

★ March 3, 2020

Arts & Culture in Sacramento

From show-stopping musical acts, to Broadway productions, to world-class museums – the arts are thriving in every corner of Sacramento. The city offers an ideal mix of large-scale exhibits and performances, along with intimate theaters and galleries to explore.

Fine Art

Sacramento's art scene is experiencing an exciting resurgence, with captivating [galleries dotting the city's midtown](#) and downtown, and some of the city's most exciting new artists making their home at the new [Warehouse Artists' Lofts](#) in the city's R Street corridor.

Whether you're an art aficionado or just looking for a fun place to spend an afternoon, Sacramento's famed [Crocker Art Museum](#) can't be beat. The second oldest purpose-built museum in North America, The Crocker offers the country's best collection of California art, as well as a renowned ceramics collection, inspiring traveling exhibits and much more. The Crocker is also a great place to introduce your kids to the art world – the museum hosts special programs for infants through adulthood, and babies are even allowed on certain gallery floors to explore.

If you're in the mood to enjoy Sacramento's excellent weather *and* its burgeoning art scene, the [2nd Saturday Art Walk](#) is the ideal time. On the second Saturday of each month (with peak season occurring during the summer and early fall), galleries and other small businesses across the region showcase local artists, with many also offering wine tastings, food trucks, live music and more. Visitors are welcome to stroll from place to place, taking in the sights and sounds along the way.

Public art seems to be everywhere you turn in Sacramento – even the sides of buildings. [Wide Open Walls](#), Sacramento's mural festival, has added works of art to buildings throughout the city each summer. Visitors can tour the murals and get a sense of the city at the same time with [Sacramento Tour Company's running and walking tours of public art pieces across downtown and midtown](#).

It's not often that you'd tell a visitor to head under a freeway overpass, but in Sacramento, that's the place to be. Two area artists recently completed the '[Bright Underbelly](#) project,' a 70,000 square-foot mural on the underside of the freeway at 8th and W streets in downtown Sacramento. Why that location? The spot is home to the largest California Certified Farmers Market in the state, and each week chefs and shoppers from Sacramento, the Bay Area and beyond flock there for fresh foods and veggies. It's a sight to behold...and you can score amazing food while you're gazing above.

Theater

Theater fans can take their pick of stages in Sacramento. [The city's annual Broadway Series](#) draws national tours of leading musicals to Sacramento's classic [Community Center Theater](#) from Sept.-June.

Throughout the summer, the [Music Circus](#) brings professional actors and directors to midtown's Wells Fargo Pavilion for a series of musical performances. Additionally, [Sacramento Theatre Company](#), [B Street Theatre](#), [Capital Stage](#) and other regional playhouses offer shows ranging from original productions to children's plays. [The Sacramento Ballet](#) performs for packed houses at both the traditional "Nutcracker Suite" during the holiday season and more avant-garde productions, including its "beer and ballet" fundraisers that pair the region's breweries with original performances.

Music

[The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera](#) provides an ideal example of how Sacramento's art scene is putting a modern spin on traditional mediums. Known for both classic and pops performances, the Symphony's 2018-2019 diverse season includes tributes ranging from Beethoven to Star Wars.

Visitors looking to explore Sacramento's music scene can take in all genres of music at more intimate venues like [Ace of Spades](#) (a House of Blues club) the new [Holy Diver](#) and [Harlow's](#), or enjoy larger concerts at the famed [Memorial Auditorium](#) or [Crest Theatre](#). Summer visitors should also plan to hit the popular [Concerts in the Park](#). The 14-week series attracts several thousand people every Friday night to the city's Cesar Chavez Plaza to hear bands ranging from country to rock, along with food vendors, a beer and wine garden and more. And for major concert tours and performances, Sacramento's new [Golden 1 Center](#) arena can't be beat. This state-of-the-art facility is lauded as the most technologically-advanced in the country and has hosted acts ranging from Paul McCartney to Travis Scott.

Museums

Museum buffs can get their fill on subjects ranging from the Golden State's railroad to space exploration. Explore California's majestic [State Capitol](#) and its surrounding grounds either by guided or self-guided tour. Take a trip through aeronautical history at the [Aerospace Museum of California](#), where younger guests can even climb aboard some cockpits, or bring car enthusiasts out to the massive 'garage' at the [California Automobile Museum](#). If you've got a train-enthusiast in your family, then Sacramento's [California State Railroad Museum](#) should definitely be on your itinerary. The museum is one of the largest train museums in the country, where visitors young and young at heart get to climb aboard the trains, listen to re-enactments, learn about how a steam engine works and interact with the incredibly knowledgeable docents. Don't miss the \$1 million toy train collection! And if you're visiting during the holiday season, be sure to get your tickets to ride Sacramento's very own [Polar Express ride](#) from the museum to the "North Pole." You'll also find this kid-friendly style next door at the [Sacramento History Museum](#), where kids are invited to try their luck at panning for gold.