

Art in your backyard

by Peggy Capper



The Tri-Cities have an abundance of cultural venues and activities for all to enjoy. Batavia is quickly becoming a burgeoning artists community; St. Charles has long held the market for the bigger stage productions, and Geneva stands out for its art galleries, handmade jewelry, fashions that make artistic statements, and unique furniture and accoutrements of exceptional artistic expression found in shops throughout its famous downtown area. Each of the Tri-Cities has a local art commission specifically tasked with enriching the art culture in their respective cities. From local artists and galleries, to festivals and award winning performances, there is a plethora of art. Here are just some of the many ways to find Art in Your Backyard...

"When it rains it pours," a sculpture by Miles Metzger is the center piece of Joshel Plaza—the public plaza at the corner of Third Street and Crescent Place in downtown Geneva. The sculpture was donated to the city by developer Kent Shodeen. The plaza honors Robert B. Joshel and his family for their many years of service to the community.



The neXt gallery popped up in January, 2012 at the Kavanagh Gallery of the Fine Line Creative Arts Center. The theme of the show was "...In Motion." The show featured both 2- and 3-dimensional works of art as well as written works of poetry.

Visit the Kavanagh Gallery throughout the year for a variety of shows.

St. Charles

St. Charles Arts Council (SCAC)
630-443-3794
stcharlesartscouncil@gmail.com

The St. Charles Arts Council's mission is to serve and promote the arts and cultural activities in St. Charles, to the mutual benefit of the arts and the community. They are involved in many art activities around St. Charles including the neXt Pop Up Galleries, and the "Art at Home" Program. The "Art At Home" Program is an initiative of the St. Charles Arts Council intended to support artists by giving them opportunities to showcase and be compensated for their talent. The events typically take place in someone's home and can include the work of performing artists, visual artists, culinary artists, etc.

St. Charles Fine Arts Show
May 26-27, Downtown St. Charles
downtownstcharles.org/FineArtShow
Sponsored by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, this award-winning, highly regarded show features the work of 100 juried artists in various mediums including watercolor, oil, sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics, fiber, wood, and glass, which are exhibited and available for sale during the event. Festival goers will get to enjoy live music and artist demonstrations throughout the weekend.

St. Charles Summer Theater Festival
July 7-21, Various locations
summertheaterfest.org
Founded in 2011 by Fox Valley Repertory, the St. Charles Summer Theater Festival presents a variety of programming from comedies and dramas to new works, concerts and artists in action. Uniting several local distinguished arts and business organizations the Festival's mission is to produce and promote exciting, entertaining and innovative performances and educational and artistic activities.

Theater/Performance
Fox Valley Repertory—
Live Theater at Pheasant Run
4051 E. Main Street, St. Charles
630-584-6342 • foxvalleyrep.org
Fox Valley Repertory (FVR) is a not-for-profit Performing Arts Company dedicated to entertaining, enriching and educating lives in the Fox Valley Area. As the largest, professional arts organization in the area, FVR strives to present outstanding productions and provide exceptional education programs through the FVR Performing Arts Academy.

The Dellora A. Norris Cultural Arts Center
1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles
630-584-7200 • norrisculturalarts.com
Founded in 1978, the Dellora A. Norris Cultural Arts Center includes an art gallery and a 1,000-seat performing arts theater. The theater features an hydraulically operated orchestra pit, a free-floating floor and enough separately operated flylines to bring in flats, battens, and backdrops for complete sets. It is located on the St. Charles East High School campus.

Steel Beam Theatre
111 W. Main Street, St. Charles
630-587-8521 • steelbeamtheatre.com
Steel Beam Theatre is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing high quality theatrical entertainment, training, and arts awareness to the Fox Valley community at an affordable price. Located in the heart of downtown St. Charles, it features a variety of adult and children's performances as well as classes, workshops and special events.

Arcada Theatre
105 E Main Street, St. Charles
630-962-7000 • oshows.com
Arcada Theatre is an historic 888-seat performing arts center. A vaudeville venue in its early days, the theater has been hosting a

variety of performing arts acts and movies since it was refurbished in 2005. It has hosted popular acts such as Rick Springfield, Bret Michaels, and The Bo Deans; as well as classic stars like Martin Short, Mickey Rooney, Jerry Lewis and Wayne Newton.

Marquee Youth (MY) Stage
3800 E. Main Street, St. Charles
marqueeyouth.org
MYStage is a youth-driven performing arts organization dedicated to providing young performers with a variety of enrichment opportunities throughout the year. Offerings include classes, workshops and full-scale plays and musicals in comedy and drama. MyStage's goals are to empower youth, build character, enrich minds, and serve the communities they reach through their programs.

