

Pure Michigan meets artistic acclaim in Northwest Michigan

Tucked into northwest Michigan's most scenic corner is also home to one of the most concentrated clusters of individual artists, arts and cultural organizations and creative community endeavors in the country.

SMU Data Arts, the National Center for Arts Research, has listed Traverse City and surrounding region among the nation's top 40 arts-vibrant communities, ranking in the top ten among medium U.S. cities in 2016, 2018 and 2020. The index measures numbers of creative endeavors, organizations, artists and investment in the sector.

The palette is vibrant, filled with a wealth of acclaimed artists and writers, performing troupes and venues, musicians and orchestras, dance companies and arts residencies, historic preservation and cultural interpretation, art centers and museums, sculpture parks and public art, film houses and world class arts training. Discover, enjoy and celebrate the region's post-pandemic cultural comeback.



Here's a broad brush view of Northwest Michigan's creative scene:

- **Interlochen – Art Lives Here**

Meet tomorrow's stars today at the internationally acclaimed **Interlochen Center for the Arts**. Alumni can be found on stages, screens, books and symphonies around the globe, including such notables as Josh Groban, Norah Jones, Jessye Norman, Peter Dinklage, Meredith Baxter and Jewel. Founded in 1928 as the National Music Camp, today's center is home to **Interlochen Arts Academy**, a fine-arts boarding high school; **Interlochen Arts Camp** with summer training for grades 3-12; **Interlochen College of Creative Arts** offering adult classes and professional development; **Interlochen Presents** concerts and events; **Interlochen Online**; and **Interlochen Public Radio** with two stations, WIPR classical music and WICA news.



- **Making Music**

Professional songwriters, musicians and vocalists call the region home, performing locally with orchestras, ensembles and community concerts. Interlochen faculty and regional recording artists are often found sharing their talents at venues large and small. Including:

- **Traverse Symphony Orchestra**, Traverse City
- **Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra**, Frankfort
- **Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra**, Petoskey
- **Encore Winds Orchestra**, Traverse City
- **Blissfest Music Organization**, Petoskey
- **Voices Without Borders**, Petoskey



- **Little Traverse Choral Society**, Petoskey
- **Gopherwood Folk Concerts**, Cadillac
- **Building Bridges with Music**, Traverse City
- **Song of the Lakes**, Traverse City
- **Manitou Music Festival**, Glen Arbor
- **Leelanau Summer Chamber Music Festival**, Cedar
- **Traverse City Opera**, Traverse City
- **Grand Traverse Pavilions Summer Concerts on the Lawn**, Traverse City

- **On the Stage**

Professional and civic theatres dot the region. Parallel 45's professional troupe performs under the summer skies while Old Town Playhouse hosts children's theatre, new works, studio and mainstage productions from two venues. The historic City Opera House, Milliken Auditorium, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts and Great Lakes Center for the Arts present robust line-ups of touring performers. Riverside Shakespeare and Lakeside Shakespeare perform the Bard in local parks.



- **Parallel 45**, Traverse City
- **Old Town Playhouse, OTP Young Company & OTP Depot Theatre**, Traverse City
- **City Opera House**, Traverse City
- **Milliken Auditorium at the Dennos Museum Center**, Traverse City
- **Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**, Manistee
- **Great Lakes Center for the Arts**, Bay Harbor
- **Riverside Shakespeare**, Traverse City
- **Lakeside Shakespeare**, Frankfort
- **Mash-up Rock & Roll Musical**, Traverse City
- Also: Benzie County Players, Leelanau Players, Little Traverse Civic, Manistee Civic

- **In the Centers & Galleries**

Art centers, museums and galleries host a broad range of travelling exhibits, curated shows, regional art and local collections while also serving as community centers. The Dennos Museum Center is home to one of the country's oldest and largest collections of Inuit Art. Crooked Tree has locations in both Traverse City and Petoskey, both in former Carnegie libraries.



