

University boasts large array of visual art venues

By Britton Alexander
Staff Writer

From German art to local student works, UNC has seen no shortage of art venues available open to students.

Conveniently located throughout the University area, these spaces continue to offer students a sense of culture without the additional cost.

Ackland Art Museum

Located on Columbia Street near Top of the Hill Restaurant, the Ackland Art Museum permanently offers more than 16,000 pieces of art.

Contemporary, European, Asian and African pieces fill the spaces of the Ackland's permanent collection. There is also a large compilation of North Carolina pottery.

In addition to the museum, the Ackland Museum Store, which serves as a gift shop and gallery, opened in May on the corner of

Franklin and Columbia Streets. Its wide range of merchandise is meant to highlight the unique artwork of the museum. The shop also hosts periodic exhibits of its own.

FedEx Global Center

On the corner of Pittsboro and McCauley Streets, the FedEx Global Education Center encourages visitors to think differently about communities and cultures throughout the world.

Largely funded by the FedEx Corporation and the 2000 N.C. Higher Education Bond Referendum, the building, with its unique architecture and goals for sustainability, was opened in October 2007.

The building highlights the artwork, especially photography and film, of UNC students as well as artists from around the world.

The Student Union

From the art gallery to the second floor aquarium lounge, works by North Carolina and UNC art-

ists engage visitors throughout the Student Union.

The artwork within the Union's Henry-Copeland Permanent Art Collection is meant to represent the University community's diversity.

The Artery

Founded by a group of students in 2009, the gallery is intended to showcase student artwork.

While the gallery has had to relocate several times for various reasons, it currently holds a space in the University Mall for the summer.

In its 2011 space, the Artery showcased a number of galleries and performances created by students.

Despite not currently having a secure space for the coming academic year, gallery leaders plan to be near campus allowing students to not only indulge in the showcases, but to also submit works of their own.

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

Dive into UNC's cultural scene

Between the classroom shuffle, the rampant sports pride and the nights spent on the P2P, it's easy to take for granted the artistic experience to be had at UNC.

It's even easier to get involved. At a campus laced with creativity, UNC students are constantly pushing boundaries in a number of fields — and the arts are no exception.

During my first year in Chapel Hill, I was awestruck by the repertoire that I had seemingly stumbled upon. In all honesty, like many other students I was oblivious to much beyond the Old Well and the basketball program.

The truth is, there is a lively and welcoming artistic community both on and off the stage. From gallery art to writing to theatre, students are constantly tapping into every art form — even delving into new ones.

This past spring semester



Tariq Luthun
Arts Editor

alone featured plenty of notable moments.

In February, students came together to create, rehearse and perform a series of plays all in the span of 24 hours. In March, a student explored the concept of dreams through both object work and performance for his senior honors thesis.

Sometimes, the burden of adjusting to college life can deter students from taking advantage of certain opportunities. Don't let the arts be one of those opportunities that falls to the wayside.

A number of studies stress the importance of the arts as a means

of exercising the brain.

One doesn't even need to look to create pieces of their own, or even be an avid art lover. All you need to do is approach the arts as you should life: with an open mind.

With mainstays such as Memorial Hall and the Center for Dramatic Art — home of PlayMakers Repertory Company and Carolina Performing Arts, respectively — opportunities to indulge in world-class acts are readily available to each and every one of us.

Art is about storytelling. It's a way to immerse yourself into a greater society of stories, emotions and experiences that are unique to each individual.

Through this engagement, we are able to both learn and grow while creating works of our own, regardless of whether those works manifest themselves on a stage, in an exhibit or even in our day-to-day dealings in life.

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