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Fall for the Arts this weekend



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By **Debi Boucher Stetson**
GateHouse News Service
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CAPE COD — Imagine a three-day festival that involves every arts-oriented venue in every Cape Cod town, from galleries and museums to theatre, dance, music and more. The Arts Foundation of Cape Cod has not only imagined it, but planned it out every step of the way, and will make it a reality this weekend, Oct. 2-4.

Fall for the Arts, a joint venture with Cape Cod View Magazine, was held for the first time last year, but on a much smaller scale. Last year's event was in three towns — Falmouth, Dennis and Hyannis. This year's first-ever 15-town Fall for the Arts festival includes more than 450 venues, including galleries, museums, artist studios, libraries, theaters and restaurants. Events include free outdoor concerts, exhibitions and demonstrations, open houses and tours.

"When we first came up with the idea of doing something to open the doors to art and culture in the shoulder season, we thought we needed to start with just a few towns, to make sure we were going in the right direction," said Maggie Van Sciver, president of the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod. "The response was so overwhelmingly positive — we heard from towns, we heard from artists, we heard from organizations" who wanted more. "Initially we had planned to expand gradually, but it didn't make sense to hold back when there was so much enthusiasm."

Among the artists welcoming Fall for the Arts is David McDermott, owner of McDermott Glass Studio in Sandwich, who will host a "Glass Jam" on Saturday that will include glass artists from all over the Cape and beyond. In addition to glass blowing, there will be jewelry and bead artists, stained glass artists, glass engravers and more.

McDermott is thrilled about Fall for the Arts. "It's what the Cape needs," he said. "There are so many artists and art venues on the Cape — it's definitely a time to shine." Not only visitors, but Cape residents will find the weekend illuminating, he predicted: "There are things they never knew about going on right next door."

The Cape Cod Art Association will manage to be in three places at once for Fall for the Arts: CCAA will be hosting its All New England Open Juried Exhibit at its gallery on Route 6A in Barnstable, holding a children's art festival on the Village Green in Hyannis and leading a photography workshop in Provincetown. In addition to fish rubbing, sand art, shell painting and face painting, children will be invited to participate in creating a mural whose theme will be what they did on their summer vacation on Cape Cod.

Van Sciver said the first weekend in October is a fitting time to hold Fall for the Arts, because it kicks off National Arts and Humanities Month.

In planning the festival, Arts Foundation staff "actually visited all of those 450 venues," Van Sciver said, in many cases two or three times. "We just wanted to make sure we could present the Cape as completely as possible," she said.

The biggest challenge, she said, was getting everyone involved to commit to plans far in advance of the festival. "We needed people to tell us in the summer what they were going to be doing in October." Because galleries, restaurants and other participants are so busy in summer, "It was a real challenge."

With a lot of work, it all came together, and the Arts Foundation has produced a glossy 82-page program guide available at all participating venues that lists every event going on in all 15 towns. The schedule is also listed online at [artsfoundation.org](#).

"Our hope is that people will grab the program book, realize there's so much more going on than they could ever see in three days, and come back for weekends or getaways and use it as a resource," she said. "There is so much happening here."

Among the highlights of the weekend are art strolls including the Dennis Village Art Walk and the Brewster Open Studio Tour. "Local artists have gotten together, and created sort of a path the visitor can take that's logical and makes sense."


In Orleans, artists will be painting outdoors throughout the weekend, and galleries and studios across the Cape will feature demonstrations. "When people come here on vacation, one of the things they love to do is go watch an artist work," Van Sciver noted.

In six towns — Mashpee, Sandwich, Barnstable, Harwich, Chatham and Wellfleet — the Arts Foundation hired local artists to perform live music. Those performances, most of which take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, include Blues, rock, jazz, Celtic fiddle and more. In addition, there are other musical performances throughout the Cape.


Libraries have turned out to be big contributors to the schedule of events, with lectures, exhibits and more, and theaters are staging a wide array of productions.

Van Sciver is hoping the festival will give people a chance to go places they've never been. With museums, for example, "We want people to go to their favorites, that they are familiar with — like the Provincetown Art Association and Museum and the JFK Museum — but we also urge them to discover the Edward Gorey House, the Zion Union Heritage Museum and other places they may not have visited before."

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