

Celebrating the arts in Sedona

In 1958, Egyptian sculptor Nassan Gobran and others established “Canyon Kiva,” known today as the Sedona Arts Center—a community center of local artists and visionaries relishing in the culture of the area.

In 1965, Western artists Joe Beeler, George Phippen and Charlie Dye settled in the city, gathered in a local saloon with friends and formed the original Cowboy Artists of America, to perpetuate images of the Old West and authentically represent the region, ideals they uphold to this day.

Art in the area goes back much farther. Ancient cliff dwellers created beautiful petroglyphs and dwellings, dating back thousands of years. Petroglyphs can be seen along some of Sedona’s best hikes—through the Palatki, Honanki and V-Bar-V Heritage sites. Native American traditions live on through a strong contemporary presence of Hopi, Navajo, Yavapai and Apache tribes.

Today, you can explore more than 80 galleries of traditional and contemporary art by 200 local and national artists. The popular First Friday Art Walk has receptions and openings, or you can catch any of many seasonal annual art events, such as these three upcoming events:

42nd Annual Fiesta de Tlaquepaque

This celebration of Mexican Independence Day is on Saturday, September 12. An annual event, it continues a long tradition of food, music, dancing and entertainment, plus exhibits that give insight into the traditional and present artistry of Mexico.

Sedona Arts Festival

The Sedona Arts Festival, on October 10-11 at the campus of Sedona Red Rock High School, showcases nearly 130 juried artists and an international guest artist, with a “gourmet gallery” and plenty of activities for family members of all ages. This is the primary fundraiser for arts education in Sedona and to date has raised over \$300,000 in scholarship and education funding.

Sedona Plein Air Festival

Award-winning artists are invited to participate in the annual Sedona Plein Air Festival, October 18-25. Plein Air artists paint outdoors, pitting their stamina against Mother Nature to capture the ever-changing landscapes of the area. Activities includes exhibitions, galleries, events and more.

Find more information on the Sedona arts and culture scene at visitsedona.com/arts-and-culture. ■

Celebrating the bicycle

The City of Sedona has received a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation at the Silver level from the League of American Bicyclists, presented to communities with strong commitments to bicycling. Sedona was awarded as a Bronze level BFC in 2011. As with that one, the new designation will be current for four years.

The BFC program provides methodology for a community to improve its bicycling environment in five areas; Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation/Planning. Sedona’s efforts since 2011 have included improvements on state highway 89A in West Sedona—bike lanes, street lights and a 35 mph speed limit—as well as a traffic signal at 89A and Andante, construction of Adobe Jack Trailhead and over 40 miles of new multi-user trails in the city. The Skate Park was retrofitted for BMX bicycles, and the city approved 13 acres of land in Posse Grounds Park for a Bike Skills Park, currently in the design phase. ■

