

Monument Arts & Cultural Center: A Creative Nexus in Bennington, Vermont

Entertainment, arts, education, and community. That's what visitors to Bennington, Vermont, are invited to experience at the Monument Arts & Cultural Center (the MAC Center). Located at 44 Gypsy Lane, the MAC Center offers a dynamic blend of programming, from visual and performing arts to workshops and special events, ensuring there's something for everyone.

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN LEGACY

Established as a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1994, the MAC Center was later donated to the former Southern Vermont College and, in late 2023, reopened under new ownership. With a 310-seat theater; three art galleries; a Covered Bridge Museum; an exhibit titled the Norman Rockwell Mystery; and versatile spaces for workshops and events, the center has quickly become a cornerstone of the Southern Vermont arts scene.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Last year, the MAC Center advanced its tradition of excellence with stand-out theatrical and musical productions, including *Annie*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Additionally, ongoing collaborations with the community group Walloomsac River Theatre Company, Berkshire Dance Studio, and other organizations cemented its commitment to fostering creativity and education in the community. The MAC Center also opened a gift store. Visitors can now take home a piece of Bennington's vibrant arts scene with locally crafted items and unique finds.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2025

The center continues to showcase captivating exhibits in its galleries, with highlights including Nature's

Canvas: The Spirit Photos opening March 28 and a three-month showcase of Vermont Student Wildlife art beginning April 27.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

The MAC Center's 2025 calendar is packed with engaging events, including:

FEBRUARY:

- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change – Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15
- Bennington's Got Talent – Feb. 22
- Sound Baths by Sound Healing VT – Feb. 9 (and monthly through June)

MARCH:

- Wellness Weekend – March 1 & 2, featuring yoga, cardio fitness, dance classes, and more (\$35 for unlimited classes).
- Groovy Show – March 1 at 7 PM
- Todd Johnson Film & Band: Climate Change & Sustainability Documentary – March 23
- South Pacific – March 28-30, April 3-6

APRIL:

- Walloomsac River Theatre Company Production – April 11-13
- Music on the Patio – Starting April 1
- John McDonald's Oil Painting Workshop – April 4 & 5

MAY & JUNE:

- Bennington County Choir Society Performance – May 4
- Jersey Boys – June 27-29, July 4-6
- Andrew Orr's Oil Painting Workshop – June 6-8



PHOTOS PROVIDED

SUMMER CAMPS:

- MAC Center Music Camp for Students with Patrick O'Connell – July 7-12
- Musical Theatre Camp with Lynn Sweet – July 28-Aug. 1
- Into the Woods Workshop for Students 10-18 – Aug. 4-16, with performances Aug. 15-16
Look for more to come this year.

A SPACE FOR EVERYONE

Executive Director Kristine Lewis has been a driving force behind the Monument Arts & Cultural Center's growth, tirelessly working on community outreach and forging meaningful regional partnerships. Her dedication ensures the MAC Center remains a welcoming and inspiring destination for all. Beyond its performances and exhibits, the MAC Center offers regular workshops, such as Barbara Hagerman Sarvis' ongoing Thursday art classes and Corey Pitkin's pastel workshop in May. Whether you're an artist, performer, or community member looking to engage with the arts, the MAC Center welcomes you with open arms.

VISIT THE MAC CENTER

Explore the heart of creativity in

Southern Vermont at the Monument Arts & Cultural Center. Stay updated on their programs and events by following them on Facebook (@monumentcentervt) or visiting their website.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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