

# Painters, Pots and Performances

Fredericksburg, VA

Groups  
**FXBG**

Fredericksburg has a thriving art and theater community! Interact with artists in public galleries and workshops. View sculptures and murals throughout the city. Experience high-quality theater and performing arts year-round.



**FXBG**  
City of Fredericksburg, VA

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## Galleries and Workshops

**Liberty Town Arts Workshop** is a colorful haven for local artists and craftspeople. Forty artists in twenty studios have joined the gallery and pottery school. You can visit with artists, watch them work, ask questions and shop for original one-of-a-kind works of art.

**Allow 60 minutes.**

**Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont** was the home of the American impressionist artist Gari Melchers. The 18th century house contains an outstanding collection of antiques, china, rugs, and paintings by Frans Snyder, Berthe Morisot and many others. The stone studio displays the works from Melchers' prolific career. The formal gardens contain a large collection of period rose collections and walking paths through native wildflower fields. **Allow at least 90 minutes.**

Two art galleries are located on the campus of the University of Mary Washington – the **Ridderhof Martin Gallery** and the **duPont Gallery**. The galleries offer rotating collections, some including works from students and alumni, as well as a lecture series aimed at promoting arts education for students and the public. Allow 90 minutes if visiting both galleries during normal operating hours. The duPont Gallery, located directly outside of the entrance to Klein Theater, is typically open prior to performances – plan to arrive a little early to view the gallery before entering the theater.

The **Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts** is located along the Rappahannock River and is the oldest art gallery in the area. The gallery is located inside the **Silversmith House** which dates back to 1785 and exemplifies the typical home of a skilled tradesman of the time. Allow 60 minutes to tour gallery and gardens.

**Bluebird Glass Studio** offers unique custom glass creations and regular group classes.

Numerous art galleries exist throughout the downtown area among boutique shops and over 40 chef-owned restaurants. Plan an afternoon of shopping and exploring these galleries. Stop by the **Visitor Center** to grab the Artists and Artisans brochure for more information on these galleries.

Alternatively, enjoy **"First Friday"** where galleries stay open late to host open-house style events and launch new exhibits. Discuss their works with the artists themselves. Take the free trolley to access all of the galleries and events. Allow 3 hours – 6–9pm on the First Friday of each month. For more information, visit <https://fxbgfirstfriday.com/>



## Pottery

Paint your own pottery at **Pots and Palettes**. You'll be given a mini-lesson on the spot and provided with decorating tools to make your piece your very own special creation. After you paint your piece, it will be glazed and fired, making it not only beautiful but functional. Choose from dinosaurs to dinnerware.

## Performing Arts

The **Riverside Center for the Performing Arts** was the winner of the 2019 Theater of the Year for Central Virginia Award by Broadway World. The schedule features professional "Broadway musicals" each season. A three course dinner is served at your table. Upcoming Performances include "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner", "Ghost" and "The Riverside Christmas Spectacular."

Located on the campus of the **University of Mary Washington, Klein Theater** typically offers 4 shows per academic year ranging from Broadway musicals and Shakespeare to acclaimed dramas and comedies. Discounted tickets are available in advance of general ticket sales windows for groups of 10 or more.

**Stage Door Productions** offers a creative outlet for local thespians and offers high quality community theater productions for residents and visitors alike. Productions include Shakespeare, musicals, dramas and children's theater. They produce approximately 8 to 9 shows a year in addition to special events and festivals.

Every summer, **Historic Kenmore** offers **"Shakespeare on the Lawn"**. Built by Fielding Lewis for his wife, Betty, the only sister of George Washington, the house contains elaborate plasterwork and an Aesop's fable theme in the dining room overmantel, said to have been suggested by Washington himself. Tour the house and gardens during the day and then return later to enjoy an evening of theater under the stars.





## Public Art

Murals and public sculptures exist throughout the city. Murals depict life in Fredericksburg throughout history- from colonial times through to the present day. Below is a list of public murals and sculptures. For a map of locations, go to [fxbg.com/public-art](https://fxbg.com/public-art)

## Art Festivals

### **FREDERICKSBURG FINE ARTS SHOW & SALE**

Includes a wide range of artists, style and mediums. Attendees can view submissions, vote on and purchase their favorites. This annual art exhibit is typically held in March at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

### **SOPHIA STREET POTTERY THROWDOWN**

Celebration of all things pottery in downtown Fredericksburg with a number of local shops participating. Sponsored by Sophia Street Studios, typically held in early June.

### **SPOTSYLVANIA ART FESTIVAL**

The Spotsylvania Arts Festival is geared to everyone who loves art from being a first-time attendee to a seasoned art lover who is looking for that special something to add to their personal collection.

October 1-2, 2022

**Fredericksburg, VA tells America's story – from 1608 when Captain John Smith sailed up the Rappahannock River to George Washington's childhood and adolescence to John DeBaptiste, a free Black man fighting in the Revolutionary War to the Civil War with four major battles and where 10,000 enslaved people crossed the river to freedom, to Reconstruction and the fight for Civil Rights and social justice. The region is filled with historic sites and compelling stories, a phenomenal food and drink scene and is all easily accessible just off the interstate.**

**Fredericksburg, VA is located fifty miles south of Washington, D.C. on Interstate 95, midway between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.**



**Itinerary Planning / Confirm reservations at historic sites, with guide service /  
Referrals for dining and lodging / Access to on-line Videos / Brochures**

