

# Arts in Ozaukee County are thriving!

## Submitted by the Ozaukee County Tourism Council

While we know the last year has been a challenge for us all, the pandemic hit the arts industry particularly hard with closings, canceled events and exhibits, and rescheduling challenges. But artists and arts organizations are resilient and excited to welcome you back.

We are lucky to have a rich array of art museums, artists, and festivals in Ozaukee County, and our arts scene is coming back stronger than ever! Now is a great time to enjoy all the amazing arts activities available.

Our museums and cultural centers are excited to have you back, and are filling their schedules with fun events! The Grafton Arts Mill and the North Shore Academy of the Arts team up to offer exhibitions and inspiration. The Mill is teaming with artists, with more than 14 different artists calling it home. Be sure to check out the "Visions" exhibition, closing April 17, and the "Big Exhibit 2021" from May 11 to July 10.

The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts celebrates its 10th anniversary this year with a special exhibition called "Stories in the Stitches" (April 29 to Aug. 29), featuring quilts from as early as 1825, and a special birthday party on Aug. 5.

Don't miss their Fiber Art Rummage Sale from June 10 to June 12, and sign up for their July 6 multi-generational tie-dye workshop — or tune in to one of their many free virtual programs.

And check out "Remnants," featuring artists using repurposed and recycled materials, before it closes on April 25.

The arts are in full swing at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. In addition to their outstanding local art exhibitions, check out the Architectural Treasures Tour from May 15 to 16; Tunes on the Terrace out-

door concert series from June 16 to Aug. 25; Blueburg Café Open Mic Night Live on the Terrace, from June 1 to Oct. 6; Saturday Cocktail Hour Shows, from June 19 to Oct. 2; and Cocktails, Dahling! Spirited Historical Tour, on July 24.

Memories Ballroom in Port Washington has a great slate of productions to enjoy. From "Blind Dating at Happy Hour" in April to "The Housekeeper" in May, enjoy tasty food and entertaining live theater close to home!

The Cedarburg Art Museum's Thursday Beer Garden, June 10 to Sept. 16, features live music and libations in their spectacular courtyard and sculpture garden. Enjoy their Thirst for Art Fair, from June 12 to Sept. 11. And be sure to check out their summer exhibitions: "Value of Art," from May 13 to Sept. 26; "Tom Kubala: Walking Through Cedarburg," from May 13 to Aug. 1; "John Colt," May 14 to Sept. 26; "Don Esser: Forging Ahead," June 2 to Oct. 3; and more!

While the Cedarburg Performing Arts Center remains closed to the public, be sure to check out their virtual programming! From the "Budding Artists Series" to their "From Our Artists to You," they've got all kinds of virtual programs available to view.

## Outdoor events

If you're ready to hit up some fun outdoor events, enjoy beautiful Wisconsin Friday nights in Belgium's Community Park as Belgium Summer Nights Live resumes June 4, July 16 and Aug. 27. Enjoy the Beer & Wine Garden, Night Market, kick ball, and pickle ball on Friday evenings.

The Cedarburg Artists Guild will host the 20th annual Paint Cedarburg: Plein Air painting event from June 5 to June 12. Up to 150 plein air artists will roam our charming city capturing your favorite historical structures, favorite coffee shops and picturesque countryside with oils, watercolors, and

pastels.

The Giro d'Grafton returns on June 19 with thrilling races, great food from downtown businesses, live music, and big fun. Downtown Grafton will be abuzz with entertainment for all ages that you and your family won't want to miss, so be sure to mark the event on your calendars!

Saddle up for the Kick Up the Dust Rodeo at Buechler Farms in Belgium, then settle in for live music from June 25 to June 26. Band Liquid Courage plays Friday night, and Tangle Foot and Rebel Grace both play Saturday after the rodeo.

The hard-working staff at Cedarburg's Strawberry Festival is back in action! This family favorite is scheduled for June 26 to June 27. Much will be dependent upon state and federal safety protocols for large outdoor gatherings as the dates near, so stay tuned to find out what the festival will look like in 2021! Planners are optimistic, and are including a virtual component in the festival design as well.

If live music is your thing, Summer Sounds in Cedarburg returns with free music, great food and fun for all ages in the heart of downtown Cedarburg! This Friday night concert series will run July 2 to Sept. 10 (except Aug. 27) at Cedar Creek Park from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The schedule will be announced shortly.

Gathering on the Green in Mequon is back in 2021! Featuring rock 'n roll Hall of Famers Cheap Trick and country legend Trace Adkins, this multi-day festival runs July 9 to July 10.

And of course the Ozaukee County Fair, July 28 to Aug. 1, offers five days of live music and other live entertainment, along with all the fun, food and fanfare you've come to expect. It's one of the last free fairs in the Midwest!

## Other upcoming events

The Luxembourg American Cultural Society & Center will present Luxembourg Fest, a celebration of



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The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts will host a multi-generational tie-dye workshop on July 6.

Luxembourg heritage in Belgium from Aug. 13 to Aug. 15. Events and offerings include food, live music, a parade, the world's largest Treipen-eating contest, a free Kids Zone, a car show and a street market.

Port Washington's Gallery 224 ARTservancy artist resident exhibitions are viewable outside through their windows and online. Enjoy new artworks and discover new artists

every month!

If you're ready to create your own art, Interior Garden Art Studio is the heart of Thiensville, and offers individual, family and group classes. The community based arts studio is your chance to explore your artistic side!

Glaze, the paint your own pottery and glass fusing studio in Thiensville, is open to paint, glass fuse and more in the studio. Follow them on Facebook for

fun ideas! Not quite ready for an in-studio session yet? Pick up one of their make and take kits, paint it at home, and bring it back for firing!

For information on all these activities and more, pick up a copy of the Ozaukee County Tourism Guide available at area chambers and visitor centers, visit [www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com) and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page.