

NEVADA ROAD TRIPS

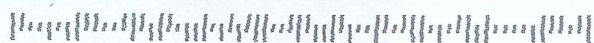
GORGEOUS GARDENS

ART IN THE ROCKIES

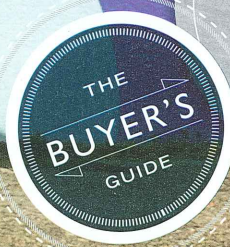
THE GROUP TRAVEL LEADER

Street Art:

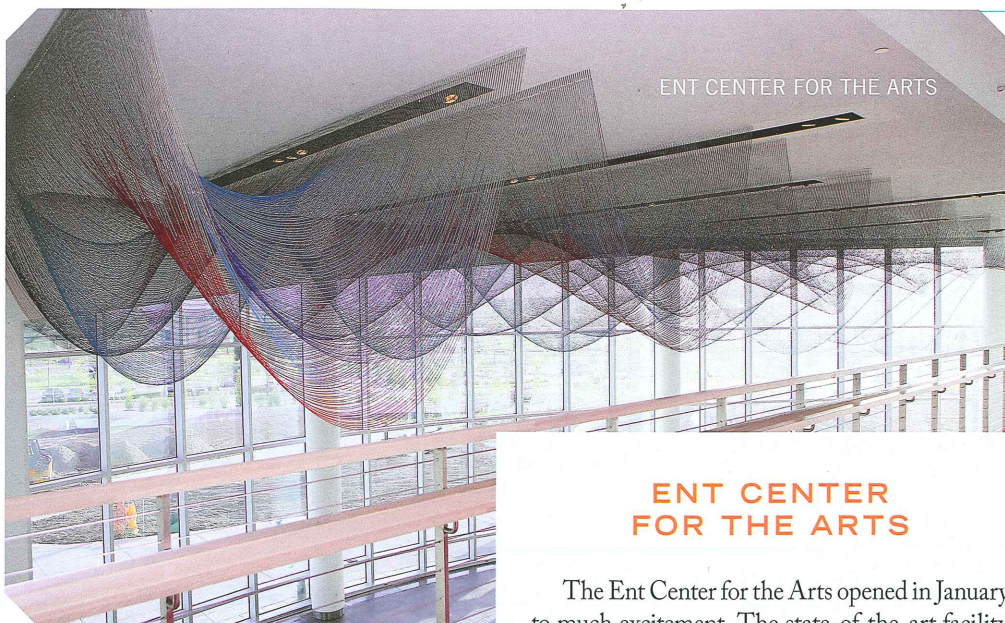
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ARTS &
CULTURE
ISSUE
SEPTEMBER
2018



ENT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Ent Center for the Arts opened in January to much excitement. The state-of-the-art facility offers a 774-seat theater, a 245-seat recital hall and a gallery of contemporary art.

"Whether it's hosting an off-site event or watching a performance, it's a very versatile site for groups," said Offutt. "It's associated with the University of Colorado Springs, so students are involved in the art programs, such as performing onstage or curating the art."

The 92,000-square-foot performing and visual-art complex hosts performances by the professional, regional theater company Theatreworks. The company produces a range of quality shows each year and chose "A Raisin in the Sun," "Little Shop of Horrors" and "A Christmas Carol" among its first productions in the new 300-seat Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater.

Groups can also explore the Marie Walsh Sharpe Galleries of Contemporary Art for free. The 2,500-square-foot gallery space features professional artists, emerging artists and University of Colorado Springs faculty.

ART ON THE STREETS

In 1998, city officials created the Art on the Streets program as a way to help locals and visitors experience the area's art culture free of charge. They hoped it would help revitalize the downtown core, which had witnessed an exodus of businesses over the past couple of decades.

In June, Art on the Streets, now in its 20th year of operation, released a new batch of sculptures throughout downtown; also new were some anniversary exhibits, a limited-edition coffee table book and themed tours.

"Generally, there are about 11 sculptures," said Chelsy Offutt, director of communications for Visit Colorado Springs. "This year, there are 17 art installations. It's a great way to experience the Colorado outdoors while getting a taste of our arts and culture scene."

