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Pinellas County Cultural Resources

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS

A study conducted in 2004 by the Tampa Bay Business Committee for the Arts determined that the annual economic impact of arts and culture in the Tampa Bay area was \$521.3 million. Arts and cultural organizations and events attracted over 5.6 million visitors that same year, and contributed 7,800 jobs to the local workforce. Comparison of a previous study in 1999 reveals that the economic impact from arts and cultural resources increased by 29.6 percent over the five-year period. Organizations participating in the most recent study contributed \$3.1 million in taxes and collected an additional \$1.3 million from patrons.

The arts offer a tremendous return on investment for communities by enhancing quality of life, encouraging relocation and retention of businesses, providing a forum for different views, neighborhood revitalization, and educating the public. The arts and cultural activities are agents of change. The economic impact of arts and cultural organizations in the Tampa Bay area, as well as the nation, surpasses that of professional sports.

PINELLAS COUNTY CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Pinellas County Arts Council was created in 1976 by the Board of County Commissioners. The organization formally integrated into Pinellas County Government on October 1, 2006 and was subsequently renamed the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department. It serves as an advocate for culture and the arts by promoting development and appreciation of the arts in Pinellas County through grants, and other programs and services. The Cultural Affairs Department provides artist resource fund grants, cultural development grants, technical assistance and workshops, a Cultural Resource Center, Artists Directory and Artists-in-Residence programs, traveling exhibitions, business partnerships, and arts education. The purpose of the Cultural Development Grants Program is to enhance the stability and development of both well-established and emerging nonprofit, tax-exempt literary, visual and performing arts and cultural organizations based in Pinellas County, through a competitive grants program. The funding is intended to provide project support for indigenous cultural organizations and increase accessibility for all residents of Pinellas County.

The Pinellas County Cultural Council was constituted as a community-based board of advisors who encourage and facilitate greater and efficient use of governmental and private resources, and maximize opportunities for the development and support of the arts. They encourage opportunities to participate in artistic activities, provide an informational resource for artists, arts organizations and the public to support of arts education and cultural activities, event and facilities, and provide for cultural, creative arts as a basic service to all citizens.

ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCE FACILITIES

Pinellas County has a vast array of cultural resources, most located within the jurisdictional boundaries of municipalities, but open to all County residents and visitors. **Table 19** lists and describes the many types of venues available for cultural resource appreciation in Pinellas County. These facilities are also shown on **Figure 15**.

TABLE 19
CULTURAL RESOURCE VENUES IN PINELLAS COUNTY

Name	Location	Description
Tarpon Springs Cultural Center	101 S. Pinellas Avenue Tarpon Springs	Houses three art galleries and a 90-seat theater for plays, concerts and films
Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center	324 E. Pine Street Tarpon Springs	Presents concerts, plays, musicals, dance, opera and local community theater
Tarpon Springs Train Depot Museum	106 E. Tarpon Avenue Tarpon Springs	Restored depot that houses local history and transportation exhibits; also has performances
Tarpon Springs Heritage Museum	100 Beekman Lane Tarpon Springs	Tarpon Springs' history, chamber music and Christopher Still murals
Brooker Creek Preserve	3940 Keystone Road Tarpon Springs	Environmental education center, guided walks, variety of programs
Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art	600 Klosterman Road Tarpon Springs	Permanent, changing and interactive galleries; museum store
Medieval Brass Rubbing Center	822 Dodecanese Blvd Tarpon Springs	Permanent collection of commemorative brass facsimiles.
North Pinellas Historical Museum	2043 Curlew Road Palm Harbor	Preserves the heritage of Palm Harbor and unincorporated north Pinellas
Dunedin Fine Art Center	1143 Michigan Boulevard Dunedin	Exhibition galleries, café, gift shop, and hands-on children's art museum
Dunedin Historical Society and Museum	349 Main Street Dunedin	Promotes research and preservation of Dunedin history
National Armed Services and Law Enforcement Memorial Museum	500 Douglas Avenue Dunedin	Educational memorial museum honoring those who serve, or have served, in the U.S. Armed Forces or in law enforcement (federal, state, and local)
Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History	329 Bayshore Blvd S. Safety Harbor	Promotes historical values and heritage; also has educational exhibits and guided tours
Clearwater Historical Society	1380 S. MLK Avenue Clearwater	Maintains the historic Plumb House Museum

