

## OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

# Enjoying visual arts in Ozaukee County

You don't have to have a passion for art to enjoy and appreciate a local art gallery. Art has a universal appeal that allows anyone to connect on a personal level. Whether it's the vibrant colors of a painting, the emotion of a photo or the intricate details of a sculpture or woven piece, art has the power to evoke feelings and express the beauty and complexity of human expression. Art galleries are also good for the soul. When you enter the quiet realm of a gallery, you immediately open your mind to new sights, experiences and introspection.

Studies show that stress levels drop, senses of creativity expand and emotional intelligence increases as one strolls through a gallery. Even a novice may surprise him- or herself by discovering an artist or finding a piece that makes an impression — and maybe even making a purchase!

**Cedarburg Art Museum** Boasting the slogan "where art is a tradition," Cedarburg is a great place to take in the arts. Located in the heart of downtown is the Cedarburg Art Museum, housed in a stunning 1898 red brick Victorian home on Washington Avenue. The Cedarburg Art Museum (CAM) champions historic and contemporary local arts through its collection, exhibitions, events and museum shop. The museum is free and open to the public with rotating exhibits of local Wisconsin art and works from the permanent collection. It is truly a place where history meets creativity.

The CAM currently features two exhibitions; Show and Tell, featuring the works of six Wisconsin children's book illustrators, and From Journal to Cedarburg, which traces the remarkable journey of local artist Robb Helf

through his almost 30 years as a graphic designer and illustrator with Journal Communications, Inc., to his stunning paintings depicting life in and around Cedarburg. Both exhibits run through May 19.

The CAM is also currently seeking Wisconsin artists 18 or older to submit artwork for the upcoming The Life of Water Juried Exhibition. The 2024 Juried Exhibition challenges artists to create their interpretation of this most fundamental element in any way it inspires them. For more details, visit [www.cedarburgartmuseum.org/callforart](http://www.cedarburgartmuseum.org/callforart). Entries will be welcome through Sunday.

For information on these exhibits, and on the CAM's summer beer garden and music series, visit [www.cedarburgartmuseum.org](http://www.cedarburgartmuseum.org).

**Cedarburg Cultural Center** The Cedarburg Cultural Center (CCC) is a wonderful gathering place for the Ozaukee community, open to the public as an art gallery but also frequently open for public events like art shows, live performances and comedy shows, or rentable for private events. Whatever the reason, multiple galleries of artwork will serve as the foreground — or background — for your visit. Art exhibits change throughout the year, featuring beautiful art and jewelry to browse and purchase, from local and visiting artists, as well as local students.

Current exhibits include the 77th annual Ozaukee County Art Show and Gallery of Student Art (now through April 21), as well as the Main Street Gallery, a constantly evolving boutique of local fine art. Coming April 27 to April 28 is the Hang It Again Art Sale, where art seekers can browse hung-again and gently used art pieces.

Throughout the year the CCC offers art classes for youth and adults that include drawing, painting, creating sculptures and jewelry. Visit [cedarburgculturalcenter.org](http://cedarburgculturalcenter.org) for information on current and upcoming exhibits, classes, performances (including an upcoming comedy show featuring McMann and Tate, and Let's Get Groovy Again 70s party) and

events such as the outdoor Oz Night Market, a free event showcasing local vendors, performers and artists.

**Cedarburg Artists Guild** The Cedarburg Artists Guild (CAG) is an organization dedicated to inspiring creativity and promoting fine arts and crafts in Ozaukee County. Their membership represents the entire spectrum of the visual arts. The CAG helps cultivate the inner artist in all members and guests who participate in and attend their events. The CAG hosts events such as Paint Cedarburg, a plein air (an expression meaning "in the open air") event that is nationally recognized as the largest gathering of artists in Wisconsin; the October Covered Bridge Art Studio Tour, a self-guided art tour where artists welcome guests into their studios; the fall Annual Juried Exhibit at the Cedarburg Cultural Center; and the December Holiday Art Fair at the Cedarburg Community Gym. Members' work is displayed at the Main Street Gallery located inside the Cedarburg Cultural Center throughout the year.

