chamber ensembles from the music department. This provided a way for students to grow both as individual musicians and collaborate with their peers in smaller groups compared to a full band, choir, or orchestra.



"We enjoyed showcasing the incredible artistry and hard work these students have invested for our school community at Arts Alive," said Vinnie Inendino, Schaumburg High School's band director and Music Department Chair. "Arts Alive is a fantastic opportunity for students to see many different ways you can engage in the arts. We hope students come away inspired to seek out more artistic opportunities, whether as supporters of other artists or creators of their own."

The student film festival was also a highlight. There were 17 films, ranging from 2-5 minutes for each film. The genres were narrative short film, documentary, experimental/art film, animation, and music video. Jessica Aulisio, one of the directors for the film festival, helped set up the space, test the equipment, and made sure

everything ran smoothly for the audience.

“It’s wonderful to see the creativity and storytelling our students bring to the screen,” Aulisio said. “It’s always exciting to see how students push their skills in editing, cinematography, and narrative.”

An addition to the event this year was the Hidden Talent Showcase, an opportunity for students to show their hidden talents. It featured sophomore Nyla Muhammed performing a vocal solo, and senior Sarah Sekiguchi performing a piano solo.



“What inspired me to show my hidden talent was the support from my family and friends who gave me the confidence to show everyone my talent,” said Muhammad.

“Sharing music with others is always a rewarding experience. I wanted to participate in the showcase since there aren’t a lot of opportunities to be able to perform in front of the students at our school and get to organize your own ensemble,” said Sekiguchi.

Members of the South Asian Student Association performed traditional Indian dances throughout the festival. The club practiced together two hours per night, two nights per week in order to perfect their performance.

“Dancing for Arts Alive is definitely scary but thrilling at the same time. Dancing on stage gives you confidence and happiness knowing that people are watching the dances you have been working on come together,” shared junior Riya Patel.

Plans are already in progress for the return of Arts Alive in 2026.