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| **Destinations Across the Mid-Atlantic Put the Spotlight on Arts & Entertainment**  **(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, February 10, 2017)- Filled with great performances, artists, music, films, and festivals, the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States is home to a wealth of unique entertainment venues and artistic events. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA.org) shares some of the region’s most dynamic Arts and Entertainment locations thoughout Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.**  **If you are interested in learning more about an establishment or festival listed below, contact the visitors bureau in the description for more details.**  **Delaware**  **Greater Wilmington**  **Excitement is building for the annual OperaDelaware performances. In 2017, the OperaDelaware celebrates the 225th anniversary of Rossini's birth and feature La Cenerentola (Cinderella) and his rarely-performed tragedy, Semiramide. The festival typically runs over two weekends in late spring in Wilmington, Delaware. Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com, VisitWilmingtonDE.com**  **Maryland**  **Annapolis & Anne Arundel County**  Annapolis is home to the Annapolis Film Festival (March); Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival (May); Annapolis Irish Festival, Bands in the Sand, Annapolis Arts and Wine Festival, Eastport a Rockin’ (June); Kegs and Corks Craft Beer and MD Wine Festival (August); and Annapolis Art Walk (August), MD Renaissance Festival (August-October). *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, sseifried@visitannapolis.org, VisitAnnapolis.org*    **Baltimore**  Arts and culture abound in vibrant Baltimore, where three state-designated arts and entertainment districts provide ample opportunity to flood your Instagram. The Station North and Highlandtown districts feature culturally-diverse street art and curated exhibits while the iconic 15-story Bromo Seltzer Tower hosts weekly events for visual and literary artists. *Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle,* [*knagle@baltimore.org*](mailto:knagle@baltimore.org)*,* [*Baltimore.org*](http://www.Baltimore.org)  **Calvert County**  Explore a special place where art and nature meet! Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Solomons offers festivals and events throughout the year including Annmarie Garden in Lights, Fairy & Gnome Home Festival, Mud Day, Insectival*,* Southern Maryland Acoustic Musicians Gathering, and ArtsFest, a fine arts festival. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki,* [*bakija@co.cal.md.us*](mailto:bakija@co.cal.md.us)*, ChooseCalvert.com*    **Frederick County**  **While Frederick is home to a wide array of public art, perhaps none is more unique than the Community Bridge Mural. This large-scale mural transforms a plain concrete bridge into the permanent illusion of an old, ivy-covered stone bridge using images selected by members of the local community. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz,*** [*mmuntz@fredcomd.net*](mailto:mmuntz@fredcomd.net)***,*** [*VisitFrederick.org*](http://www.visitfrederick.org)  **Hagerstown- Washington County**  With the galleries, museums, performance spaces, and art school, there’s always something happening in Hagerstown’s vibrant Arts & Entertainment District. Sculpture, photographs and 2D wall art will be added in 2017 to a new half-mile Hagerstown Cultural Trail, linking the A&E District to the Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown’s City Park. *Visit Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Betsy DeVore,* [*betsy@visithagerstown.com*](mailto:betsy@visithagerstown.com), [*VisitHagerstown.com*](http://www.visithagerstown.com/)  **Montgomery County**  Delight in fine art created by 130 of the nation's best artists, live entertainment, and Bethesda restaurants at the Bethesda Fine Arts Festival. Or take a scenic country drive and peruse local art galleries in a gorgeous country setting at the Countryside Artisans studio tour, held in April, October, and December. *Visit Montgomery, Bethany Manimbo,* [*bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com*](mailto:bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com), [*VisitMontgomery.com*](http://www.VisitMontgomery.com)  **St. Mary's County**  Charming Historic Leonardtown, located on scenic Breton Bay near the Potomac River, is Southern Maryland’s only state-designated Arts & Entertainment District – and for good