

WHY WISCONSIN FOR THE ARTS?

Wisconsin's high quality of life and varied culture is on display through our 8,896 arts-related businesses that employ and support 44,256 full time jobs.

Visit the web sites below to find out about thousands of arts and cultural opportunities for people of all ages, all across the state.

ArtsWisconsin.org

PortalWisconsin.com

WisconsinFolks.org

TravelWisconsin.org



Governor Jim Doyle, Chairman

info@forwardWI.com
ForwardWI.com

- Wisconsin is the birthplace of Frank Lloyd Wright, with Taliesin, his home and workplace, located in Spring Green. Wisconsin is home to many Wright-designed and Wright-inspired buildings, including the S.C. Johnson headquarters in Racine, and the First Unitarian Church and the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, both in Madison.
- Wisconsin offers major, internationally-known fine arts and cultural institutions including the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Public Museum, Racine Art Museum, American Players Theatre (Spring Green), Overture Center for the Arts (Madison), Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum (Wausau).
- Wisconsin boasts over 20 symphony orchestras across the state.
- Wisconsin has numerous examples of rejuvenated historical theaters currently in use, including the Thrasher Opera House (Green Lake), Wisconsin Union Theatre (Madison), Grand Opera House (Oshkosh), Grand Theatre (Wausau), Al Ringling Theatre (Baraboo), Pabst Theatre (Milwaukee), Temple Theatre (Viroqua) Kenosha Theatre and the Mabel Tainter Theatre (Menomonie).
- Wisconsin is fortunate to have many fine college and university arts programs, including a renowned glassmaking program and the Tandem Press printmaking center (UW-Madison), a Media Arts program (UW-Stout), and the new Noel Fine Arts Center (UW-Stevens Point).
- Wisconsin is also known for its private arts educational institutions, including the Peninsula Arts School (Fish Creek), UW School of the Arts (Rhinelander), Central Wisconsin School of Ballet (Wausau), The Clearing (Ellison Bay), Clear Water Folk School (Ashland), Madeline Island School of the Arts and Monroe Streets Fine Arts Center (Madison).
- Wisconsin has outstanding community-based arts, cultural, and heritage organizations, providing outreach, engagement and education for their audiences. Organizations include Big Top Chatauqua (Bayfield), Folklore Village (Dodgeville), St. Croix ArtBarn (Osceola), Northern Lakes Center for the Arts (Amery), Peshtigo Fire Museum, George Brown, Jr. Cultural Center (Lac du Flambeau), Was-wa-goning (Lac du Flambeau), Lemon Street Gallery/Artspace (Kenosha).
- Wisconsin has over 30 gallery and art studio tours, located in urban neighborhoods and rural areas, including the Fall Art Tour in southwestern Wisconsin and the Dunn County Artist Tour in northwestern Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin is home to numerous "naïve art" sites, created by unheralded artists and many restored by the Kohler Foundation, including Grandview (Blanchardville), Wisconsin Concrete Park (Phillips), Painted Forest (Valton), and the Dickeyville Grotto.
- Ten Chimneys, the restored summer estate of theatrical legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine, is a renowned home for American theater located in Genesee Depot, outside Milwaukee.
- Wisconsin is known for its "creative communities" with five Wisconsin small towns and rural areas listed in the book, "The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America." The communities listed are Bayfield/Ashland, Spring Green, Door County, Mineral Point and Amery.
- Mineral Point, one of the oldest communities in Wisconsin, was named as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations in 2007, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the U.S. The honor was bestowed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which selected Mineral Point from 63 destinations in 27 states that were nominated by individuals, preservation organizations and local communities.
- ArtsBuild, a program of UW-Platteville, is a grassroots economic development program focused on connecting and strengthening southwestern Wisconsin's creative assets—people, institutions and communities.