



## *One Sheet: Arts*

Memphis has one of the richest, most diverse, and cultured art environments in the world. From music that changed the world to murals that decorate the city, nationally acclaimed museums to the leading African American theater in the country, the Memphis arts scene is bursting at the seams with talent. Unlike other cities, art intersects with every sector in Memphis, including medical, business, government, education, and more. From the ballet to graffiti, art is deeply ingrained in Memphis culture and part of the unique soul of the city.

Though there's no shortage of art institutions in Memphis, the arts go far beyond the museums and theater institutions. The local nonprofit arts industry in Memphis drives \$197.3 million in annual spending and supports the equivalent of more than 6,100 full-time jobs. The recent renovation of an abandoned Sears Distribution building in Memphis' Crosstown neighborhood resulted in Crosstown Arts, a contemporary arts organization dedicated to further cultivating the creative community in Memphis. The \$200 million project has had an estimated \$330 million economic impact on the city, all stemming from the arts.

Unbeknownst to many, Memphis is a leader in the high arts. Ballet Memphis is a trailblazer in the national conversation about the lack of diversity in ballet programs. Ballet Memphis has been recognized for excellence in performance, programming, scholarships, and diversity, as students have access to everything from flamenco and salsa to jookin and hip hop. Similarly, Opera Memphis is widely respected for its inclusivity and outreach programming, which includes programs such as Artist-in-Residence tours and Black Roots of Opera. In addition to the Orpheum Memphis, the Hattiloo theater is the leading African American theater in the country and the only freestanding Black repertory theatre in five surrounding states. In Memphis, diversity is celebrated throughout every discipline and branch of the arts, which yields impressive community engagement and national recognition.

Memphis is home to countless museums, each providing one of a kind experiences in a broad range of disciplines (The Brooks Museum, Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Rock N' Soul Museum, the Pink Palace, and more). The National Ornamental Metal Museum is the only institution in the United States devoted to the advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. Memphis is also home to Graceland, which attracts thousands of visitors and Elvis fans each year, and the Blues Hall of Fame Museum, which honors and celebrates legendary musicians and the history of the blues. Perhaps most importantly, Memphis is home to the National Civil Rights Museum. Built in the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the National Civil Rights Museum retraces the history of African Americans and the Civil Rights movement through interactive exhibits. A Smithsonian Affiliate museum, the National Civil Rights Museum is noted as one of the nation's premier heritage and cultural museums.

Thanks to Memphis' UrbanArt Commission, colorful murals and art fixtures decorate the city and creative programming engages people from all walks of life to take pride in their surroundings. Memphis' artistic evocation of soul creates an experience unlike any other and an arts scene unlike anywhere else. The intersection of art, history, community, and diversity redefines the way

Memphians and the world consider the role the arts play within their communities.