Group leaders can book a guided tour through the convention and visitors bureau, or let travelers roam free with a GPS-based Otocast app for a self-guided audio tour of the city's permanent and rotating works of art. Morning coffee walks or evening happy hour walks add a beverage to the experience. Tours and the app explain the inspiration behind each work and background information on the artists.

The city hosts a First Friday Art Walk downtown for access to art galleries as well as the public art. During the event, trolleys run to nearby historic Manitou Springs and Old Colorado City for additional art, charming boutiques and local restaurants.

COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER

Alice Bemis Taylor saw the rampant unemployment during the Great Depression and felt compelled to act. With \$600,000 of her own money, she funded the construction of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936 to create employment opportunities and an accessible place to view art. Taylor also donated her extensive Native American, Hispanic and Americana art collection to the center's museum.

"When it was built during the Depression, there was an art scene here at the time," said Offutt. "It was considered very impressive when it was built. The architecture is renowned. It is a beautiful place with a lot of different ways to experience art."

On the National Register of Historic Places, the Fine Arts Center's design integrates Southwestern, Art Deco and Classical architectural elements. In 2007, the center received a \$30 million renovation and expansion of more than 48,000 square feet. This massive structure houses not only art galleries but also a 450-seat theater, an art school and a restaurant.

Guides can help visitors grasp the importance of the museum's collection of works by modern American artists, among them Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent and Dale Chihuly. The center also features one of the country's strongest Hispanic, Latin American and Native American collections.

Architectural tours provide artistic insight into the building and its designer, John Gaw Meem. Those seeking an evening's entertainment can pair a production from the center's theater company with a theater tour. The behind-the-scenes tour illuminates the inner workings of the theater with stops in the prop, scene and costume shops.



ART OF *the* ROCKIES

ARTS &
CULTURE

ISSUE

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BY ELIZA MYERS

THE ENT CENTER FOR THE
ARTS IS THE NEWEST JEWEL
IN COLORADO SPRINGS' FINE
ARTS CROWN.

COLORADO SPRINGS IS BRIMMING WITH COLOR AND CULTURE

The sight of a 4,200-pound octopus mermaid poised to soar into the air can startle some visitors to Colorado Springs, Colorado. A second glance at this unusual creature will reassure onlookers, since the recycled metal sculpture called "Iscaiot" stands in the city's downtown as part of its Art on the Streets initiative. The program turns the city's downtown into an outdoor museum. It's one of several ways Colorado Springs offers high-quality art to the masses.

Colorado Springs also boasts formal art galleries at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, theater at the Ent Center for the Arts and high-end local art for sale at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post.

Explore this Rocky Mountain art haven for a culturally immersive and entertaining experience.



ART ON THE STREETS

All photos courtesy VisitCOS.com

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There is so much art and culture out in the world to absorb. From the awe-inspiring works hanging in the Louvre, to the quiet artistry of a Japanese shrine, Collette seeks to provide culturally-enriching experiences in intriguing destinations. The only question is: what are you waiting for?



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GARDEN OF THE GODS TRADING POST

Less than 15 minutes from downtown Colorado Springs lie massive rocks of red, pink and white jutting out of the ground. The geologic wonders seemed divine to early surveyors, who named it Garden of the Gods.

The park at this spot has long captivated visitors, which is why Charles Strausenback opened his first souvenir stand there in 1909. In 1929, he created a Pueblo-themed trading post to sell Native American art. He hired Navajo and Pueblo Native Americans to demonstrate their art process while they created new art pieces at the trading post.

The trading post's current owners expanded the original sales floor from 2,400 square feet to 22,000 square feet, making it one of the state's largest art galleries and gift shops. Groups can browse the Colorado art collection while snacking on locally made ice cream from Colorado City Creamery. Visits can also stretch into lunchtime at the Balanced Rock Cafe.

Despite the added features, the original fireplace, floor and roof beams keep the historic feel of the site. The Trading Post also continues to offer authentic, well-made Native American crafts and art.

"They have everything from well-crafted moccasins to sweatshirts that say Pikes Peak on them," said Offutt. "You can find the regular mementos; then in the back they have some unique high-end items that you wouldn't normally expect."

Contemporary Native American jewelry, Navajo rugs, sand paintings, sculptures and Pueblo pottery help attract some of the 400,000 annual visitors looking for the perfect souvenir.



VISIT COLORADO SPRINGS

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