This year's Plein Air: Paint Cedarburg event is June 8 to June 15. Rain or shine, more than 160 plein air artists from all over will be roaming throughout Cedarburg and Ozaukee County capturing their favorite historical structures, coffee shops and the countryside in watercolors, oils, pastels and more. The artists spend six days painting outside, and the public is encouraged to interact with the artists as they work and watch as their paintings come to life.

**Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts** From the choice of material to the designs, patterns and techniques, quilts tell the stories of family memories, current events, traditions, human connection and so much more. Although touted as a museum rather than a gallery, the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts (WMQFA) is as unique and inspiring as any art gallery, and is artfully incorporated into a re-purposed 1850s Cedarburg farmstead. It also boasts one of the more distinctive gift shops in Ozaukee County. Opened in August of 2011, the WMQFA has roots that go all the way back to 1988, when a group of quilt

enthusiasts founded the Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc. to preserve the history and creativity expressed in quilts through documentation and research.

Since then, the museum has documented more than 8,000 quilts. In addition to quilt documentation, the WMQFA collects and displays important historical fiber arts.

March 1 celebrated the opening of the awe-inspiring exhibit 25 Million Stitches: One Stitch, One Refugee, an artistic statement

“Studies show that stress levels drop, senses of creativity expand and emotional intelligence increases as one strolls through a gallery.”

about human displacement, immigration and solidarity. The exhibit features 407 muslin banners, each 14 feet long, boasting 25 million handsewn stitches. Each stitch represents a single displaced human being as counted in the United Nation’s High Commissioner on Refugees 2019 report. The stitches came from 37 countries and all 50 states.

The exhibit encourages viewers to engage with the global crisis refugees face, instead of ignoring it. The exhibition runs through July 28.

In May and June, the WMQFA will celebrate Artist in Residence Noora Badeen, who fled Iraq in 2015 and settled in Ozaukee County. Badeen will be creating artwork at the museum during her residency, as well as guiding visitors through a participatory weaving project that all ages are welcome to join.

In addition to its storied rotating exhibits, the WMQFA encourages and supports active quilting and social groups through workshops, lectures, family fun days and school and group visits.

Classes are open to all quilters and quilter wannabes, from beginner to advanced, and include topics from quilting, knitting, needle felting and

embellishment to fabric painting and dying, wearable art, hand and machine applique and even basket weaving.

Every third Thursday of the month will offer a casual and productive fiber arts social group where guests are encouraged to bring in a project for feedback and encouragement from other fiber enthusiasts.

Participants have exclusive access to WMQFA's extensive research library, and sewing supplies, irons, large worktables, and coffee/ teapots are available for use during each session. For more information visit [www.wiquiltmuseum.com](http://www.wiquiltmuseum.com).

If you are a quilter, do not miss the WMQFA Fiber Art Rummage Sale from June 13 to June 15 (and the Famous Bag Sale — everything that fits in a paper bag for only \$15).

Galleries and art exhibitions provide opportunities for individuals to engage with diverse perspectives, cultures and creative expressions. Art in all its forms has the power to evoke feelings and provoke thought regardless of one's background or expertise. A visit to an art gallery can be a rewarding experience for anyone looking to transport themselves to a different time, place or perspective.

*The Ozaukee County Tourism Council is a dedicated group of businesses and organizations that support and promote tourism in Ozaukee County.*

Now on display at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts is "25 Million Stitches: One Stitch, One Refugee," which features 25 million hand-sewn stitches each representing a single displaced human being.

Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts

The Cedarburg Cultural Center features rotating art displays throughout the year and a Makers Marketplace to purchase some wares.

Photo courtesy of the Cedarburg Cultural Center

[© Conley Publishing Group. All Rights Reserved.](#)

[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)