

# Art in your backyard

by Peggy Capper

The Tri-Cities have an abundance of cultural venues and activities for all to enjoy. Batavia is quickly becoming a burgeoning artists community and St. Charles has long held the market for the bigger stage productions. But Geneva stands out for its art galleries, handmade jewelry, fashions that make artistic statements, and unique furniture and accoutrements of exceptional artistic expression found in shops throughout its famous downtown area. Each of the Tri-Cities has a local art commission specifically tasked with enriching the art culture in their respective cities. From local artists and galleries, to festivals and award winning performances, there is a plethora of art. Here are just some of the many ways to find Art in Your Backyard...

## Geneva

**Geneva Cultural Arts Commission**  
630-938-4530  
[culturalarts@geneva.il.us](mailto:culturalarts@geneva.il.us)

The Geneva Cultural Arts Commission is specifically tasked with creating a diverse cultural art experience that engages the community. They are responsible for some of the more popular art experiences in the Geneva area such as Dancing with the Geneva Stars on Saturday, February 4, The Geneva Film Festival in March, the First Fridays Gallery Walk, Shakespeare in the Park and the RiverPark Summer Series.

**5th Annual Geneva Film Festival**  
March 29-31, Downtown Geneva  
[genevafilmfestival.org](http://genevafilmfestival.org)

Sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission in Geneva, the festival has rapidly become a well-known venue for writers, producers, and actors to screen a variety of independent films and screenplays. The annual festival also provides technical workshops with industry professionals for filmmakers and film enthusiasts alike.

## Geneva Arts Fair

July 28-29, Downtown Geneva  
[genevachamber.com/artfair](http://genevachamber.com/artfair)

Art lovers are invited to visit Geneva for a day of shopping at their juried outdoor gallery of fine art. Victorian homes-turned-businesses in the downtown historic district serve as a picturesque backdrop for the fine arts show. The Geneva Arts Fair will showcase over 150 artists from around the country. Art mediums include photography, pottery, fiber, printmaking, glass, mixed media, watercolor, oil, acrylic, wood, sculpture and jewelry.

## Theater/Performance

**Geneva Underground Playhouse**  
524 W. State Street, Geneva  
630-677-1725  
[guptheatre.org](http://guptheatre.org)

The Geneva Underground Playhouse is a not-for-profit community theater that produces main stage productions throughout the year, and also hosts performances by comedy groups, musicians, playwrights and any number of other entertainers.

## Art Studios/Galleries

**Art Box**  
514 W. State Street, #101  
Geneva, 630-232-2870  
[artboxgeneva.com](http://artboxgeneva.com)

Art Box is an arts supply store, serving students, teachers, hobbyist, beginners and the professional artist community. They also host art classes featuring instruction in drawing, calligraphy, and painting in watercolor, oil, pastel and acrylics. Classes are geared for ages 5 to 100.

## First Friday Gallery Walk

First Friday of every month,  
Downtown Geneva  
[artgalleriesgeneva.com](http://artgalleriesgeneva.com)

The First Friday Gallery Walk is a self-guided art walk and reception to showcase the Art Galleries of Geneva. Participating Galleries stay open "late 'til 9" the first Friday of every month. All of the galleries are within walking distance of each other. A Gallery Directory is available at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, at [artgalleriesgeneva.com](http://artgalleriesgeneva.com), or at any of the participating galleries. Many of the galleries provide refreshments, special events, artists show openings, or live performances.

## Artemisia

101 S. #3rd Street, Geneva  
630-262-0249  
[artemisiastyle.com](http://artemisiastyle.com)

## Dene Gallery

207 S. Third Street, #110, Geneva  
331-248-0041  
[denedesign.com](http://denedesign.com)

## Down to Earth Pottery

426 S. Third Street, Geneva  
630-232-9915  
[downtoearth-pottery.com](http://downtoearth-pottery.com)

## Gallery 28 Fine Functional Art

28 N. Fourth Street, Geneva  
630-845-9673  
[gallery28.biz](http://gallery28.biz)

## Morrison Galleries

232 W. State Street, Geneva  
630-232-0035  
[morrisongalleries.com](http://morrisongalleries.com)

## Out of the Mainstream Designs

107 S. Second Street, Geneva  
630-232-2419  
[outofthemainstreamdesigns.com](http://outofthemainstreamdesigns.com)

## Proud Fox Gallery

213 W. State Street, Geneva  
630-262-8797  
[proudfoxgallery.com](http://proudfoxgallery.com)

## Verve on Third

227 S. Third Street, Geneva  
630-845-1399  
[verveonthird.com](http://verveonthird.com)

## Dance

### DancEncounter, Ltd.

**School of Dance**  
630 E. State Street, Geneva  
630-232-1221  
[dancencounter.tripod.com](http://dancencounter.tripod.com)

