

## Immediate Release

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Event Contact: Marissa Amoni  
630-674-2099  
[downtownauroran@gmail.com](mailto:downtownauroran@gmail.com)

Artists: Jeff Paetzold, 404-704-4667; Angelica Matczuk,  
630-698-1986; John Heinz, 630-896-6157.

AACVB Contact: Laurie DiBerardino,  
public relations director  
630-897-5581  
[laurie@enjoyaurora.com](mailto:laurie@enjoyaurora.com)



Artist: Angelica "Geli" Matczuk

### **Family-friendly free art event in downtown Aurora**

*Celebrate Aurora's burgeoning art and culture scene on Aug. 28*

AURORA, Illinois (Aug. 9, 2010) On Aug. 28 noon – 5 p.m., artsy types will converge on the brick alley between Downer Place and Galena Boulevard for the first ever Alley Art Festival. To celebrate community and the growing art and culture scene in Aurora's downtown, over 30 local artists and musicians will showcase their art and perform in this carnival-like fest.

“This is what we need downtown – people getting together and enjoying an under-utilized space. We might not have Maxwell Street Market, but we have Water Street Mall,” said Marissa Amoni, event head.

Artwork and hand-crafted items will be for sale. Food will be provided by Luigi's Pizza. A children's art tent, yoga classes, hula-hoop instruction and more are all part of the festivities. Local artist Lisa Gloria will demonstrate live figure drawing. Various local musicians will perform on the lawn of the mall including The Kevin Trudo, Andrea Dawn and Blue Smoke.

Artists include Maureen Gasek, Lisa Manning of Nido Studio, Fernando Medina and tattoo artist Jeffrey Paetzold. The festival is participant-run and is what several artists and residents said they want to see in downtown Aurora, especially after the success of the Aurora ArtWalk. The idea for the festival emerged from a Downtown Aurora Arts Mixer (DAAM) discussion in which an ARTWorks student suggested an art festival on Water Street.

A small group of individuals involved in the downtown scene drew up plans for Alley Art Festival. They are Marissa Amoni, *Beacon-News* contributor and publisher of *Downtown Auroran* magazine; Jen Evans, ARTWorks teacher; Nate Miller, arts director at Triple Threat Mentoring and local artist Lisa Gloria. Event sponsors include *Downtown Auroran* magazine, The City of Aurora and Triple Threat Mentoring.