Art Studios/Galleries
Fine Line Creative Arts Center/ Dempsey Gallery
6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles
630-584-9490 • fineline.org
The Fine Line provides quality art education to promote exposure, expression, and the celebration of art. Their goal is to nurture the creative spirit in an inspirational, natural setting which engenders a sense of community. Internationally known artists teach a variety of workshops and membership draws from the Chicago area and surrounding states. There are as many as 1,100 students a year, a teaching staff of 37-plus and well over 200 class offerings a year. The center is run almost entirely by volunteers. Fine Line members' artistic works are displayed and sold in the Dempsey Gallery, located on the first floor of the center.

La Galerie Fine Art
219 W Main Street, St. Charles
630-584-7373 • lagalerielt.com

The St. Charles Fine Art Show draws thousands to the downtown area each May.



PHOTOS BY ALEX CLANEY, ALEX CLANEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Tony & Friends Art Studio

731 N. 17th Street, Unit 16, St. Charles
630-377-5377
tonyandfriendsartstudio.com

Tony & Friends Art Studio in St. Charles teaches art workshops and classes including painting, sculpture, watercolors and more. Most workshops are taught by Tony Carnescchi and the studio has classes for both children and adults.

**neXt gallery/
Pop-up Art Gallery Program**
nextgallerystcharles.org

The neXt gallery is a “Pop Up” gallery, which is typically an empty storefront/office building that is transformed into a temporary art gallery for a short period of time. The neXt gallery program is an initiative of the St. Charles Arts Council designed to create energy, excitement, and opportunities for artists—as pop up galleries have done in Chicago’s Loop, Evanston, and cities around the world—and to provide opportunities for artists to showcase and be compensated for

their talent. The program is called neXt gallery because you never know where it will pop up next!

**Norris Cultural Arts Center/
Norris Galleries**
1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles
630-584-7200 • norrisculturalarts.com

Music

**The Fox Valley Academy
of Music Performance**
fvacademy.org

The Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance is a premier orchestra program that strives to enrich the life of Chicago’s far western suburbs through the celebration of symphonic music. It is comprised of the Fox Valley Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus as well as the Fox Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. The Academy’s mission is to provide a challenging opportunity for musicians of all ages to study and perform great music together, while fostering creativity, friendships and life-long enrichment through the common language of music.



PHOTO COURTESY ST. CHARLES DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Academy also offers musical instrument instruction through its Access to Music program.

Fox Valley Orchestra
525 N. Broadway, Aurora
630-891-2525 • foxvalleyorchestra.org

The Fox Valley Orchestra is a non-for-profit cultural organization whose purpose is to provide fine musical performances through a symphony orchestra of professional quality. The orchestra now includes the Fox Valley Orchestra Chorus. Performances are given throughout the year, most at Norris Cultural Arts Center. Paid youth internships for strings are awarded annually.

Fox Valley Concert Band
fvcb.org

The Fox Valley Concert Band is an outgrowth of a smaller ensemble sponsored by the St. Charles Park District. It provides opportunities for qualified area musicians to grow in musical excellence and to give area residents continuing opportunity for exposure to the best in the concert band repertoire. The band performs year round and offers paid internships for area youth. Performances are at Norris Cultural Arts Center and other locations.

St. Charles Singers (SCS)
311 N. Second Street, Suite 201-B
St. Charles • 630-513-5272
stcharlessingers.com

The mission of the SCS is to perform, promote and preserve the finest choral music. This thirty-two voice, internationally-recognized, professional choir performs throughout the Chicagoland area and appears as guest performers with other arts organizations in concert including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. SCS engages in educational and community outreach through its outreach ensembles and educational scholarship programs.

Dance

3rd Street Dance & Theatre Academy, Inc.
101 S. Third Street, St. Charles
630-443-0041 • 3streetdance.com



A scene from Fox Valley Repertory’s production of Moonlight and Magnolias—The Comedy behind “Gone with the Wind”

PHOTO COURTESY FOX VALLEY REPERTORY

Ēkwabet (*Watching Over*), the bronze statue created by local sculptor Guy Bellaver. The sculpture stands beside the Fox River honoring the Pottawatomie who were the area’s first residents.



