

Metro Parks Visual Arts



Studios, Classes & Gallery

Centennial Art Center

301 25th Ave North (located in Centennial Park)
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Bellevue Community Center

Visual Arts Studios
7638A Hwy 70 South
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

West Park Community Center

6105 Morrow Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37209



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PARKS
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Metro Parks Visual Arts

Metro Parks Visual Arts Program offers affordable and accessible painting and pottery classes in five studios across three locations. Over 38 weekly classes are typically offered in three different sessions (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer). Workshops that focus on specific skills or techniques are offered in between sessions. Visual Art classes are held in large, well-appointed studios in **Centennial Art Center (CAC)**, **Bellevue Community Center** and **West Park Community Center**.

These classes are taught by highly qualified Guest Instructors who are local, professional artists. Our most popular adult art classes include drawing, painting, mixed media, and pottery. Affordable youth art classes provide school-aged children with an opportunity to explore and enhance their artistic abilities. The class schedule varies based on space and teaching staff availability.

Visual Arts pottery studios provide mid-range firing with a wide variety of cone 6 glazes mixed by staff using raw materials.



Pottery students learn wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques (beginner to advanced).



Painting students can take a variety of classes including acrylic, abstract and water media.

Centennial Art Center

Centennial Park has become Nashville's premier Cultural Arts Park with a full-scale replica of the Parthenon as its centerpiece. Centennial Art Center (CAC), located in Northeast corner of Centennial Park, is the hub of the Visual Arts Park Program. Visual Arts is part of the larger Metro Parks' Cultural Arts Division, which also offers high-quality Dance, Music and Theater programs in the Centennial Performing Arts Studios (CPAS) located in the southwest corner of the Park.

Studios

Centennial Art Center has well-apportioned studios offering weekly art classes for adults. The building has a gallery that showcases local artists as well as an annual Student Staff Holiday exhibit.

Our talented guest artist instructors provide highly sought-after classes in drawing, painting, and printmaking. Pottery instructors teach students wheel throwing, hand building, and glazing techniques.

Gallery

Centennial Art Center's Gallery hosts six gallery shows annually. These gallery receptions take place on designated Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. The gallery hosts numerous professional and emerging local and regional artists. Be sure to check our [Gallery Schedule](#).



CAC Gallery features local and regional artists.

Bellevue Community Center

As the Bellevue community continues to blossom and thrive, a larger, new regional center opened at the end of 2019. Within it are two new state-of-the-art Visual Arts studios. These studios offer the same level of sought-after programs and expand the reach of Metro Parks' Visual Art programming to the western corridor of Davidson County.

With the addition of these spaces, Visual Arts offers a variety of art classes from painting to collage and pottery for adults and children ages 6-14.

West Park Community Center

Nestled in *The Nations* neighborhood, West Park Community Center offers recreational programs for all ages. The addition of a pottery studio was realized in 2018 as the old Bellevue neighborhood center and pottery program was closing and Bellevue's plans for a larger regional center were in the making. The West Park studio is an intimate space for learning techniques and practicing the skills of creating with clay.

Herb Garden & Courtyard

Through a long-standing partnership, the **Herb Society of Nashville** maintains a beautiful herb garden surrounding the fountains in our courtyard making this a wonderful place to hold events in Centennial Park. Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The enclosed courtyard behind CAC is open to the public. The courtyard can be rented for private events such as outdoor weddings.



Centennial Art Center courtyard

History

Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center (CAC) is a Historic Building located in Nashville's iconic Centennial Park. The facility was originally built as a swimming complex in 1932; it closed abruptly in 1959 and was later renovated in 1971. As the first Metro Nashville owned structure rehabilitated for *adaptive reuse*, it earned Museum status by reopening as *Centennial Art Center* – a gallery and visual arts teaching facility.

Connect with us on



Metro Parks Centennial Art Center or @MetroParks_CAC



Photo courtesy of Steve Knapp

CAC Courtyard — artist receptions provide the community with an opportunity to meet local artists.

Community Partnerships

Metro Parks' Visual Arts Program and Centennial Art Center maintain several Community Partnerships with various art organization across Davidson County.

Most notably, the **Frist Art Museum** has long supported Metro Parks through their *Art Trunks*, a Community Outreach Program. *Art Trunks* provide training, supplies and curriculum to Metro Parks Community Centers. This program is designed to enrich the appreciation and understanding of Frist Art Museum exhibits and includes a free visit the Frist Art Museum.

Turnip Green Creative Reuse has also partnered with us providing art supplies for various art activities and youth programs.



Joshua Wagner demonstrates the pottery wheel during a school visit to the Art Center



Bellevue Regional Community Center

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If you would like to support Centennial Art Center or Metro Parks Visual Art Programs, you can do so through our friends' group, Creative Parks Nashville.

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Creative Parks Nashville is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization who mission is to elevate Cultural Arts programs through Metro Parks.