TABLE 19 continued**CULTURAL RESOURCE VENUES IN PINELLAS COUNTY**

Name	Location	Description
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	249 Windward Passage Clearwater	Rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals; environmental education
Crossroads/Muse Gallery – SPC	2465 Drew St, FA Bldg.	Exhibits current student and faculty artwork
Francis Wilson Playhouse	302 Seminole Street Clearwater	Eight annual main-stage plays, including musicals, comedies and dramas
Pinellas County African-American History Museum	1101 Marshall Street Clearwater	Exhibits, educational programs and research materials
Royalty Theater	405 Cleveland Street Clearwater	Oldest building in downtown Clearwater, hosts various cultural events
Ruth Eckerd Hall	1111 McMullen Booth Rd Clearwater	Performances by national and international touring companies in theater, music and dance
Studio 1212	1405 Cleveland Street Clearwater	Open critiques of art works
Florida Botanical Gardens	12520 Ulmerton Road Largo	150 acres of natural areas, walks and trails
Heritage Village	11909 125 th Street N. Largo	21-acre outdoor living history museum with 28 historic buildings; provides tours, classes and festivals
Largo Cultural Center	105 Central Park Drive Largo	Professional theatre, touring acts, musical, drama and dance
Gulf Coast Museum of Art	12211 Walsingham Road Largo	Contemporary Florida art, crafts from southeastern United States
Beach Art Center	1515 Bay Palm Blvd. Indian Rocks Beach	Exhibitions in various media of the visual arts; adult classes; children's summer program
Indian Rocks Beach Historical Museum	304 15 th Avenue Indian Rocks Beach	Artifacts and historic memorabilia
Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary	18323 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores	Wild bird hospital – open to tours and lectures
Pinellas Park Art Society	5851 Park Boulevard Pinellas Park	Offers class and exhibitions for members

TABLE 19 continued**CULTURAL RESOURCE VENUES IN PINELLAS COUNTY**

Name	Location	Description
A.D. Music Center at St. Petersburg Coll.	6605 5 th Avenue N. St. Petersburg	Concert Series
American Stage	211 3 rd Street S St. Petersburg	Produces contemporary and classical plays; school and community programs
The Arts Center	719 Central Avenue St. Petersburg	Gallery exhibitions and year-round classes in all media of visual art
The Coliseum	4 th Avenue N St. Petersburg	Hosts various cultural-related events
Creative Clay	1124 Central Avenue St. Petersburg	Serves persons with developmental challenges
Elliott Gallery at Eckerd College	4200 54 th Avenue S. St. Petersburg	Exhibits work by local, regional and student artists
Florida Craftsmen Gallery	501 Central Avenue St. Petersburg	Showcase for contemporary craft artists from throughout Florida
Florida Holocaust Museum	55 5 th Street S. St. Petersburg	Permanent collection and changing exhibits relating to the Holocaust
Florida International Museum	244 2 nd Avenue N. St. Petersburg	Smithsonian affiliate; schedules periodic cultural exhibitions from around the world
Mahaffey Theater	400 1 st Street S. St. Petersburg	National and international performing arts presentations; arts education
Museum of Fine Arts	255 Beach Drive NE St. Petersburg	Most extensive art collection on Florida's west coast
St. Petersburg Museum of History	335 2 nd Avenue NE St. Petersburg	Focuses on the history of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas peninsula
Palladium Theater	253 5 th Avenue N. St. Petersburg	Community center for the performing arts.
Pier Aquarium	800 2 nd Avenue NE St. Petersburg	Live fish exhibition and marine science education facility
Pinellas Pioneer Settlement	3120 31 st Street S St. Petersburg	Recreates lifestyles of Pinellas County Pioneers

TABLE 19 continued
CULTURAL RESOURCE VENUES IN PINELLAS COUNTY

Name	Location	Description
Salvador Dali Museum	1000 3 rd Street S. St. Petersburg	World's most comprehensive collection of Dali's artwork
Science Center of Pinellas County	7710 22 nd Avenue N. St. Petersburg	Hands-on learning center with gardens, wetlands, planetarium, science exhibits
St. Petersburg Little Theater	4025 31 st Street S. St. Petersburg	Oldest continuously operating community theatre in Florida
The Studio @620	620 1 st Avenue S. St. Petersburg	Focuses on multi-cultural events that explore history, visual arts, crafts, film, music, poetry, dance and dialogue
Sunken Gardens	1825 4 th Street N. St. Petersburg	Six-acre horticultural garden; annual festivals; educational and wildlife programs; designated historic landmark
Great Explorations, The Children's Museum	1925 4 th Street N. St. Petersburg	Children's hands-on museum that encourages exploration
Weedon Island Preserve	1800 Weedon Drive NE St. Petersburg	Nature education, exhibits, programs and hikes; an archaeological treasure
Woodson African American Museum	2240 9 th Avenue S. St. Petersburg	History of African Americans in Pinellas County and St. Petersburg
Gulf Beaches Historical Museum	115 10 th Avenue St. Pete Beach	Exhibits depicting the beach area history
Suntan at the Don Vista Cultural Art Center	3300 Gulf Boulevard St. Pete Beach	Year-round teaching gallery with artists' exhibitions and competitions
Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport	5501 27 th Avenue S. Gulfport	Performing arts center with excellent acoustics and 180 seats
Gulfport Historical Museum	5301 28 th Avenue S. Gulfport	Preserves the history and heritage of Gulfport

Sources: Pinellas County Cultural Map; Pinellas County Cultural Council, 2006.
Pinellas County Planning Department, 2007.