PHOTO BY ALEX CLANEY, ALEX CLANEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Beth Fowler School of Dance
2400 E. Main St. Suite 107b
St. Charles • 630-945-3344
bethfowerschoolofdance.com

Nelson Dance Center
1901 W. Main Street, St. Charles
630-584-2535 • nelsondance.com

St. Charles School of Dance
1429 W. Main Street, St. Charles
630-524-2602
saintcharlesschoolofdance.com

Underground Arts Connection
1820 Wallace Ave., Suite 123,
St. Charles • 630-444-1464
undergroundartsconnection.com



At left, the Geneva Arts Fair showcases over 150 artists from around the country in all kinds of media.

PHOTOS BY TIM SULLIVAN, NEIGHBORS PUBLICATIONS

Below is just a small portion of the mural painted by Geneva artist Fatima Figueiredo at the Geneva History Center.



Geneva

Geneva Cultural Arts Commission

630-938-4530

culturalarts@geneva.il.us

The Geneva Cultural Arts Commission is specifically tasked with creating a diverse cultural art experience that engages the community. They are responsible for some of the more popular art experiences in the Geneva area such as Dancing with the Geneva Stars on Saturday, February 4, The Geneva Film Festival in March, the First Fridays Gallery Walk, Shakespeare in the Park and the RiverPark Summer Series.

5th Annual Geneva Film Festival

March 29-31, Downtown Geneva
genevafilmfestival.org

Sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission in Geneva, the festival has rapidly become a well-known venue for writers, producers, and actors to screen a variety of independent films and screenplays. The annual festival also provides technical workshops with industry professionals for filmmakers and film enthusiasts alike.

Geneva Arts Fair

July 28-29, Downtown Geneva
genevachamber.com/artfair

Art lovers are invited to visit Geneva for a day of shopping at their juried outdoor gallery of fine art. Victorian homes-turned-businesses in the downtown historic district serve as a picturesque backdrop for the fine arts show. The Geneva Arts Fair showcases over 150 artists from around the country. Mediums include photography, pottery, fiber, printmaking, glass, mixed media, watercolor, oil, acrylic, wood, sculpture and jewelry.

Theater/Performance

Geneva Underground Playhouse

524 W. State Street, Geneva
630-677-1725 • guptheatre.org

The Geneva Underground Playhouse is a not-for-profit community theater that produces main stage productions throughout the year, and also hosts performances by comedy groups, musicians, playwrights and any number of other entertainers.

Art Studios/Galleries

Art Box

514 W. State Street, #101, Geneva
630-232-2870 • artboxgeneva.com

Art Box is an arts supply store, serving students, teachers, hobbyist, beginners and the professional artist community. They also host art classes featuring instruction in drawing, calligraphy, and painting in watercolor, oil, pastel and acrylics. Classes are geared for ages 5 to 100.

First Friday Gallery Walk

First Friday of every month,
Downtown Geneva
artgalleriesgeneva.com

The First Friday Gallery Walk is a self-guided art walk and reception to showcase the Art Galleries of Geneva. Participating Galleries stay open "late 'til 9" the first Friday of every month. All of the galleries are within walking distance of each other. A Gallery Directory is available at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, at artgalleriesgeneva.com, or at any of the participating galleries. Many of the galleries provide refreshments, special events, artists show openings, or live performances.

Artemisia

101 S. #3rd Street, Geneva
630-262-0249 • artemisiastyle.com

Dene Gallery

207 S. Third Street, #110, Geneva
331-248-0041 • denedesign.com

Down to Earth Pottery

426 S. Third Street, Geneva
630-232-9915 • downtoearth-pottery.com

Gallery 28 Fine Functional Art

28 N. Fourth Street, Geneva
630-845-9673 • gallery28.biz

Gibby's Wine Den

1772 S. Randall Road, #220, Geneva
630-208-6424 • gibbys-wine.com

Gibby's Wine Den is proud to support local talents through the *Art by the Glass—A Creative Pairing series*. A different local artist is highlighted monthly. All artwork displayed is for sale. In addition, Gibby's sponsors



art events such as the Feb. 24 *Bacchus Greets the Arts* exhibition.

