

THE ARTS & CULTURE OF ARKANSAS



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Arkansas
THE NATURAL STATE

 Arkansas
Arts Council

www.arkansasarts.org

The opening of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art focuses attention on Arkansas around the world as never before. With one of the greatest collections of American art on display in Bentonville, the museum unites the power of art with the beauty of nature.

Creative people have always thrived in The Natural State. From painters to potters, poets to actors, architects to sculptors and designers to musicians, the many cultures and regions in Arkansas foster a wide range of excellent visual, literary and performing artists throughout the state. This diversity includes the blues musicians of the Delta at the internationally known King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena-West Helena, the storytellers of the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, and the sculptors whose work stands on the banks of the Arkansas River in the Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden in Little Rock.

Arkansas has long been known for traditional roots and folk crafts. While these are important aspects of our culture, we also have a strong tradition of literary arts, as well as modern art galleries, symphony orchestras and extraordinary venues like Crystal Bridges, the Arkansas Arts Center, Arkansas Repertory Theatre and Walton Arts Center.

Every region of Arkansas has something to offer the artistically inclined. Take a tour around The Natural State to discover the full spectrum of cultural excitement.

For complete information on arts and culture events, visit Arkansas.com/events/arts-culture.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, BENTONVILLE
ARKANSAS FESTIVAL BALLET, LITTLE ROCK
THORNCROWN CHAPEL, EUREKA SPRINGS

ARKANSAS FESTIVAL BALLET, LITTLE ROCK



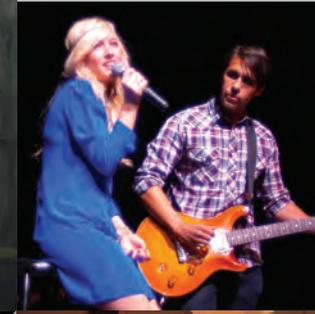
EUREKA SPRINGS POTTERY ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE, LITTLE ROCK



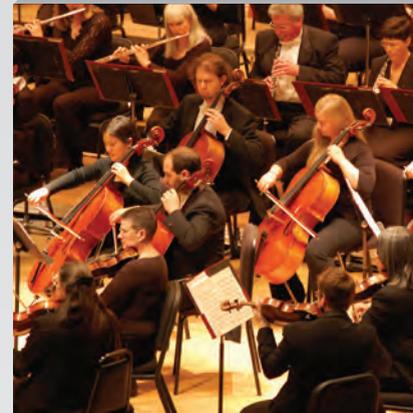
GEORGE DE FOREST BRUSH, "THE INDIAN AND THE LILY," CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, BENTONVILLE



WILDWOOD PARK FOR THE ARTS, LITTLE ROCK



PETER MAX EXHIBITION, WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER, LITTLE ROCK



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, LITTLE ROCK



ART GALLERY, HOT SPRINGS



ART GALLERY, LITTLE ROCK



The Natural State houses many exciting museums, galleries and public art installations. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville presents one of the world's greatest collections of American art from the Colonial period to the present, while the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock offers a renowned collection of works on paper, including pieces by Cézanne, Van Gogh, Jackson Pollock, Georgia O'Keeffe, Rembrandt and Rubens. Hot Springs and Eureka Springs are outstanding art towns with unique galleries and vibrant artists' communities. Public art and sculptures are always on view all over Arkansas, with special shows and sales where visitors can meet with artists and buy or commission pieces for their personal collections.

VISUAL ARTS

SCULPTURE BY ANITA HUFFINGTON



CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, BENTONVILLE



VOGEL SCHWARTZ SCULPTURE GARDEN, LITTLE ROCK



NORTH LITTLE ROCK GALLERY



PERFORMING ARTS

WESTERN ARKANSAS BALLET, FORT SMITH



WALTON ARTS CENTER, FAYETTEVILLE



WILDWOOD PARK FOR THE ARTS, LITTLE ROCK



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, LITTLE ROCK



All the world's a stage, and The Natural State is no exception, with theatre, dance and music taking the spotlight in cities big and small. The Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little Rock mounts up to 10 productions a year with a focus on dramatic storytelling that illuminates the human journey. The traditional cultural capital, Little Rock also hosts the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Ballet Arkansas. The Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville provides the center stage for Northwest Arkansas, bringing in great performing artists and entertainers from around the world. The Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View is dedicated to preserving regional traditions and is renowned for its authentic folk music.



ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE, LITTLE ROCK

OZARK FOLK CENTER STATE PARK, MOUNTAIN VIEW



THORNCROWN CHAPEL, EUREKA SPRINGS



MOSAIC TEMPLARS CULTURAL CENTER, LITTLE ROCK

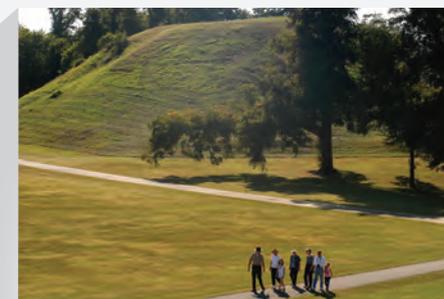


HEMINGWAY-PFEIFFER MUSEUM, PIGGOTT



HEAD EFFIGY VESSEL, HAMPSON ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM STATE PARK, WILSON

TOLTEC MOUNDS ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK, SCOTT



MUSEUM OF NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY, BENTONVILLE

Arkansas abounds with rich cultural history. Sites are spread around the state, such as the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, once the hub of black social, political and economic life in Little Rock, playing an important role in African-American history. Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park near Scott features fascinating Native American touchstones. The Natural State also offers architectural wonders like the works of Arkansas native E. Fay Jones, whose Thorncrowne Chapel in Eureka Springs was named one of the most important buildings of the 20th century.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



Founded in 2005 by the Walton Family Foundation, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art unites the power of art with the beauty of nature.

The museum takes its name from a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated in the building design by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie. A series of pavilions nestled around two creek-fed ponds houses galleries, meeting and classroom spaces, and a large, glass-enclosed gathering hall. Sculpture and walking trails link the museum's 120-acre park and gardens to downtown Bentonville.

Crystal Bridges continues building its permanent collection through the efforts of its professional staff, as well as important gifts from private collectors. The collection features American masterworks dating from the Colonial era to contemporary times and is on view to the public year-round. The museum also displays a changing array of special exhibitions featuring art from museums and collections throughout the region, the nation and abroad.



For more information, visit Crystalbridges.org.



CRYSTAL BRIDGES
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



LITTLE ROCK, NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND CONWAY



CENTRAL ARKANSAS

The creative class thrives in the capital city. The Arkansas Arts Center, one of the state's leading cultural institutions, features fascinating exhibitions, live theatre and art classes. The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra has been performing for more than 40 years, and now under the direction of conductor Philip Mann, the symphony performs more than 30 concerts each year. The Arkansas Repertory Theatre is the state's largest nonprofit professional theatre and has presented more than 300 productions and 40 world premieres.

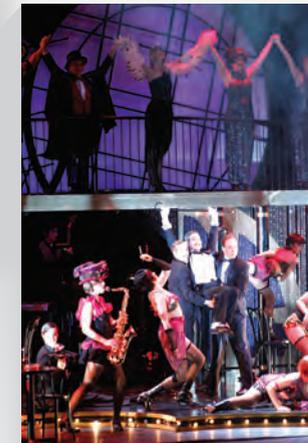
Across the river, the city of North Little Rock houses a burgeoning art scene around the Argenta Arts District filled with galleries, artist studios, a community theatre, chef-driven restaurants and eclectic shopping.

The Donald W. Reynolds Performance Hall on the University of Central Arkansas campus in Conway hosts more than 20 events each season, from Broadway productions to distinguished lecture series. The Baum Gallery at UCA selects national and international touring exhibitions, sponsors juried student shows and cooperates across disciplines to curate original exhibits.

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER, LITTLE ROCK



REYNOLDS PERFORMING ARTS SERIES, UCA, CONWAY



VOGEL SCHWARTZ SCULPTURE GARDEN, LITTLE ROCK



CONCERT IN THE RIVERFEST AMPHITHEATRE, LITTLE ROCK



PETER MAX EXHIBITION, WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER, LITTLE ROCK



EUREKA SPRINGS

EUREKA SPRINGS AND FAYETTEVILLE

OZARKS

While currently attracting international attention for Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, the Ozarks have long inspired the imagination.

Eureka Springs is home to more than 30 fine art and fine craft galleries, plus more than 300 working visual and performing artists. Spring Street, a main thoroughfare, was named one of America's 10 Best Streets by the American Planning Association, and American Style magazine voted the town one of the Top 25 Arts Destinations in the nation.

Fayetteville is also a hub for the arts. Walton Arts Center hosts more than 350 public performances every year, making it a premier center for entertainers and artists from around the world, including Broadway musicals, renowned dance companies, international artists and more. The center presents Artosphere each spring: a festival where the arts, nature and sustainability come together over music, art, theatre and dance performed in traditional and non-traditional indoor and outdoor venues throughout the entire Northwest Arkansas region.