FIGURE 15
SELECT CULTURAL RESOURCE VENUES & ORGANIZATIONS

Additional arts and cultural venues include colleges and universities, churches, galleries, restaurants, office buildings, libraries, and various public areas. There are also numerous cultural organizations in the County focusing on dance, music, ethnic heritage, theater, visual arts, poetry and writing, folk arts, historic preservation, and science. For a complete listing of the hundreds of cultural resources available in Pinellas County, please visit the new Pinellas Cultural Directory provided on the Cultural Affairs Department webpage at www.pinellasarts.org. A calendar of cultural events is also available on the Cultural Affairs webpage.

PUBLIC ART AND DESIGN PROJECTS

County public art projects have been targeted for various facilities such as the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, the Pinellas County Courthouse, the Criminal Justice Center, the Brooker Creek Preserve and the Pinellas Trail. The public art program is coordinated on a project basis as funding becomes available through the annual budget process. Its purpose is to enhance the quality of life for Pinellas County residents as well as to support tourism and the economic vitality of the County through the enrichment of public spaces. The Cultural Affairs Department is currently building a database and contact list of public arts artists whose work may contribute to the program. Pinellas County adopted a Percent for Public Art ordinance that requires a percentage of major capital improvement projects' cost be set aside for public art. This program is overseen by the County's Public Art & Design Committee, a group of arts professionals, architects, government officials and citizens. At the municipal level, both St. Petersburg and the City of Oldsmar have ordinances that designate a percentage of City budgets for arts funding, and have Public Arts Advisory Commissions.



Public art along the Pinellas Trail adds visual appeal to location signs

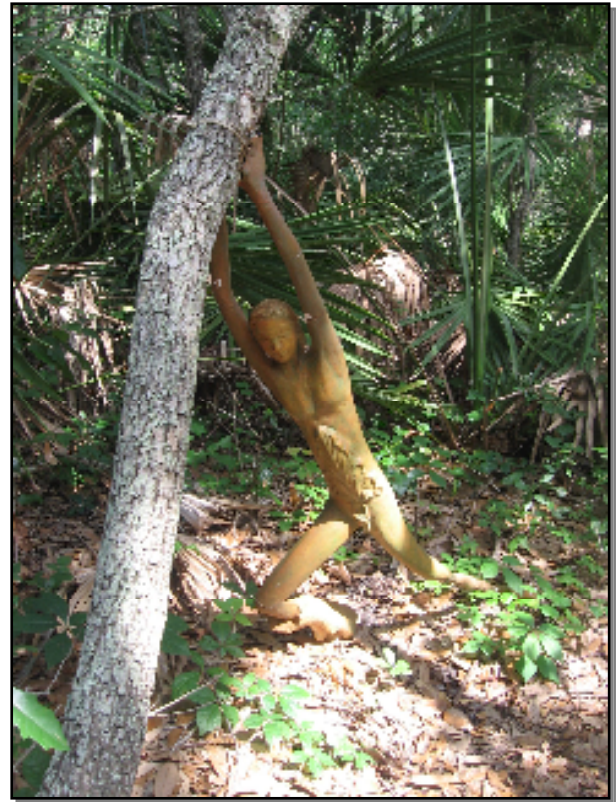


Public art in Downtown Palm Harbor

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY TO CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

For cultural activities to have the greatest impact, they need to be available to all segments of the population. Availability of cultural opportunities in Pinellas County is not as problematic as the issue of accessibility. Transportation can be an issue for low to moderate-income residents and some senior citizens. While many cities and private, not-for-profit agencies offer classes, performances and exhibits that are low in cost, residents may be unable to get to the offerings. Although some providers have brought art and cultural opportunities to traditionally underserved communities, certain unincorporated areas, such as Ridgecrest and Highpoint, largely remain underserved, partly due to funding limitations.

Accessibility and other important cultural resource facility issues are addressed in the new *Pinellas County Community Cultural Plan*. For more information on this Plan and the future direction of cultural facility planning in Pinellas County, please see the 'Promoting the Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation' section discussed later on in this Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element.



Sculptures add interest along the boardwalk at Boca Ciega Millennium Park