

City of North Charleston, SC, Presents Annual North Charleston Arts Fest - May 3-7, 2023

The 40th annual North Charleston Arts Fest is set to take place May 3-7, 2023. The celebration of arts and culture highlights the talents of regional and local artists and performers in the areas of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and literature. Performances, activities, and exhibits take place in a variety of venues throughout the city of North Charleston with free admission for all. Residents and visitors can enjoy concerts, dance performances, art demos, kid's programs, a variety of exhibitions, an Arty Block Party, and more. Complete details about the five-day event are available at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).



Viewer looks over a Fine Art Judged Competition

Exhibit Hall C at the Charleston Area Convention Center will host the Arts Fest's Judged Art & Photography, South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft, and Tri-County Youth Art & High School Sculpture Competitions & Exhibitions during the entire run of the festival, May 3-7. Viewing hours are Wed., May 3, 6-8pm; Thur.-Sat., May 4-6, 10am-6pm; and Sun., May 7, noon-5pm.

Award winners of the competitions will be acknowledged at 6:30pm during the Arts Fest Opening Celebration on May 3. The event, which takes place from 6-8pm, features food, music, and more, set among the hundreds of pieces of artwork on display. The Exhibition Encore which will take place on May 7, from 2-5pm, serves as a closing reception, allowing patrons to view the artwork in a festive atmosphere and make final decisions on purchases. In addition to a final look at the exhibits, the event offers musical entertainment, a live painting demo, and complimentary "bites and bubbles."

Other visual art highlights include a solo exhibit at Park Circle Gallery featuring paintings by the Arts Fest's poster design competition winner Christopher Dotson and the 17th Annual National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition installed at North Charleston Riverfront Park. North Charleston City Hall will display the 16th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition – *Sister Girl Friends (and Brothers,*

Too), as well as a quilled paper exhibition by Fairoozan Abdullah (ZAD Creations) throughout the festival and beyond, remaining on display until June 18, 2023.

Music, theatre, and dance offerings during this year's Arts Fest run the gamut. Concerts range from baroque and bluegrass to folk and funk to rock and r&b, and take place in a variety of venues, including restaurants, breweries, libraries, chapels, and parks. The World Dance Showcase at the performance pavilion in Oak Terrace Preserve will be held from 12-4pm on May 6. The event showcases traditional, folk, and modern dances of cultures from around the world by local performers in vibrant costumes.

This venue will also host a jazz concert by Charleston Jazz Express, featuring members of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, on May 7, at 5pm. The Colour of Music Festival will make its North Charleston debut at this year's Arts Fest, with the group's quartet and quintet presenting a special concert at the Eternal Father of the Sea Chapel on the former Charleston Naval Base at 7pm on May 4.



View of a previous Arty Block Party - photo by Elizabeth Courtenay

And, of course, the performing and visual arts come together at the Arts Fest Arty Block Party on May 6, from 5-8:30pm on East Montague Avenue. The street art market features vendor booths with local artists, makers, and arts-related businesses and organizations, live music by The Get Right Band (5-6:30pm) and The Marcel Portilla Band (7-8:30pm), along with a variety of roving entertainers.

Complete information on all 2023 North Charleston Arts Fest offerings and participation opportunities is available at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com). Entry instructions for the Festival's Judged Fine Art Exhibition, Judged Photography Exhibition, Tri-County Youth Art Exhibition, and Tri-County High School Sculpture Exhibition, as well as volunteer sign-up forms are also available. Forms can be downloaded at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com/apply).

City of North Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Christopher Dotson

The City of North Charleston, SC's Cultural Arts Department will present the 2023 North Charleston Arts Fest Poster Design Competition Exhibition, featuring the winning work and more by Christopher Dotson, on view at the Park Circle Gallery, from May 3 - 26, 2023. A reception will be held on May 5, from 5-7pm.

The 2023 North Charleston Arts Fest Poster Design Competition winning design, *Forms in a Landscape*, will be featured in the exhibition, which is presented as a component of the annual North Charleston Arts Fest.

In his solo exhibition, titled *Unbound*, Christopher Dotson presents a collection of recent paintings in acrylic and oil. Dotson's canvases are filled with abstract shapes resembling different animals, plants, water, trees, rocks, birds, and fish. These organic forms appear to float in their own space, like hieroglyphs. Raindrops and tears swirl their way through imaginary landscapes that are filled with colorful life. Everything seems unbound from reality, appearing to have been disassembled and reassembled as if chopped up in a blender and poured out onto the painting's surface.



Work by Christopher Dotson

According to Dotson, "It is an ecosystem where color and form are arbitrary, spontaneous, and mysterious."

Christopher Dotson earned a BFA from Appalachian State University in 1996. His paintings have been featured in a number

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Stand with Ukraine

If you are able here is a list of the Top-Rated Charities to help the Ukrainian Relief Effort.

From MSNBC Special: UkraineAnsweringTheCall.com

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UNICEF USA
International Medical Corps
Heart to Heart International
Mercy Corps
World Vision

Medical Supplies

Americares
Project C.U.R.E. World Vision
MAP International
Heart to Heart International
UNICEF USA
MedShare
Direct Relief
Project HOPE
Operation USA

Non-Medical Supplies

Operation USA
Mercy Corps
Americares
Matthew 25: Ministries
MedShare
International Relief Teams
World Help
Project HOPE
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Operation Blessing International
GlobalGiving
ActionAid USA
UNICEF USA
Save the Children
Episcopal Relief & Development
Catholic Relief Services
World Hope International
Good360

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Heart to Heart International
Catholic Relief Services
GlobalGiving
World Hope International
Convoy of Hope
UNICEF USA
ActionAid USA
World Help
Operation Blessing International
International Relief Teams
Water Mission
World Vision

Emergency Housing

World Vision
UNICEF USA
A Chance In Life
World Help
Islamic Relief USA
GlobalGiving
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Catholic Relief Services

Long-Term Assistance

Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Catholic Relief Services
World Help
Operation Blessing International

Other (cash/cash vouchers, logistic supply)

World Vision
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Islamic Relief USA
Heart to Heart International
Church World Service
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