### State Street Dance Studio

9 North Fourth Street, Geneva  
630-232-0444  
[statestreetdancestudio.com](http://statestreetdancestudio.com)

### Vargo's Dance

(Specializing in BallRoom Dance)  
115 W. State Street, Geneva  
630-232-2990  
[vargosdance.com](http://vargosdance.com)

## Art in your back yard

**St. Charles****St. Charles Arts Council (SCAC)**

630-443-3794

[stcharlesartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stcharlesartscouncil@gmail.com)

The St. Charles Arts Council's mission is to serve and promote the arts and cultural activities in St. Charles, to the mutual benefit of the arts and the community. They are involved in many art activities around St. Charles including the neXt Pop Up Galleries, and the "Art at Home" Program. The "Art At Home" Program is an initiative of the St. Charles Arts Council intended to support artists by giving them opportunities to showcase and be compensated for their talent. The events typically take place in someone's home and can include the work of performing artists, visual artists, culinary artists, etc.

**St. Charles Fine Arts Show**May 26-27, Downtown St. Charles  
[downtownstcharles.org/FineArtShow](http://downtownstcharles.org/FineArtShow)

Sponsored by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, this award-winning, highly regarded show features the work of 100 juried artists in various mediums including watercolor, oil, sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics, fiber, wood, and glass, which are exhibited and available for sale during the event. Festival goers will get to enjoy live music and artist demonstrations throughout the weekend.

**Theater/Performance**

**Fox Valley Repertory—  
Live Theater at Pheasant Run**  
4051 E. Main Street, St Charles  
630-584-6342  
[foxvalleyrep.org](http://foxvalleyrep.org)

Fox Valley Repertory (FVR) is a not-for-profit Performing Arts Company dedicated to entertaining, enriching and educating lives in the Fox Valley Area. As the largest, professional arts organization in the area, FVR strives to present outstanding productions and

provide exceptional education programs through the FVR Performing Arts Academy.

**The Dellora A. Norris  
Cultural Arts Center**1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles  
630-584-7200  
[norris-culturalarts.com](http://norris-culturalarts.com)

Founded in 1978, the Dellora A. Norris Cultural Arts Center includes an art gallery and a 1,000-seat performing arts theater. The theater features an hydraulically operated orchestra pit, a free-floating floor and enough separately operated flylines to bring in flats, battens, and backdrops for complete sets. It is located on the St. Charles East High School campus.

**Steel Beam Theatre**111 W. Main Street, St. Charles  
630-587-8521  
[steelbeamtheatre.com](http://steelbeamtheatre.com)

Steel Beam Theatre is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing high quality theatrical entertainment, training, and arts awareness to the Fox Valley community at an affordable price. Located in the heart of downtown St. Charles, it features a variety of adult and children's performances as well as classes, workshops and special events.

**Arcada Theatre**105 E Main Street, St Charles  
630-962-7000  
[oshows.com](http://oshows.com)

Arcada Theatre is an historic 888-seat performing arts center. A vaudeville venue in its early days, the theater has been hosting a variety of performing arts acts and movies since it was refurbished in 2005. It has hosted popular acts such as Rick Springfield, Bret Michaels, and The Bo Deans; as well as classic stars like Martin Short, Mickey Rooney, Jerry Lewis and Wayne Newton.

**Marquee Youth (MY) Stage**  
3800 E. Main Street, St. Charles  
[marqueeyouth.org](http://marqueeyouth.org)

MYStage is a youth-driven performing arts organization dedicated to providing young performers with a variety of enrichment opportunities throughout the year. Offerings include classes, workshops and full-scale plays and musicals in comedy and drama. MyStage's goals are to empower youth, build character, enrich minds, and serve the communities they reach through their programs.

**Art Studios/Galleries****Fine Line Creative Arts Center/  
Dempsey Gallery**6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles  
630-584-9490  
[fineline.org](http://fineline.org)

The Fine Line provides quality art education to promote exposure, expression, and the celebration of art. Their goal is to nurture the creative spirit in an inspirational, natural setting which engenders a sense of community. Internationally known artists teach a variety of workshops and membership draws from the Chicago area and surrounding states. There are as many as 1,100 students a year, a teaching staff of 37-plus and well over 200 class offerings a year. The center is run almost entirely by volunteers. Fine Line members' artistic works are displayed and sold in the Dempsey Gallery, located on the first floor of the center.