- **Dennos Museum Center**, Traverse City
- **Crooked Tree Arts Center**, Traverse City and Petoskey
- **Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts**, Frankfort
- **Glen Arbor Arts Center**, Glen Arbor
- **Leelanau Community Cultural Center**, *"The Old Art Building,"* Leland
- **Northport Art Center**, Northport
- **Charlevoix Circle of Arts**, Charlevoix
- **Jordan River Art Center**, Jordan River



- **Higher Art Gallery**, Traverse City
 - **Crosshatch Center for Art & Design**, Bellaire
 - **Up North Arts**, Cadillac
 - **Great Lakes Children’s Museum**, Traverse City
- **On the Trails, Streets and Public Spaces**

Outdoor installations weave through the region with public art by national and regional artists. Michigan Legacy Art Park honors Michigan history with 47 major works in its 30-acre outdoor sculpture park. Art Rapids! Walk of Art features rotating works at its sculpture park near Elk Rapids. Both also host outdoor concerts, classes and workshops. Art on the TART is a growing collection of art installed along the Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART). Paint Grand Traverse celebrates Plein Air for a week each August.

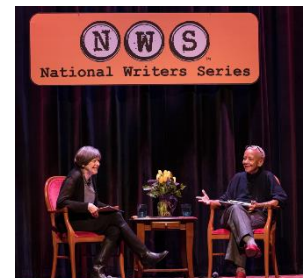


- **Michigan Legacy Art Park**, Thompsonville
- **Art Rapids! Walk of Art**, Elk Rapids
- **Art on the TART**, Traverse City
- **“The Banner Project,”** Traverse City
- **Traverse City Arts Commission Public Art Projects**, Traverse City
- **Paint Grand Traverse**, Crooked Tree Arts Center, Traverse City

- **Telling Our Stories**

The Grand Traverse region is home to dozens of authors. Writers, readers and storytellers celebrate the literary arts in written and spoken word.

- **National Writers Series & Front Street Writers**, Traverse City
- **Harbor Springs Festival of the Book**, Harbor Springs
- **Here:Say Storytelling**, Traverse City
- **Stone Circle**, Kewadin
- **Poets Meet Musicians**, Traverse City
- **Michigan Writers**, Traverse City
- **Project Cinema**, Traverse City



- **Sharing Our History**

Regional culture and heritage is celebrated with museums, exhibits, walking tours and archival research.

- **Leelanau Historical Society and Museum**, Leland
- **Historic Fishtown**, Leland
- **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons**, Traverse City
- **Mills Community House**, Beulah
- **Charlevoix Historical**, Charlevoix
- **Harbor Springs Historical**, Charlevoix
- **Beaver Island Historical**, Beaver Island
- **Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear**, Empire
- **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians**, Peshawbestown
- **Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**, Harbor Springs
- **Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**, Manistee



- **Dance – Dance – Dance**

Several companies, projects and residencies bring professional training, choreography and performance to the region. Traverse Dance Project performed concerts in Traverse City and New York City while Company Dance Traverse and Northwest Michigan Ballet Theatre are resident companies for Traverse City based schools.

- **Traverse Dance Project**, Traverse City
- **Northwest Michigan Ballet Theatre**, Traverse City
- **Company Dance Traverse**, Traverse City
- **Croft Dance Residency**, Horton Bay
- **Swing Shift & the Stars**, Traverse City



- **Time to Create – The Residencies**

The woods and shores of Northern Michigan are the perfect retreat to create new works. Several artist residencies are hosted in the region, many with community sharing as part of their program.

- **Good Hart Artist Residency**, Good Hart/Harbor Springs
- **Croft Dance Residency**, Horton Bay
- **Elizabeth Lane Oliver Arts Center**, Frankfort with the **Parsons Center**, Lake Ann
- **Glen Arbor Arts Center**, Glen Arbor
- **Tusen Takk Foundation**, Leland

- **On the Film Trail**

Northern Michigan loves films and film makers. Local film houses, in restored vintage facilities, feature art house, local and commercial showings year-round. The region is home to filmmakers and videographers. The annual Traverse City Film Festival attract international directors, actors, film students, musicians and thousands of movie fans to its weeklong showings at venues throughout Traverse City.

- **Bay Community Theatre**, Suttons Bay
- **Historic Vogue Theatre**, Manistee
- **Garden Theater**, Frankfort
- **Elk Rapids Cinema**, Elk Rapids
- **Lyric Theatre**, Harbor Springs
- **Traverse City Film Festival**, Traverse City
- **State and Bijou Theatres**, Traverse City
(State, Bijou & TC Film Festival temporarily closed)



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