

North Charleston Arts Festival

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provides a wide range of performances, exhibitions, and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Many of the offerings are free, and those that are ticketed are moderately priced.

"The variety of Arts Festival offerings and the inclusiveness of the event have really become a point of pride for the City of North Charleston," says North Charleston Mayor, Keith Summey. "We look forward to this time each year when we are joined by thousands from throughout the Southeast to celebrate the importance of art within our world."

The Arts Festival's Main Event, held on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center and Charleston Area Convention Center, offers free admission and parking to over forty performances on four themed stages: General Audience, Cultural Heritage, Youth Entertainment, and Bands. Other features include judged fine art and photography exhibits; the 13th annual *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibit*; youth art from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester county students; the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society show and sale; the Village Antiques & Collectibles show; children's activities at Box City and Creation Stations; art & craft vendors, a food court, and much more.

Individual events take place throughout the nine days of the festival at various locations. An exciting array of free and ticketed offerings include concerts, theatre presentations, film screenings, workshops and demonstrations, poetry readings, exhibition receptions, children's programs, and much more. This year's festival Gala, the Sweetgrass Soiree, will take place on Friday, May 2, from 7-11 pm at the Performing Arts Center Entrance Hall. Tickets for this premier event are \$50. Other highly anticipated programs include an Art Walk on Wednesday, May 7, an interactive murder mystery dinner theatre on Thursday, May 8, and street dances featuring beach/variety music and reggae on Friday, May 9.

Examples of visual art exhibitions on view during the festival include a series of cut paper collages and prints by Lillian Tretin (*Becoming Southern Steampunk*); mixed media works by Cuban born artist, Maribel Acosta (*Pieces*); paintings and found-object sculptures by Gingi Martin (*Landscapes*



Summit by Antoinette Schultze (National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition)

of Mozart and Beethoven); the 9th annual *National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*; a group exhibition featuring Charleston area female photographers (*Through the Lens*); an Art & Fine Craft CoOp Gallery & Sale; the 8th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition (*JOY!*); and the 2nd Annual Wearable Art Competition and Exhibition.

This festival's Grand Finale on May 10 features a Tri-County School Steel Drum Festival, dance demos and performances, a slam poetry show, children's activities, food trucks, and an evening concert by The CoastRunner Band. The event concludes with a fantastic fireworks display over the Cooper River.

The Cultural Arts Department works with the North Charleston Arts Advisory Committee (NCAAC), a volunteer group comprised of a cross section of the community, to develop year round programming for the city, including the Arts Festival. In addition to this core committee, numerous key volunteers work to develop individual components of the festival. Research is conducted on a continual basis and strategic plans and implementation are done ten months out of the year. Annual Festival evaluations by participants, staff, and volunteers are used as a planning tool for the following year.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, pick up a copy of the Festival Program Book, contact the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department office by calling 843/740-5854 or visit (www.NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com) where you'll find a complete schedule of events.

Main Event of the North Charleston Arts Festival in North Charleston, SC, Takes Place - May 3 - 4, 2014

The Main Event of the North Charleston Arts Festival in North Charleston, SC, takes place at the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex & North Charleston Performing Arts Center, Saturday, May 3, from 10am-4pm and Sunday, May 4, from 2-5pm.

Enjoy over 40 performances on 4 themed stages, roving entertainers, arts & crafts vendors, exhibitions, a gem show, an antique show, children's activities, and much more! Admission to this event is free as well as parking.

The Main Event stage descriptions include:

Performing Arts Center (PAC) Auditorium Stage - General Audience - Enjoy a mesmerizing array of performances in dance, music, and theatre for general audiences.

Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby Stage - Cultural Heritage - National and local cultural groups will entertain with vibrant performances in both dance and music. Heritages represented include African, Bangladeshi, Caribbean, Hispanic, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Middle Eastern, and more!

Courtyard Stage - Bands - Listen to some great bands perform a variety of music genres, such as Americana, Bluegrass, Country, Jazz, Pop, R&B, Reggae, and Rock. The Festival's food courtyard offers a variety of menu items, along with tables, chairs, and umbrellas that provide a won-



Deep Blue by Kathy Oda (SC Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibition)

derful outdoor setting to enjoy the music with your meal.

Exhibit Hall Stage - Youth Entertainment - Look for magicians, storytellers, puppet shows, music for kids, and variety acts like daring jugglers that will inspire, amuse, and amaze the young and young at heart.

The Opening Processional has kicked off the Arts Festival's Main Event festivities at the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex for over a decade. African drummers and dancers, groups dressed in brightly colored outfits and costumes, volunteers carrying giant puppets, banners and other crafted props, jugglers, dance troupes, theatre groups, and more parade around the complex toward the North Charleston Performing Arts Center (PAC). Once the Processional enters the PAC Auditorium, the celebration continues with a Performance Spotlight, featuring performances

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