

Connecting with community through **cultural** offerings

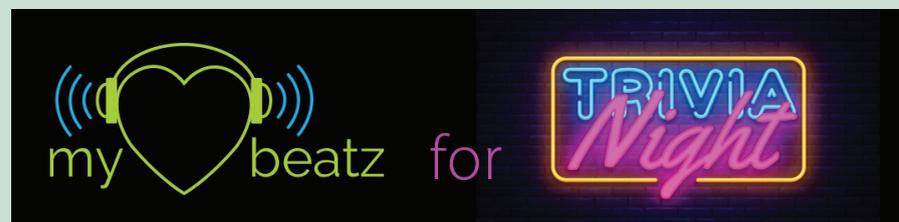
By Shelly Springborn

At Montcalm Community College, sustainable access to the arts, cultural offerings, recreation and enhanced educational opportunities are integral parts of our personal connections with people in the communities we serve.

Through a generous endowment, the MCCF Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund within the MCC Foundation provides funding to support a variety of endeavors.

MCC planners continue to craft new and innovative programs and delivery methods to provide opportunities in-person and virtually. Highlights of this year's cultural offerings include:

- The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its eighth MCC Reads program from January through March. MCC Reads aims to bring together students, staff, faculty and community friends to read the same book and enhance shared learning.
- In February, the college engaged the community through its virtual "HeartBeatz Trivia Night" where teams competed in a virtual trivia contest. It brought a fun evening of entertainment to people in the comfort of their own homes during the pandemic.
- MCC partnered with the World Affairs Council to offer its lectures to our community of learners.
- In March, the college hosted a virtual panel discussion about the history and current status of China's presence in various countries in Africa. This presentation was part of the Stanley and Blanche Ash Lectureship Series, which features nationally and internationally-known speakers, whose presentations aim to increase awareness of key issues of global and domestic importance.
- The MCC Library hosted its "Sharing and Caring" lunchtime presentation series during spring and fall semesters. The events feature friends of MCC who share stories on a variety of topics including culture and travel, self-help, hobbies, recreation and more.





- MCC celebrated Black History Month on both of its campuses during the month of February. A timeline highlighting 60 key historical points that illustrated how black history has helped shape our nation was displayed.
- To celebrate Women's History Month in March, the college displayed a timeline highlighting key historical points that look back at barriers women have overcome to be accepted as equals to men in society and in the workplace.
- In partnership with the public libraries in Montcalm County, the MCC Library participated in One Book One County Montcalm programming from May through September. The library hosted professional animal communicator Leslie Cirinesi during the program kick-off in May and Michigan author Dianna Stampfler during the closing celebration in September, as well as other presentations.
- In September, MCC hosted its annual Constitution Day program in-person and live online with Social Science Instructor Dr. Todd Adkins. In addition to Dr. Adkins presenting the provisions of the U.S. Constitution, the event included special legislative guests and online exercises for attendees. The college also partnered with local high schools to provide the presentation as a learning tool in a virtual platform.
- In November, MCC celebrated Veterans Day with a virtual program that included a moment of silence for all veterans, a veterans roll call and a live online presentation by inspirational speaker Jennifer Foxworthy.
- The college also recognized Indigenous Heritage Celebration in November with a variety of activities. ■

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