EUREKA SPRINGS GALLERY

WALTON ARTS CENTER, FAYETTEVILLE



ARTOSPHERE, FAYETTEVILLE



TERRA STUDIOS, FAYETTEVILLE



CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, BENTONVILLE



HOT SPRINGS



OUACHITAS

Named one of the "100 Best Art Towns in America," Hot Springs is home to the Museum of Contemporary Art, the state's first contemporary art museum; Fine Arts Center of Hot Springs, the state's oldest art organization; Hot Springs Music Festival; Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival; and a profusion of cultural showpieces, including Garvan Woodland Gardens and a number of private art galleries.

The first Friday of every month gives visitors an opportunity to stroll the beautiful downtown touring galleries in the heart of the quaint art district which stay open late, often with music and complimentary refreshments. The artists whose works are on display regularly turn out to chat.

HISTORIC BATHHOUSE ROW, HOT SPRINGS

HOT SPRINGS GALLERY

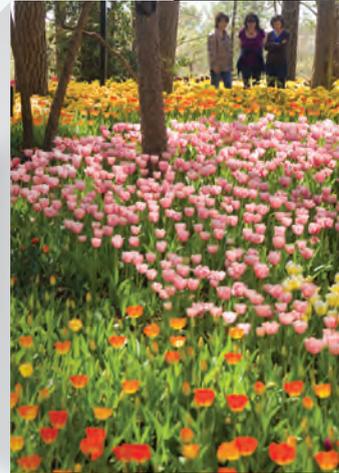


HISTORIC BATHHOUSE ROW, HOT SPRINGS

HOT SPRINGS GALLERY



HOT SPRINGS GALLERY WALK



GARVAN WOODLAND GARDENS, HOT SPRINGS





KING BISCUIT BLUES FESTIVAL, HELENA-WEST HELENA



DELTA CULTURAL CENTER, HELENA-WEST HELENA

JOHNNY CASH MUSIC FESTIVAL, JONESBORO



MILLER'S MUD POTTERY STUDIO, DUMAS



ASU FINE ARTS CENTER, JONESBORO

JONESBORO AND HELENA-WEST HELENA

DELTA

The Arkansas Delta has a rich heritage. From Johnny Cash to the Delta Symphony Orchestra, this Mississippi River area grows music and arts in its soil.

The King Biscuit Blues Festival is one of the nation's foremost showcases of this cultural treasure. Tens of thousands of blues enthusiasts from all over the world converge upon Historic Downtown Helena-West Helena in early October. Stirring and uplifting performances of this unique American art form are held on the banks of the Mississippi River. The Delta Cultural Center also calls Helena-West Helena home.

Just up the road, downtown Jonesboro boasts an active arts scene. Arkansas State University offers one of the mid-South's best museums, a fine arts center and a variety of concerts including the Johnny Cash Music Festival.

PINE BLUFF AND EL DORADO

TIMBERLANDS

The dense timber and oil booms of the Arkansas Timberlands have created a wealth of art pockets in the southern section of the state.

The Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas in Pine Bluff features collections and exhibitions. The center's permanent collection places emphasis on works by African Americans, Arkansans and artists living and working in the Southern region of the United States. The Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra plays three scheduled concerts per year to its home audience in Pine Bluff and one in Monticello for the Southeast Arkansas Concert Association.

A walk through Historic El Dorado Square showcases the arts of the community: beautifully restored 1920s and '30s businesses, an ornate county courthouse, restaurants, specialty shops and nine National Register structures. But not all the creativity in this oil-boom town is from the past. The South Arkansas Arts Center features rotating exhibits with a focus on contemporary and emerging artists.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN EL DORADO



ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS, PINE BLUFF



SOUTH ARKANSAS SYMPHONY'S "NUTCRACKER" WITH SHREVEPORT BALLET, EL DORADO



JAMES HAYES ART GLASS, PINE BLUFF



HISTORIC PEROT THEATRE, TEXARKANA



SOUTH ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER, EL DORADO



CONCERT ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER, FORT SMITH

BELLE GROVE HISTORIC DISTRICT, FORT SMITH



FORT SMITH SYMPHONY



HISTORIC VAN BUREN



WESTERN ARKANSAS BALLET, FORT SMITH

FORT SMITH



RIVER VALLEY

Once an outpost to the Western frontier, the city of Fort Smith pioneered art with an independent spirit.

The Fort Smith Symphony is the oldest orchestra in the state, performing classical, pops, youth and community concerts in Fort Smith and surrounding areas. Arkansas's oldest continuously operating community theatre, the Fort Smith Little Theatre has been entertaining crowds with an all-volunteer staff since 1947. The Belle Grove Historic District offers a variety of architecture and historic homes, including the Fort Smith Art Center. Visitors to Second Street Live experience all types of live music in a beautiful, comfortable, intimate theatre in the West End of downtown. Near Altus, Wine Country offers refreshment to savor during your cultural excursion.