



Immersion Avant Garde

With hundreds of galleries and art studios, plus countless occasions for music and dancing, creative expression is a way of life in Asheville. There are plenty of opportunities for visitors to get in on the artsy fun. ► **Take a class in clay** at Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts ► Learn to **make your own artistic tome** at Asheville Bookworks. ► Sit at the bar at Lexington Glassworks and **try a local beer in a pint glass blown by the artists.** ► **Move to the beat** of the Friday Night Drum Circle ► **Join a beginner drumming class** at Skinny Beats Drum Shop & Gallery.

Two Art Museums Re-Open in the Heart of Downtown

► **Asheville Art Museum** reopens this spring with a new state-of-the-art facility that features education facilities, an art library, a lecture and performance space, a new ArtPLAYce for families and children and the addition of a rooftop sculpture terrace and cafe. The opening exhibition "Appalachia Now!" is a survey of contemporary art in Southern Appalachia, highlighting 50 emerging artists from the region. ► A museum illuminating the legend of iconoclastic Black Mountain College (1933-1957) opened in the heart of downtown in September. **Black Mountain College + Arts Center** moved from another downtown location and reopened along the greenery and Art Deco architecture of Pack Square Park.

Pottery Factory with Legendary Ties

East Fork, the pottery studio co-founded near Asheville in 2009 by Alex Matisse (great-grandson of French painter Henri Matisse) has opened a new ceramics manufacturing facility in Biltmore Village that will increase their production capacity by 800 percent by 2020. The new facility bridges the gap between commerce and community engagement, where the public will be invited to interact with East Fork's process, people and culture through tours, community events and classes.



Creative Connections

► **Craft City Food & Art Tours** celebrate the best small-batch, high-quality and handmade. Asheville's Center for Craft, the epicenter of Asheville's maker culture, joins local food experts for a walking tour that features tastings, exhibits and demos from America's unique makers and crafters. ► **Guided Gallery Tour:** Art Connections Tours connect art lovers to makers via one-on-one tours to a variety of local studios. Tours go into the coves and hollows of Western NC and down hidden back roads showcasing the stunning mountain views that serve as an inspiration point for so many artists. ► **Painting with Beer** joins the palette of uniquely Asheville art immersion experiences via Asheville Art Studio Tours. Explore studios across the Asheville art scene and end with a beer painting lesson at a local brewery.

Craft Your Experience: 2019 Art Festivals & Major Events

- Second Saturdays | River Arts District | Second Saturday of each month
- Arts & Crafts Antique Show & Conference | Omni Grove Park Inn | February 15-17
- Downtown Asheville Art Walk | First Friday, Every Month April - December
- LEAF Festival | Black Mountain | May 9-12, October 17-20
- Fiber Weekend | Folk Art Center | May 11-12
- Montford Arts & Music Festival | Montford Historic District | May 18
- Asheville Art in the Park | Pack Square Park | June 15, 22 & 29, October 5, 12 & 19
- The Big Crafty | US Cellular Center | July 14, December 7-8
- Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands | US Cellular Center | July 19-21, October 18-20
- LEAF Downtown Asheville | Pack Square Park | August 2-3
- Village Art & Craft Fair | Biltmore Village | August 3-4
- Come to Leicester Studio Tour | August TBA
- Heritage Weekend | Folk Art Center | September 14-15
- Asheville Quilt Show | WNC Ag. Center | September 27-29
- River Arts District Studio Stroll | November 9-10



a different kind of local color cont.



Leaf Through Literary Legacies

With such a spectacular backdrop from which to draw inspiration, it's no wonder so many literary figures have penned noted novels on the region. Drop by Malaprop's Bookstore to pick your read, and then make a pilgrimage to some of the famed authors' haunts. Hike Cold Mountain, the setting that inspired Charles Frazier's bestseller, or spend a day on the grounds of Connemara, poet Carl Sandburg's graceful Flat Rock home. A wander along the French Broad River is a nod to Wilma Dykeman's legacy,

or stroll the shaded grounds of Riverside Cemetery to pay homage to O. Henry. And wherever you see the name Altamont, that's an ode to Asheville's native son. The Thomas Wolfe Memorial offers tours daily. Even if you haven't read *The Great Gatsby*, no literary tour of Asheville would be complete without a visit to The Grove Park Inn where F. Scott Fitzgerald summured in glamorous style while his wife, Zelda, underwent treatment in nearby Highland Hospital.

Asheville's Vaudeville Revival

To use the term "freak show," one might take offense, but not in Asheville, where sultry, sexy, comedic and vaudeville-esque theatrics are en vogue. Catch a roving comedy show on the purple LaZoom tour bus. Asheville Vaudeville troupe does it right with juggling and magic acts, burlesque, aerial arts and sideshows presented with a healthy dose of humor. The Americana Burlesque & Sideshow Festival offers shows and workshops each May that will tickle your fancy. And for a wildly different take on Shakespearean theater, the Montford Park Players have been known to present the Bard's classics with a steampunk spin. Free productions take place at a lovely outdoor amphitheater during the warmer months.

Folk Meets Funk: An Evolution of Art

Western North Carolina as a whole is deeply entrenched in the craft tradition. Step inside the Appalachian Craft Center, Grovewood and Ariel galleries, or the new Southern Highland Craft Gallery in Biltmore Village to realize the immense talent this region holds. But for every artisan bending to tradition, there's also an artist pushing the boundaries. Stroll through the River Arts District to see where folk and funk intermingle. ZaPow! in the South Slope exhibits affordable illustration and pop art; The Bender Gallery displays a museum-quality collection of emerging and established glass artists; and The Satellite Gallery always keeps it contemporary. Or, dip into The Center for Craft, a nationally-recognized organization dedicated to education around American craft, including the annual Windgate Fellowship Award.



Top 5 Spots for a Truly Gatsby Moment

1. Order a gin Rickey at the Grove Park Inn where F. Scott Fitzgerald summured in high style.
2. Browse the shops of the Grove Arcade, then admire the Battery Park Hotel (now residences) on the north end. It was one of a couple of Fitzgerald's hideouts.
3. Peek inside the lobby of the Skyland Hotel in Hendersonville where the author penned "The Crack Up" in the mid 1930s.
4. Gaze at downtown Asheville's art deco masterpieces and picture yourself in the lavish era of the 30s.
5. Visit The Grove Park Inn in September when the hotel hosts Salute to F. Scott Fitzgerald Weekend, which includes guided tours of his rooms.

ART SCENE HOT SPOTS

DOWNTOWN ▶ Woolworth Walk ▶ Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center ▶ Appalachian Craft Center ▶ The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design ▶ Asheville Art Museum ▶ Dozens of galleries ▶ Diana Wortham Theatre ▶ Moog Music Factory **GROVE ARCADE** ▶ Mountain Made Art Gallery ▶ Appalachian Strings ▶ Asheville Area Arts Council ▶ Asheville NC Homecrafts ▶ Battery Park Book Exchange & Champagne Bar **NEAR DOWNTOWN** ▶ Southern Highland Craft Gallery (Biltmore Village) ▶ Montford Park Players (Montford Historic District) ▶ North Carolina Homespun Museum (near Grove Park Inn) ▶ Grovewood Gallery (Near Grove Park Inn) ▶ Folk Art Center (Blue Ridge Parkway) **RIVER ARTS DISTRICT** ▶ More than 200 artists ▶ Curve Studios & Garden ▶ Cotton Mill Studios ▶ Jonas Gerard Fine Art ▶ The Wedge ▶ The Magnetic Theater