Morrison Galleries

232 W. State Street, Geneva
630-232-0035 • morrison galleries.com

Out of the Mainstream Designs

107 S. Second Street, Geneva
630-232-2419
outofthemainstreamdesigns.com

Proud Fox Gallery

213 W. State Street, Geneva
630-262-8797 • proudfoxgallery.com

Verve on Third

227 S. Third Street, Geneva
630-845-1399 • verveonthird.com

Dance

DancEncounter, Ltd. School of Dance

630 E. State Street, Geneva
630-232-1221
dancencounter.tripod.com

State Street Dance Studio

9 North Fourth Street, Geneva
630-232-0444
statestreetdancestudio.com

Vargo's Dance

(Specializing in Ball Room Dance)
115 W. State Street, Geneva
630-232-2990 • vargosdance.com

Batavia Arts Council
P.O. Box 383, Batavia
bataviaartscouncil.org

The Batavia Arts Council's mission is to develop awareness of and interest in the arts, culture, and entertainment. They also strive to create an environment that is conducive to the growth and development of individual artists and organizations devoted to the arts, culture and entertainment in the greater Batavia area. The council is involved in several cultural events in the Batavia area such as Art In Your Eye Fine Art Show and Festival, Shakespeare on Clark and the River Rhapsody Concert Series.

Art in Your Eye Fine Arts Show & Festival

Batavia Riverwalk (August)
artinyoureye.com

Established in 2005, the Art In Your Eye Fine Art Show & Festival is a collaborative effort of the City of Batavia, Batavia MainStreet, Batavia Public Library, Batavia Park District, Batavia Depot Museum and Water Street Studios. The free festival features a fine arts show, art exhibits, children's art activities, musical entertainment, art demonstrations and much more. The event takes place in late summer and is a Batavia favorite.

Theater/Performance

Batavia Fine Arts Centre
1201 Main Street, Batavia
bataviainfineartscentre.org

Completed the summer of 2011 as a part of Batavia High School, the Fine Arts Centre is a state-of-the-art facility with four separate venues to showcase different forms of art. The Fine Arts Centre is not only for the use of the children of Batavia High School, but also for the community as a whole.

The Albright Theatre

100 N. Island Avenue, Batavia
630-406-8838 • albrighttheatre.com

Located in downtown Batavia, the Albright Theatre's mission is to encourage public interest in, and

appreciation of, the dramatic arts as well as provide a source for creating, producing and presenting works of dramatic merit to the public.

Art Studios/Galleries

The Attic Christian Arts Center

26 N. Island Avenue, Batavia
331-222-8224 • theatticbatavia.com

The Attic is a God inspired center where people can come together to enjoy a passion for the arts in a Christian environment. They offer dance, drawing, painting, cartooning, and ceramics classes.

Water Street Studios

160 S. Water Street, Batavia,
630-761-9977 • waterstreetstudios.com

Batavia Artists Association at Water Street Studios is a not-for-profit organization devoted to expanding art in Batavia and the surrounding communities. They have converted an historic limestone building into an amazing 16,000 sq. ft. arts center featuring 28 artist studios, three classrooms and two premier galleries for showcasing fine art. It was created by a group of artists, the property owners, city officials, and community members and the center focuses on extending the arts community in the tri-cities and beyond.

Music

Fox Valley Children's Chorus

PO Box 502, Batavia
630-879-3235 • fvchildrenschorus.org

Fox Valley Children's Chorus provides vocal training and excellence in performance of high quality choral music for children of the Fox Valley. The Fox Valley Children's Chorus consists of two choirs: The Apprentice Choir for girls and boys in grades 2-4; and the Concert Choir for girls and boys with unchanged voices in grades 5 through age 15. The chorus works on challenging choral music and presents two concerts per season, one in December and the other in April. The group is available to sing for other events as well.

Ispirare School of Music

104 First Street, Batavia
630-879-1280 • bataviamusical.com

Ispirare School of Music's goal is to deliver outstanding comprehensive music education in a supportive environment. Their school includes a large recital space with a baby grand piano, and two smaller teaching studios. The school also owns six hammer-action digital pianos for students to rent.

Music Matters

222 E. Wilson Street, Batavia
630-406-8742

musicmattersschool.com

Music Matters mission is to provide people of all ages and abilities the tools to have a life long love of music. Students are encouraged to explore all areas of music and offers performance opportunities as soloist or with an ensemble. Piano, drum, guitar, voice, violin, cello, and saxophone lessons are offered as well as lessons for any other percussion or orchestral instrument. A unique pre-school program for parent and child is also available.

Dance

Batavia Academy of Dance

8 E. Wilson Street, Batavia,
630-406-8232
bataviaacademyofdance.com

A Step Above Dance Academy

103 E. Wilson Street, Batavia
630-326-9600
astepaboveacademy.net



PHOTO COURTESY ART IN YOUR EYE



Above, visitors admire a cicada sculpture at Art in your Eye.

At right, Empathy, a sculpture created by Eunyoung Suh, was part of the second anniversary show at Water Street Studios.