reason! The many galleries, shops, and arts-related events reflect the town’s cultural heritage, making Leonardtown a must-visit destination for art lovers. *Andrew Ponti, St. Mary’s County Tourism,* [*andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com*](mailto:andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com)*, VisitStMarysMD.com*  **Pennsylvania**  **Pennsylvania Tourism Office**  Whether it’s saxophones and trumpets sounding through Berks County’s streets for ten days, hundreds of chainsaw carvers from around the world showing off their skills, or local artisans selling the latest trends in handmade fashion, Pennsylvania is home to festivals and performances fit for every unique interest and style. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Robin Tilley,* [*rtilley@tierneyagency.com*](mailto:rtilley@tierneyagency.com)*, VisitPA.com*    **Butler County**  The annual Kaleidoscope Arts Festival in April showcases Slippery Rock University’s dynamic dance, music, theatre, literary, and visual arts departments. A special Children’s Earth Day Celebration features live performances, an interactive musical, arts & crafts, face painting, and other family-friendly activities. *Visit Butler County, Kimberly Windisch,*[*kimberly@krolmedia.com*](mailto:kimberly@krolmedia.com)*,* [*VisitButlerCounty.com*](http://www.visitbutlercounty.com)  **Central Pennsylvania**  The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (Arts Fest) takes over downtown State College and the PSU campus while bringing in over 100,000 attendees each July. People’s Choice, in Boalsburg, features Pennsylvania artists at the Pennsylvania Military Museum. Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair is also a local favorite. *Visit Penn State, Andy Rupert,* [*andyr@visitpennstate.org*](mailto:andyr@visitpennstate.org)*,* [*VisitPennState.org*](http://www.visitpennstate.org)    **Chester County**  Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Andrew Wyeth’s birth, the Brandywine River Museum of Art and the Seattle Art Museum organizes an exhibition of over one hundred of his finest works entitled *Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect; at the Brandywine River Museum of Art*. Tours of the artist's studio are also available. *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau,* *Nina Kelly,*[nina@brandywinevalley.com](mailto:nina@brandywinevalley.com)*,*[*BrandywineValley.com*](http://www.brandywinevalley.com/)  **Cumberland Valley**  Cumberland Valley is home to a diverse collection of artisans, displayed at galleries like Carlisle Arts Learning Center and events like Foundry Day, which brings in 100 artists and craftsmen for a juried festival. Cumberland Valley was voted one of the top craft places in America by American Craft Week. *Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Aaron Jumper,* [*aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com*](mailto:aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com)*,* [*www.visitcumberlandvalley.com*](http://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/)    **Endless Mountains**  **Cheaper than flying to Sundance, the four seasonal Film Festivals produced seasonally by the Dietrich Theatre offers access to the best films over a two-week period surrounded by the natural beauty of the Endless Mountains.** Hike, kayak, picnic then take in the silver screen’s finest! *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,* [*sales@endlessmountains.org*](mailto:sales@endlessmountains.org)*,* [*EndlessMountains.org*](http://www.EndlessMountains.org)  **Franklin County**  Enjoy live shows in the historic Capitol Theatre in downtown Chambersburg, artwork at The Foundry, the local artist co-operative, or walk along the streets of Waynesboro during Destination Arts and hear live music, see live artists working and more! There is something for everyone! *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren Cappuccio,* [*lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com*](mailto:lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com)*,* [*ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com*](http://www.explorefranklincountypa.com)  **Indiana County**  Native artists like Renee Fleming enjoy returning to Indiana County to celebrate the arts!  The annual Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival, Artists Hand Gallery, and IUP Lively Arts make this a haven for top entertainment.  