**La Galerie Fine Art**219 W Main Street  
St. Charles, 630-584-7373  
[lagalerieitd.com](http://lagalerieitd.com)**Tony & Friends Art Studio**731 N. 17th Street, Unit 16  
St. Charles, 630-377-5377  
[tonyandfriendsartstudio.com](http://tonyandfriendsartstudio.com)

Tony & Friends Art Studio in St. Charles teaches art workshops

and classes including painting, sculpture, watercolors and more. Most workshops are taught by Tony Carneseccchi and the studio has classes for both children and adults.

**neXt gallery/ Pop-up Art Gallery  
Program**[nextgallerystcharles.org](http://nextgallerystcharles.org)

The neXt gallery is a "Pop Up" gallery, which is typically an empty storefront/office building that is transformed into a temporary art gallery for a short period of time. The neXt gallery program is an initiative of the St. Charles Arts Council designed to create energy, excitement, and opportunities for artists – as pop up galleries have done in Chicago's Loop, Evanston, and cities around the world – and to provide opportunities for artists to showcase and be compensated for their talent. The program is called

neXt gallery, because you never know where it will pop up next!

**Norris Cultural Arts Center/  
Norris Galleries**1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles  
630-584-7200  
[norris-culturalarts.com](http://norris-culturalarts.com)**Music****The Fox Valley Academy of Music  
Performance**[fvacademy.org](http://fvacademy.org)

The Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance is a premier orchestra program that strives to enrich the life of Chicago's far western suburbs through the celebration of symphonic music. It is comprised of the Fox Valley Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus as well as the Fox Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. The Academy's mission is to provide a challenging opportunity

for musicians of all ages to study and perform great music together, while fostering creativity, friendships and life-long enrichment through the common language of music. The Academy also offers musical instrument instruction through its Access to Music program.

**St. Charles Singers (SCS)**311 N. Second Street, Suite 201-B  
St. Charles, 630-513-5272  
[stcharlessingers.com](http://stcharlessingers.com)

The mission of the SCS is to perform, promote and preserve the finest choral music. This thirty-two voice, internationally-recognized, professional choir performs throughout the Chicagoland area and appears as guest performers with other arts organizations in concert including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. SCS

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# Art in your backyard

engages in educational and community outreach through its outreach ensembles and educational scholarship programs.

## Dance

### 3rd Street Dance & Theatre Academy, Inc.

101 S. Third Street, St. Charles  
630-443-0041  
3streetdance.com

### Beth Fowler School of Dance

2400 E. Main St. Suite 107b  
St. Charles, 630-945-3344  
bethfowerschoolofdance.com

### Nelson Dance Center

1901 W. Main Street, St. Charles  
630-584-2535  
nelsondance.com

### St. Charles School of Dance

1429 W. Main Street  
St. Charles, 630-524-2602  
saintcharlesschoolofdance.com

### Underground Arts Connection

1820 Wallace Ave., Suite 123  
St. Charles, 630-444-1464  
undergroundartsconnection.com



## Batavia

### Batavia Arts Council

P.O. Box 383, Batavia  
bataviaartscouncil.org

The Batavia Arts Council's mission is to develop awareness of and interest in the arts, culture, and entertainment. They also strive to create an environment that is conducive to the growth and development of individual artists and organizations devoted to the arts, culture and entertainment in the greater Batavia area. The council is involved in several cultural events in the Batavia area such as Art In Your Eye Fine Art Show and Festival, Shakespeare on Clark and the River Rhapsody Concert Series.

### Art in Your Eye Fine Arts Show & Festival

Batavia Riverwalk (August)  
artinyoureye.com

Established in 2005, the Art In Your Eye Fine Art Show & Festival is a collaborative effort of the City of Batavia, Batavia MainStreet, Batavia Public Library, Batavia Park District, Batavia Depot Museum and Water Street Studios. The free festival features a fine arts show, art exhibits, children's art activities, musical entertainment, art demonstrations and much more. The event takes place in late summer and is a Batavia favorite.

## Theater/Performance

### Batavia Fine Arts Centre

1201 Main Street, Batavia  
bataviafineartscentre.org

Completed the summer of 2011 as a part of Batavia High School, the Fine Arts Centre is a state-of-the-art facility with four separate venues to showcase different forms of art. The Fine Arts Centre is not only for the use of the children of Batavia High School, but also for the community as a whole.

