“Greensboro has a long tradition of innovation and creative thinking — from the designers and craftsmen who built the Piedmont’s textile and furniture empires to the home of author O. Henry. Life here offers a rich tapestry interwoven with art and culture.

“I love living here.”
— Stephanie Sherman, Greensboro resident & co-director at Elsewhere

Next time you’re traveling through the South on the lookout for a new stop, think Greensboro — North Carolina’s third largest metropolitan area, with a wealth of Southern hospitality, green space, and best of all, creativity!

Greensboro has a long tradition of innovation and creative thinking — from the designers and craftsmen who built the Piedmont’s textile and furniture empires to the home of author O. Henry. Life here offers a rich tapestry interwoven with art and culture.

Whether you’re looking for a fresh new destination or just stopping in for a short business meeting, there’s an abundant opportunity to experience the arts, from Triad Stage to Elsewhere (see related articles). Here’s a sampler of some of the best arts and culture Greensboro has to offer, homegrown and authentic!

Greensboro Cultural Center
Located in the heart of downtown, the unique Greensboro Cultural Center is the creation of a public-private partnership to provide visitors and residents with a space for creative exploration. The Cultural Center is home to 16 nonprofit arts organizations, including four galleries, a wide range of classes and camps for children, and offices for many of Greensboro’s most prominent and well-respected organizations — including the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro.

- A trip to the African American Atelier is a must. The gallery features original African American art, with six to eight exhibitions throughout the year. africanamericanatelier.org
- You’ll also want to stop in at the Center for Visual Artists to see interesting new works from emerging and established local artists. greensboroart.org
- And if you’ll be in Greensboro during the summer, take a walk upstairs to get your tickets to a performance at the Eastern Music Festival, known worldwide. easternmusicfestival.org
- First Fridays in Downtown Greensboro On the first Friday of every month, downtown Greensboro’s shops and merchants celebrate the arts with First Friday, a showcase of the local arts scene. You’ll find everything from fine art to live experimental music in Greensboro’s own Mack and Mack, a custom clothing design and production shop.

Live Performances for Almost Every Taste
- Come to Greensboro to get the blues! The city is home to the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society. You’ll find blues shows throughout the year in a variety of venues. piedmontblues.org
- Are you in the mood for beautiful interpretations of music spanning centuries around the globe? Bel Canto Company is your match. belcantocompany.com
- Triad Pride Men’s Chorus entertains, enlightens, and enriches audiences with their celebrated all-male chorus. triagridemenchorus.org
- Feel like stimulating your mind with beauty and dance? Don’t miss Cyrus Art Production, led by Greensboro’s own nationally acclaimed Duane Cyrus. cyrusartproduction.com
- Make it a holiday treat for the whole family and experience Festival of Lights on the first Friday in December. Downtown comes alive with music, carolers, art exhibits, and of course, the annual tree lighting in Center City Park. festivaloflightsgso.org
- So what are you waiting for? At the crossroads of interstates 40 and 85, Greensboro awaits with a wealth of arts and entertainment, no matter the season. Want to learn more? Contact the United Arts Council and let us help you plan your next adventure in our emerald of a city.

The United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, in its 50th year, is the single largest source of financial support for Greensboro’s creative community. The council funds arts and culture, from nationally recognized programs, community arts projects, and arts-in-education initiatives to mission support, all with a high priority on access to the arts across all cultures, ages, and economic backgrounds. The Arts Council also operates the historic Sternberger Artist Center in Greensboro. For more information about the United Arts Council, visit uacarts.org.
The South’s New Arts & Culture Festival

Greensboro’s new fall festival, 17 Days, promises world-class theater, music, visual arts, and more, from September 22 through October 8.

North Carolina enjoys its share of popular and successful festivals, from Merlefest to the Eastern Music Festival, currently in its 50th season, right here in Greensboro.

But this fall, Greensboro’s arts and entertainment producers and venues will join together with the United Arts Council to present 17 Days, connecting and combining art, culture, and entertainment in a new festival of regional significance. The festival will feature artists of national and international renown and showcase the region’s creativity, venues, and unique hospitality. And thanks to easy access by auto, rail, and air, Greensboro makes a wonderful destination for audiences from across the mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

17 Days will feature more than 100 events, performances, workshops, and exhibits over three autumn weekends, opening the arts and entertainment high season at a beautiful time of year in the Piedmont. Performances and events will occur in dozens of venues — both indoor and outdoor — including some of the South’s most enchanting historic theaters and galleries.

One of the festival’s highlights will be the world premiere of a new orchestral work from Grammy Award-winning composer and fiddle player Mark O’Connor (known for his work with Yo-Yo Ma on Appalachia Waltz) commissioned for the festival thanks to a grant from American Express. Called Queen Anne’s Revenge, the piece celebrates the recovery of Blackbeard’s fabled frigate off North Carolina’s Topsail Inlet.

Projected events also include an exhibit of artifacts recovered from Blackbeard’s Queen Anne’s Revenge, courtesy of the NC Maritime Museum and the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

Other highlights include performances of the thriller Dial M for Murder presented by the award-winning Triad Stage; an entire weekend of free artist studio tours; Oaktoberfest, complete with locally brewed artisan Red Oak Bohemian Lager; a performance by the Avett Brothers at Greensboro’s new White Oak Amphitheatre; and plenty of sights and sounds at galleries, pubs, and music spaces throughout the city.