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Arts block party in Allentown

Arts, breakdancing, fire breathing and more will be at the Alternative Gallery's block party in Allentown

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The Alternative Gallery in Allentown is holding an Art Block Party Saturday on Fourth Street. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / June 15, 2012)

By Taylor Farnsworth, Of The Morning Call
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The Alternative Gallery has been working for two years to expand the Allentown arts scene by making the arts accessible to everyone and presenting creative events.

It has held shows and parties at its new home at the Cigar Factory at 707 N. Fourth St., and you'll also find the artists out and about at downtown Allentown events.

Now, organizer Brandon Wunder and his artist friends are offering something new — a "No Block Parking Block Party" on Saturday outside the Cigar Factory on Fourth Street.

Fourth Street will be shut down from Tilghman Street to Green Street for a day of music, art and more. There will be a DJ, local acoustic musicians, a break dancing competition, performers from Burning Hearts Fire & Light Theater. Artists will demonstrate, vendors will sell things and food trucks will serve up festival food. The Cigar Factory will be open for tours.

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Chalk art will lead to the party as 25 artists hit the streets from Seventh to Fourth to create on the sidewalks.

There also will be children's activities such as tie dyeing and face painting — the Alternative Gallery has launched children's art education classes this summer.

The block party runs noon-7 p.m.

More info: <http://www.thealternativegallery.com>.

—Taylor Farnsworth

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