



# AFFAIRS OF THE ARTS



Delaware County residents have always had an affair with the arts. One would be hard pressed to find a more diverse mix of arts and cultural venues in such close proximity. From symphonies and theatres to art museums and national lecture series—Delaware has created an outstanding list of artistic outlets to express and celebrate its creative nature.

Recognized in 2007 by *Ohio Magazine*, Delaware is considered one of the state's five greatest places to live, and the county is the 13<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the country according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Its thriving arts scene includes the **Central Ohio Symphony**, copious rural galleries, and a pre-civil war castle that hosts everything from dance workshops to fiber arts classes.

## **MUSIC MAESTRO!**

The heavenly sounds of the **Central Ohio Symphony** are inspiring. The Symphony performs four annual concerts in the historic Gray Chapel on **Ohio Wesleyan University's** campus

in Delaware. Among the region's most acclaimed concert halls, the chapel offers acoustics and visual beauty unmatched in Central Ohio. For nearly 30 years this professional ensemble has presented musical arrangements by classic composers such as Beethoven, Gershwin, Susa, and many others.

## **AT THE ART OF IT ALL**

A landmark for the Delaware arts community is **The Arts Castle**. Built in 1854, the storybook structure was originally a wedding gift for a bride and features a large curved, two-story stone turret resembling a castle-like structure.

Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, the first floor features a gallery and gift shop of regional, handmade works of art. The second floor opens up to a variety of classrooms and workshops for all ages to meet and learn the language of art. The Arts Castle is consistently recognized as one of the premier community teaching centers for the arts in Ohio.

## **HANGING AROUND**

In addition to the performing arts, Delaware County offers a unique collection of art museums, galleries, and shops. While some are extravagantly modern, others ooze with simplistic and rural charm.

Built nearly a decade before the roar of the 1920s, the **Richard**

**M. Ross Art Museum** once served as Delaware's Post Office and home to the city's oldest brewery. Acquired in 1969 by Ohio Wesleyan University, the museum was extensively renovated in 2002 to a modern exhibit hall featuring changing exhibits. Some were brought in from regional and national collections, while others are supplemented by the museum's permanent collection.

The (not on the) **Corner Framing & Gallery Shop** in downtown Delaware provides a wonderful blend of gallery viewing and shopping. Contemporary, abstract and traditional pieces are on display and for sale.

### WORDS OF EXPRESSION

The **Sagan National Colloquium** headlines at Ohio Wesleyan University each year and spotlights the issues of enduring and powerful social concerns. Through a series of presentations and discussions led by national and internationally recognized experts, the university and surrounding communities engage in an insightful journey of discussions about the world we live in.

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, POPCORN

Movie buffs will be pleased to find one of the last remaining original movie houses still in operation at Delaware's **Strand Theatre**. Built in 1916 as a silent movie house, the theatre's marquee has continuously listed the newest releases of the day for more than 90 years! The aroma of buttery popcorn and sweet candies for sale at the concession counter set the tone for an authentic theatre experience.

With annual events such as **Antique Street Markets, Powell Festival**, quilt shop hops, art gallery open-houses, parades, **Ohio Wesleyan University's Performing Arts Series**, the **Castle Arts Affair** and various other celebrations, the arts are easy to appreciate in Delaware County.

## When You Have More Time

**Delaware Arts Festival** – This annual festival is one that the arts community takes seriously. More than 170 craft artists are featured including unique strolling performers, children's activities, and artist demonstrations. For 35 years the festival's proceeds have been donated back to the local community in the form of college scholarships for inspiring visual artists.

### To Learn More

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