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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTBENDER IS BACK! June 4, 2022 from 9 AM – 5 PM

All-day arts event celebrates creativity and self-expression with over twenty programs and performances scheduled throughout South Orange.

South Orange, NJ – **Seton Village Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP)** and **South Orange Village** are pleased to bring back ArtBender, an event that returns after a two-year hiatus.

“ArtBender is near and dear to my heart,” said Danni Michaeli, lead architect of ArtBender. “We look forward to welcoming the public to any and all of our many scheduled events. We have missed gathering to celebrate the enormous creative spirit of our community and there are so many ways to join in the fun this Saturday. Paint, draw, sing, dance, garden, and build!”

ArtBender is sponsored by Seton Village NPP, a grant South Orange received in late 2021 to invest in the Seton Village neighborhood and Irvington Avenue business



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corridor. Events will occur in Seton Village and all throughout South Orange. Nearly all events are free of charge and include morning [Yoga](#) at 133 Fairview Avenue, a [Plant & Play](#) program at Carter Park, and two art programs celebrating [Pride](#) including an art installation at Valley Street and Valley Plaza and a read-aloud art project at South Orange Public Library. A [virtual poster making session](#) is scheduled for 1 PM. Live music is planned at several locations throughout town.

For a complete list of events and performances, visit www.setonvillage.org/artbender-2022.

One of the anchor events at **ArtBender** will occur at the corner of Ward Place and Irvington Avenue. Last month, local artist [Kathryne Hall](#) was selected to design a community mural. The public is invited to help paint the mural between 10 AM – 2 PM on June 4.

“We are very excited to see such a bright and joyful new mural being installed on the corner of Irvington Avenue and Ward Place. This location is optimal within the community as is it one of the most frequently travelled roads in South Orange with great visibility when walking along the corridor,” said Summer Jones, South Orange Board of Trustee member and Seton Village resident. “**ArtBender** is the perfect opportunity to see this project realized and to highlight the vibrant artistic talent of our community.”

About ArtBender

ArtBender is a celebration of creativity and self-expression, happening in and around South Orange, NJ on June 4, 2022 (rain date June 5). Community members are encouraged to gather at “creativity hubs” by starting communal projects in neighborhoods throughout the town. Local businesses are also encouraged to host an arts event. Past **ArtBender** events have included painting, chalk street art, poetry writing, and music and dance performances.








ArtBender was founded in 2016 as a 24-hour arts marathon and fundraiser for Arts Unbound, a non-profit arts organization in Orange, NJ that was dedicated to the artistic achievement of people living with disabilities and seniors. Unfortunately, Arts Unbound closed its doors in 2019. This year **ArtBender** returns after a two-year hiatus and will include over thirty creative programs and performances.

About Seton Village NPP

Seton Village together with South Orange Village was awarded a five-year Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) grant to invest in the Seton Village neighborhood and Irvington Avenue business corridor. This grant from the NJ Department of Community Affairs comes with renewable funding of \$125,000 per year, for a total investment of \$625,000.

ART BENDER


Schedule of Events

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|  <p>ART BENDER Yoga June 4, 2022 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM 133 Fairview Ave., South Orange Registration: \$5.00 (includes mat)</p> | <p>What: Yoga Outside When: 9 AM Where: 133 Fairview Avenue Notes: Bring a mat, water and sunscreen. Free to all.</p> |  <p>What: Making Protest/Support Posters When: 1 PM Where: Online on Zoom Notes: Computer, markers, print-outs. Registration Required. Free to all.</p> |
|  <p>ART BENDER PLANT & PLAY June 4, 2022 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Carter Park, South Orange</p> | <p>What: Plant & Play When: 9:30 AM Where: Carter Park (College Place & Irvington Avenue) Notes: Bring water, sunscreen, and garden-friendly clothes. Playdate and gardening. Free to all. Great for little ones!</p> |  <p>What: Pride+ Art Installation When: 1 PM - 5 PM Where: Triangle near Spiotta Park (Valley & Valley Plaza) Notes: Bring water and sunscreen. Free to all.</p> |
|  <p>ART BENDER June 4, 2022 10 AM - 2 PM Ward Place & Irvington Avenue</p> | <p>What: Ward Place Community Mural Painting When: 10 AM - 2 PM Where: Ward Place & Irvington Avenue Notes: Bring paint-friendly clothes. Family friendly.</p> |  <p>ART BENDER Book Art Program June 4, 2022 2 PM 65 Scotland Rd</p> |
|  <p>ART BENDER June 4, 2022 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM 340 Prospect Street</p> | <p>What: Architect & Design Project When: 10:30 AM - 12:30 AM Where: 340 Prospect Street Notes: Bring a mat, water and sunscreen. Free to all. Family friendly.</p> |  <p>ART BENDER June 4, 2022 1 PM - 3 PM 110 Irvington Avenue</p> |
|   | <p>What: TAU Sculpture Program When: 3 PM Where: Meadowland Park near TAU Notes: Bring water and sunscreen. \$25. Ticketed Event.</p> |  |

ART BENDER

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| <p>Father Vincent Monella Community Center (133 Fairview Avenue)</p> | <p>Spiotta Park (20-32 Village Plaza)</p> |
| <p>Renee Leviton Duo 12 PM</p> | <p>MPack Music 11 AM</p> |
| <p>BSG3 Trio 1 PM</p> | <p>Grupo Liberdade de Capoeira 2 PM</p> |
| <p>Elitist Coffee (154 Valley Street)</p> | <p>Inkosi Cafe (251 Irvington Avenue)</p> |
| <p>Dre Barnes Duo 12:30 PM</p> | <p>E. La. She Duo 1:30 PM</p> |
| <p>Michele Fiorindo Duo 2 PM</p> | <p>The Dancing Blender (121 W 5 Orange Avenue)</p> |
| <p>Location TBD (Near Sloan Street)</p> | <p>Bruno Lee Trumpet Man 12:30 PM</p> |
| <p>Leonieke Schedule Band 11 AM</p> | <p>Jamming w/ Mike & Jacque Lee 1 PM</p> |
| <p>West Fairview Lot (Irvington Avenue and West Fairview)</p> | <p>New Jersey DJ Services 11:30 AM</p> |





**ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT**
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Join artist
Kathryne Hall
to help paint a
community mural
in Seton Village
on Ward Place.
All ages welcome.

ARTBENDER

WARD PLACE
COMMUNITY MURAL
JUNE 4, 2022

CORNER OF WARD PLACE
& IRVINGTON AVE

ANY TIME BETWEEN 10AM-2PM

MORE INFORMATION AT
WWW.SETONVILLAGE.ORG
/ARTBENDER-2022

FREE

NEIGHBORHOOD
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

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