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TALK of the TOWN

20 in 2020!

BARRE — A turn of the century nonprofit community visual arts center that is known best by its acronym – SPA – is readying to kick off what will be a year-long celebration of a downtown Barre success story that is entering its 20th year.

Studio Place Arts improbably opened in a three-story brick building that was gutted by fire 25 years ago, nearly demolished to make room for a parking lot and revived by an improbable collection of artists who turned it into a local attraction.

It's an artists-conquer-spot-blight story that likely will be told in different ways throughout the year, but one of them "20 Years of SPA!" is one of three just-opened exhibits.

The celebratory exhibit includes highlights from shows that have taken place at SPA in each of the years since it opened in 2000. The other two exhibits — "Botanical Blitz" and "Making My Mark: Recent Monoprints by Lois Beatty" — all opened this week, and SPA will be hosting its latest reception on from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

All are welcome.

The event is one of many planned as part of a celebration that will conclude in October.