

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BFF Gives Back to Artists & Community During Omaha Gives Celebrations**



Photo credit, Sarah Miller Photos

BFF, a local volunteer run arts organization in Benson, is dedicated to supporting the region's emerging and established artists by creating opportunity, exposure and experiences. What started as a one-time first Friday art walk has blossomed into a multi-program nonprofit! We are thinking big in 2019, expanding programming, including youth engagement, regional outreach, and a season long tour of the Mayflower Mobile Gallery that will be spotted throughout the city this summer, including MAHA Music Festival, Shakespeare on the Green, Summer Arts Festival and more. All of this could not be possible without the support of our community this Omaha Gives season.

Omaha Gives, is one of BFF's favorite times of the year. We can't think of a better way to celebrate than to host a few events to bring together our two favorite things: Art & Community. Join us!

**The Malcolm X Birthday Celebration and 72 Hour Album Challenge**  
**Friday, May 17 - Monday, May 20 | 72 hours straight**  
**Malcolm X Memorial Grounds inside BFF's Mayflower Mobile Gallery (MaMO)**

Mind and Soul Radio 101.3 will host the 72 Hour Album Challenge inside of BFF's mobile gallery, the MaMO (May-Mo). The challenge is for Mind and Soul Radio to create an album in 72 hours featuring ALL LOCAL ARTISTS. Players, Beat Makers, Emcees, Singers, and Producers are invited to come out and show your skills starting Friday and carrying on through the weekend!

BFF can't be more excited for this partnership! You can catch the entire event via livestream on Facebook at Minda and Soul 101.3 FM.

**Free Artist Headshot Sessions**  
**Monday, May 20 | 6 - 9 p.m. @ Petshop (2725 N. 62nd St.)**  
**Tuesday, May 21 | 8 - 10 pm @ Maple St. Construct (5912 Maple St.)**

BMVA Digital ([bmvadigital.com](http://bmvadigital.com)) will host a complimentary head shot event for BFF artists as part of a launch for BMVA Digital's upcoming website [BensonBeat.com](http://BensonBeat.com).

Benson Beat will be used as a directory to help Benson artists and small businesses promote themselves. BFF will have a dedicated corner and artist directory on the site. Along with the directory, the hope is to provide a BENSON- proud space for news sharing and business promoting for our local artists to enjoy and hopefully grow commerce among the residents of 68104. Artists should reach out to [info@bensonfirstfriday.com](mailto:info@bensonfirstfriday.com) for more information. Headshots will be provided to the artists to use as they'd like, and will also be featured on Benson Beat.

**LOOSE JUICE, an Omaha Gives Celebration**

**Tuesday, May 21st | 8 pm - 12 am  
Maple St. Construct (5912 Maple St.)  
\$10 Suggested Donation**

A Official Omaha Gives event and celebration of community and art featuring work by visual artists, Derek Courtney, Lauren Doeschot, Shawnequa Linder, and Tom White. Music by DJ Kobrakyle Richardson. Also featuring The Natural States, And How, and Queerniverse. There will also be a high fashion show brought to you by Revival & Lion's Mane Vintage. The models will be styled by Weird Wild Stuff Vintage Clothing. In addition to all of that, there will be a community art project and special announcement about the future of our name! You won't want to miss it!



**Omaha Gives Back, Community Cleanup**

**Wednesday, May 22 | 6 – 7:30 pm  
Benson Park**

Giving back to our community goes beyond just donating, that's why we are inviting you to join us for Omaha Gives Back, a community cleanup celebration in Benson Park on May 22. Between 6 pm - 7:30 pm we will be picking up litter, hosting a community art project, eating pizza, and celebrating our community's generosity. Come by yourself or feel free to bring your friends, family or group to join in the fun of Omaha Gives!

This free public event is open to all ages and abilities. Keep Omaha Beautiful will provide all cleanup supplies. We ask that you please register for this event so we can plan accordingly.

Sponsors: RBC Wealth Management & Nebraska Medicine

Partners: Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, and BFF

**LOOSE JUICE Karaoke**

**Wednesday, May 22 | 10 pm - 3 am  
The Sydney (5918 Maple St)**

Join the BFF Crew during our FINAL PUSH for Omaha Gives 2019 as we celebrate philanthropy, sing karaoke, and have a good old time at The Sydney. Your hosts are Ali Thariani, Caitlin Little, Tony Buttells, Zach Schmeider, Alex Jochim, and anyone else who is around and ready to rock the mic. Join us, support us!