

LUMENAURA, Powered By IBEW Locals 461 & 701, Lights Up Aurora: Monochronicle Set to Curate Second Annual Immersive Art & Light Festival

Pioneering AI-Enhanced Public Art Platform Curates International Artist Network for Downtown Aurora's Luminous Transformation

Aurora, Ill. - From **October 10–26, 2025**, Aurora, Illinois' second-largest city, will be transformed into a luminous playground as **Monochronicle**, an urban art and design studio that transforms public spaces through innovative technology, will curate the **second annual LUMENAURA festival, powered by IBEW Locals 461 & 701**, an immersive art, light, and sound experience. The light festival will span the city's entire downtown area and will be free and open to the public. In its inaugural year in 2024, LUMENAURA drew tens of thousands of visitors of all ages to experience cutting-edge immersive art in public spaces.

Monochronicle has played a critical role in curating a roster of national and international artists to showcase their artworks, including artists from the United Kingdom, Germany, Hungary, Canada, and across the United States. LUMENAURA reflects the theme of convergence, where art, technology, and community meet to create shared experiences. Interactive highlights include responsive light sculptures, laser graffiti, enchanted fountains, train car installations, rooftop laser shows, and installations that react to human presence and environmental stimuli.

"LUMENAURA represents the future of public art, where cutting-edge technology enhances, experiences, and transforms audiences into part of the artwork itself," said Iryna Kanishcheva, Founder of Monochronicle. "We believe the art outcome depends on the process. This year, we are grateful to Aurora for embracing bold ideas, enabling us to present a diverse lineup, showcase innovation, and expand the festival's impact."

During the exhibit's opening weekend, taking place from October 10–12, Aurora will host the LUMENAURA festival, which will also include an exciting array of cultural programming. Live performances will include Native American storytelling, drum circles, and live concerts from 80s cover band Sixteen Candles, soulful hits from Motown Nation, and a Selena tribute group. Roving performers such as circus acts, fire breathers, and wandering musicians will also animate the streets. On the second weekend, October 17–18, the city will host additional public programming, including an all-ages *Silent Disco Party* and the opening of *Illuminated II* by Todd Moyer Designs, an innovative projection-mapping installation of lasers and projectors.

"The City of Aurora is proud to present LUMENAURA as an accessible and inclusive event for all our residents and visitors. This immersive experience reflects a heightened focus on creating a space that is more welcoming and considerate of individuals of all abilities, including those with mobility challenges and sensory sensitivities. By prioritizing accessibility in both design and delivery, LUMENAURA invites everyone to explore, engage, and enjoy the wonder of light together," said Katrina Boatright, Senior and Disability Services Manager for the City of Aurora.

Overview of Artists and Works

- **Emergence by *ThisisLoop* (United Kingdom)** – A mirrored immersive installation exploring chaos, order, and emergent systems.
- **Bonfire by *LedBlade* (Hungary)** – A pixel-controlled light sculpture with fog and smell, creating a communal and heartwarming atmosphere.
- **Threshold by *Daniel Murray / FuzzPop Workshop* (United States)** – A water-inspired, interactive, large-scale inflatable sculpture blending interior and exterior spaces.
- **Quantum Jungle by *Robin Baumgarten* (Germany)** – A playful, touch-sensitive visualization of quantum physics using LEDs and metal springs.
- **Illuminated 2 & Laser Graffiti by *Todd Moyer* (United States)** – Interactive light experiences merging history, technology, and community participation.
- **The Door by *BigArt* (United States)** – An interactive portal exploring opportunity, change, and human connection.
- **Enchanted Oasis by *Jeff Cason* (United States)** – A multi-sensory transformation of a fountain plaza into a living, animated garden.
- **Up-Next by *Oliver Lewis* (United States)** – A recycled plastic sculpture of a classic television set, letting the audience manipulate kaleidoscopic light.
- **Echoes of Connection by *Daniel Eller* (United States)** – Nostalgic payphones, leave a message, you never know who's listening.
- **Vivid Volume by *Scott Boeing* (United States)** – A dynamic 3D light grid that mirrors participants' movements in real time.
- **Interactive Video Wall by *Zenith Creative* (United States)** – A multimedia installation blending lighting, sound, and motion capture to spark playful interaction.
- **Invisible Currents, Projection Mapping by *Alina Nazmeeva* (United States)** – Turning Aurora's architecture into an illuminated storytelling canvas and living gardens.
- **Planet Swamp by *Monochronicle Team* (Collaborative)** – A surreal, multi-sensory lightscape combining fog-filled bubbles, lasers, and sound for an immersive otherworld environment.
- **Laser Show by *Charles Alan Rye* (Monochronicle Team)** – A laser-mapped light show that outlines the historical architecture of the Paramount Theatre.
- **Lux Arcana by *Crystal Wagner and Logan Luckey* (United States)** – A human controlled light sculpture installed on a Metra train car in service from Chicago to Aurora.

Accessibility and inclusivity remain central to the festival, with all installations welcoming audiences of varying abilities and ages. 90 percent of the artwork on display is ADA accessible, and the festival will also feature a soothing space for sensory-sensitive visitors, an ASL interpreter, and select installations with audio description. Golf cart transportation for guests with mobility needs will also be offered, while designated pathways between each art installation will assist all visitors, including those with wheelchair needs.

Overview of Public Programs

LUMENAURA Festival Weekend will feature three nights of live concerts, opening on **Friday, October 10, at 5 P.M.** at *The Mayan* (77 S. Stolp Ave, Aurora, Illinois) with a Native ceremony led by the Firekeeper, who will ignite the “*Bonfire*” LED sculpture. The celebration continues on

Saturday, October 11 with a drum circle, storytelling, and traditional songs, honoring Indigenous history while converging with futuristic art. Gates for LUMENAURA Fest Weekend musical performances will open one hour prior to bands starting each day.

The second weekend of LUMENAURA introduces special activations, including an all-ages *Silent Disco Party* and *Illuminated II* by Todd Moyer Designs, an innovative projection-mapped installation of lasers and projectors that appears to weave a radiant digital tapestry. This piece not only went viral online, but gained significant traction for its creative experimental design approach of combining art and technology. The festival also offers opportunities for youth engagement, including a workshop where young participants can explore the fundamentals of **3D design and animation** with award-winning artist **Alina Nazmeeva**.

For more information on the activities and full lineup visit, <https://experiencelumena.com>.

About Monochronicle

Monochronicle is a pioneering public art marketplace and consultancy, combining a high-profile artist network with AI-powered tools for artist selection and project management. Built by artists and producers with over a decade of global experience, Monochronicle opens access to large-scale art to individuals, businesses, and institutions alike while providing more jobs to artists worldwide. The platform fosters transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in commissioning processes. LUMENAURA, produced by Monochronicle, exemplifies the organization's commitment to immersive storytelling, thought leadership, and shapes the future of art in public places.

For more information, visit <https://monochronicle.com>.

About the City of Aurora, IL

Located 35 miles west of Chicago, Aurora is the second largest city in Illinois with a population of nearly 200,000. Aurora is known as the "City of Lights" because it was one of the first in the nation to illuminate its streets with electric lights. Situated along the Fox River and the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (Interstate 88), the city extends 46 square miles encompassing Kane, DuPage, Kendall and Will counties.

For more information, visit www.aurora.il.us.

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