### The Albright Theatre

100 N. Island Avenue  
Batavia, 630-406-8838  
albrighttheatre.com

Located in downtown Batavia, the Albright Theatre's mission is to encourage public interest in, and appreciation of, the dramatic arts as well as provide a source for creating, producing and presenting works of dramatic merit to the public.

## Art Studios/Galleries

### The Attic Christian Arts Center

26 N. Island Avenue, Batavia  
331-222-8224  
theatticbatavia.com

The Attic is a God inspired center where people can come together to enjoy a passion for the arts in a Christian environment. They offer dance, drawing, painting, cartooning, and ceramics classes.

### Water Street Studios

160 S. Water Street, Batavia,  
630-761-9977  
waterstreetstudios.com

Batavia Artists Association at Water Street Studios is a not-for-profit organization devoted to expanding art in Batavia and the surrounding communities. They have converted an historic limestone building into an amazing 16,000 sq. ft. arts center featuring 28 artist studios, three classrooms and two premier galleries for showcasing fine art. It was created by a group of artists, the property owners, city officials, and community members and the center focuses on extending the arts community in the tri-cities and beyond.

## Music

### Fox Valley Children's Chorus

PO Box 502, Batavia  
630-879-3235  
fvchildrenschorus.org

Fox Valley Children's Chorus provides vocal training and excellence in performance of high quality choral music for children of the Fox Valley. The Fox Valley Children's Chorus consists of two choirs: The Apprentice Choir for girls and boys in grades 2-4; and the Concert Choir for girls and boys with unchanged voices in grades 5 through age 15. The chorus works on challenging choral music and presents two concerts per season, one in December and the other in April. The group is available to sing for other events as well.

### Inspire School of Music

104 First Street, Batavia  
630-879-1280  
bataviamusic.com

Inspire School of Music's goal is to deliver outstanding comprehensive music education in a supportive environment. Their school includes a large recital space with a baby grand piano, and two smaller teaching studios. The school also owns six hammer-action digital pianos for students to rent.

### Music Matters

222 E. Wilson Street, Batavia  
630-406-8742  
musicmattersschool.com

Music Matters mission is to provide people of all ages and abilities the tools to have a life long love of music. Students are encouraged to explore all areas of music and offers performance opportunities as soloist or with an ensemble. Piano, drum, guitar, voice, violin, cello, and saxophone lessons are offered as well as lessons for any other percussion or orchestral instrument. A unique pre-school program for parent and child is also available.

## Dance

### Batavia Academy of Dance

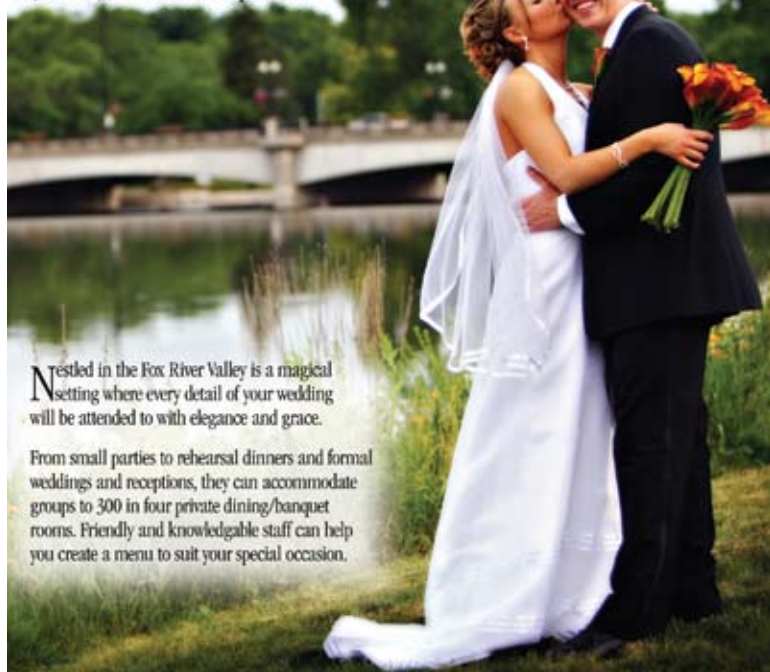
8 E. Wilson Street, Batavia,  
630-406-8232  
bataviaacademyofdance.com

### A Step Above Dance Academy

103 E. Wilson Street, Batavia  
630-326-9600  
astepaboveacademy.net

# Riverside

Reception & Conference Center  
35 North River Lane • Geneva, IL  
630-262-8371 • riversidereceptions.com



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