

Arts & Culture

Also known as Florida's Cultural Coast®, Sarasota County draws artists and art lovers alike who wish to be inspired and awed. The area has both historic and brand-new performing arts venues that host a diverse group of organizations from the city's own ballet and opera companies to traveling Broadway shows and world-famous acts. Art galleries and studios are abundant and showcase local and international works, as do the dynamic museums in our area. While the Ringling name is synonymous with the circus, in Sarasota, it's also attached to a renowned art museum and a college of art and design.

Arts & Culture Highlights



- Sarasota County has over 7,000 seats for theatrical, dance, cabarets, concerts, and national touring performances.
- Sarasota Art Museum is the region's first contemporary art museum.
- Downtown Sarasota is filled with magnificent public art – from the expected murals and sculptures to the surprising, like fairy doors and whimsical bikes.
- Venice Theatre will host the 2024 "aactWORLDFEST," a global festival celebrating community theaters around the world.
- Towles Court Artist Colony is home to working artists, located in a historic courtyard of Old Sarasota.
- Over 20 annual arts festivals are held in Sarasota, including the Annual Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts.
- Selby Gardens' two campuses comprise 45 acres of bayfront sanctuary. The Downtown Sarasota campus is a world leader in the display and study of epiphytes, or air plants. Phase one of a Master Plan project there will add a new Welcome Center, garden-to-plate restaurant, cutting-edge research facilities, and more in 2023. The Historic Spanish Point campus in Osprey is one of Florida's largest preserves showcasing native plants and active archaeology that is interpreted for the public.



Sarasota Art Museum

