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PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

**Arts West to Reopen to the Public Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

Athens, OH –The City of Athens Arts, Parks and Recreation Department will be reopening the Arts West facility to the public starting Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> for business hours, and programming. The Arts West facility, located at 132 West State Street, has been closed for business hours since the state’s mandated closure in mid-March due to the COVID -19 pandemic.

Arts West business hours will be limited and by appointment only. Business hours at Arts West will now be Tuesday-Friday 2:00pm-6:00pm. The Southeast Ohio Musical Lending Library, a program that offers musical instruments and equipment to Arts West members will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm-6:00pm, offering curbside pickup to those who request it. Gallery shows will resume starting on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> with the annual “For the Love of Athens” photo show. Appointments to see the monthly gallery display are required and will ensure that no more than ten patrons are in the gallery at a time. New programming will include the launch of weekly “Crafternoon” classes for children grades K-3, and begin on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. “Crafternoon” classes will enroll no more than nine participants per class, with virtual options offered. The “Afternoon Arts” afterschool classes will begin after Athens City School’s Spring Break, on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, starting in mid-March, arts based adult classes will be offered.

The City of Athens is in the process of installing fiber optic cable at the facility, along with the video recording equipment to allow for virtual and streaming content to be produced. Live streaming content is being planned and developed, and will begin production once all equipment has been installed. The facility may be available to rent on a case by case basis for small user groups, after January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**What:** Arts West Reopening

**Where:** Arts West, 132 W. State St., Athens, OH 45701

**When:** Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Business Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 2pm-6pm or by appointment only.

Contact: Emily Beveridge at Arts West  
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