The Kovalchick Complex welcomes top recording artists.The Fisher Auditorium showcases notable musicians and theater productions. *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack,* [*mjack@visitindianacountypa.org*](mailto:mjack@visitindianacountypa.org)*,* [*VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org/)    **Lancaster County**  Lancaster County celebrates arts & entertainment year-round, but two of its top annual festivals are the ever-growing LAUNCH Music Conference & Festival in mid-April – staged in multiple venues throughout hip Lancaster City – and the nationally-ranked Long’s Park Art Festival every Labor Day weekend. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff,* [*jcliff@discoverlancaster.com*](mailto:jcliff@discoverlancaster.com)*,* [*DiscoverLancaster.com*](file:///C:\Users\Julia\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\BRX0UOG0\www.discoverlancaster.com)  **Lehigh Valley**  Get your dose of culture in Lehigh Valley, PA. Whether you’re catching a show at one of the region’s 10 theatres, attending a concert at SteelStacks, or browsing the galleries of the Allentown Art Museum - you’re sure to find unique styles of entertainment to fit any budget. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger,* [kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com](mailto:kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com)*,* [*DiscoverLehighValley.com*](http://discoverlehighvalley.com/).  **Pennsylvania’s Americana Region**  Cool Jazz! Cutting edge films! A whole city block where art happens! Pursue your passion for arts and entertainment in Pennsylvania’s Americana Region. See world class talent at Berks Jazz Fest, and Berks Country Fest.  Watch artists at work at the GoggleWorks.  Learn filmmaking at ReadingFilmFest.  Artful entertainment happens here. *Pennsylvania’s Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty,* [*lisa@visitpaamericana.com*](mailto:lisa@visitpaamericana.com)*,* [*VisitPAAmericana.com*](http://visitpaamericana.com/)  **Tioga County**  **Taking place at locations in and around the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, Mansfield and Wellsboro, the Endless Mountains Music Festival brings world class musicians together for an annual summer celebration of the arts surrounded by the state’s best scenery! *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,*** [morgan@visittiogapa.com](mailto:morgan@visittiogapa.com)***,*** [*VisitTiogaPA.com*](http://www.VisitTiogaPA.com)  **York**  The Yorkfest Fine Arts Festival brings 100 select artists to Downtown York, PA, every August and features a juried art exhibition, free family entertainment, a jazz concert and more. Visitors can really soak up the arts with a walking tour of the York Murals. *York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andrew Staub,* [*astaub@yorkpa.org*](mailto:astaub@yorkpa.org)*,* [*YorkPA.org*](http://www.yorkpa.org/)    **Virginia**  **Alexandria**  Located minutes from Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River, Alexandria, Virginia is home to the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the largest collection of publicly accessible working artist studios in the U.S. Guests can visit seven galleries and 82 artists’ studios featuring a variety of media from painting to ceramics. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman,* [*lspellman@visitalexva.com*](mailto:lspellman@visitalexva.com)*, VisitAlexandriaVA.com*  **Arlington**  There’s a reason Arlington, Virginia is known as a hotbed of cultural activity. From Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre and the Arlington Arts Center to a world-renowned public art collection, the annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival and Columbia Pike Blues Festival, there’s definitely no shortage of opportunities in the arts. *Cara O’Donnell, Arlington Convention & Visitors Service.* [*codonnell@arlingtonva.us*](mailto:codonnell@arlingtonva.us)*,* [*StayArlington.com*](http://stayarlington.com/)  **Charlottesville and Albemarle County**  Home to the world-renowned Dave Matthews Band, the Charlottesville area consistently attracts major musical acts and performances with its variety of unique venues. The region is also home to several festivals that celebrate and embrace the arts, such as the Virginia Film Festival and the Tom Tom Founders Festival.  *Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bri Warner,* [*warnerb@charlottesville.org*](mailto:warnerb@charlottesville.org)*,* [*VisitCharlottesville.org*](http://www.visitcharlottesville.org/).  **Fairfax County**  Experience nationally-renowned recording artists and stage shows surrounded by nature in a one-of-a-kind venue at Wolf Trap, the country’s only National Park dedicated to the performing arts. You can also catch local acts and big-ticket names at Jammin’ Java, one of Pollstar’s Top 100 Venues in the world.  *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris,* [amorris@fxva.com](mailto:amorris@fxva.com)*,* [*FXVA.com*](http://www.fxva.com/)    **Hampton**  The annual Hampton Jazz Festival grooves into the Hampton Coliseum showcasing the best artists in jazz, pop, blues, soul and R&B. Previous artists have included Gladys Knight, Michael McDonald, and Jennifer Hudson. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs,* [*elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com*](mailto:elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com)*,* [*VisitHampton.com*](http://www.visithampton.com)  **Harrisonburg**  Come hear why it’s Better in the ‘Burg! Visit one of Harrisonburg’s eclectic local restaurants or a variety of hopping venues that host live music and entertainment each week. Make sure to check out Forbes Center for the Performing Arts or Court Square Theater for nationally and regionally-known acts. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams,* [*jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov*](mailto:jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov) *,* [*VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*](http://www.VisitHarrisonburgVA.com)  **Lexington and Rockbridge**  **The home and studio of Lexington, Virginia native, Cy Twombly – international painter, sculptor and photographer – is open to the public in support of Virginia Historic Garden Week. On April 22, “Porches & Patios” tour will feature six properties and offer presentations about Twombly and Sally Mann – photographer, friend and admirer. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams,*** [*marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com*](mailto:marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com) ***,*** [*www.LexingtonVirginia.com*](http://www.LexingtonVirginia.com)  **Newport News**  Dubbed *First Lady of Song*, Ella Fitzgerald was born in Newport News on April 25, 1917. Because Ella made such an impact on the world, Newport News hosts an annual *Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival* every April. Additional special events are planned throughout 2017 to honor her centennial. *Newport News Tourism Development Office, Rebecca Cutchins,* [*rcutchins@nnva.gov*](mailto:rcutchins@nnva.gov)*,* [*Newport-News.org*](http://www.newport-news.org/)  **Richmond**  From the First Friday art walks, to music at the Richmond Folk Festival and the Richmond Jazz Festival, and the illuminating InLight Richmond exhibition, the Richmond region has a variety of year-round arts and entertainment festivals. *Meghan Gearino, Richmond Region Tourism,* [*mgearino@visitrichmondva.com*](mailto:mgearino@visitrichmondva.com)*,* [*VisitRichmondVA.com*](http://www.visitrichmondva.com)    **Shenandoah County**  Step out among the redbuds and tulips as art explodes, gardens erupt from the ground, and spring color paints a picture of vibrant energy throughout Shenandoah County. Come experience Gardens, Galleries and Grapes, a spring showcase of wineries, artisan studios, restaurants, farms, and garden shops. Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French, [jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us](mailto:jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us), [VisitShenandoahCounty.com](http://www.VisitShenandoahCounty.com)  **Virginia’s Blue Ridge**  Celebrate original fine art at the Annual Sidewalk Art Show held the weekend after Memorial Day in the streets of Downtown Roanoke.  Adjacent to the Taubman Museum of Art known for its stunning architecture and exhibits.  The show has attracted thousands of people for more than 50 years. *Visit Virginia’s Blue Ridge, Catherine Fox,* [*cfox@visitvablueridge.com*](mailto:cfox@visitvablueridge.com)*,* [*VisitVABlueRidge.com*](http://www.visitvablueridge.com/) |

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| **About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**  The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit [www.matpra.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Myi2UhokCdEhfHWQyXnJUvgjZDip8UFzRanPfmQCoVXUceJ1coVIUfO8isXBihFpGFJKIfP220fjN6V6Mvk-KDIPgZ3teQiU1plZKbuu9Feuq6wkWZcKJSYanxJz6KDffeSc2jZa_eNyGehx1DXlBekuF8LGf6uYt38edW4DnX4=&c=djCJPX4tcPxiUl62i1f8M7XT2vxAjjweFXXcsRgjAJqVE9xYn4Kczg==&ch=qznt7OY2HRGwuAJy0MJy5Xp7VRjLSsWuQ6sbYbgGT095yQwT9Es7cw==).    # # # |