

Paint Creek Center for the Arts

HISTORY



In 1965, after several years of planning, a visionary group of local artists and community leaders established the Rochester Arts Commission for the purpose of presenting the Art & Apples Festival, an outdoor art fair combining cultural activity with community spirit. Seventeen years later, the Commission used proceeds generated from the annual Festival to establish Paint Creek Center for the Arts (PCCA). The Commission's objective was for PCCA to serve as the focal point for cultural activities in the Rochester area.

Since 1982, PCCA has been dedicated to promoting the arts and artistic excellence through a full range of cultural programs including exhibitions, studio art classes, outreach programs, community involvement projects, and the Art & Apples Festival.

PCCA is committed to creating opportunities for artists to exhibit original works. The exhibition season includes approximately six group shows and eight solo exhibits. In addition, PCCA produces exhibition catalogues, artist profiles, and presents public lectures in conjunction with each exhibition. Annually, nearly 250 professional artists participate in exhibitions.

Art education classes are offered in a variety of media for all ages and levels of experience. Drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, and summer camps are the core of PCCA's programming. In addition to its arts education offerings, PCCA contributes art class scholarships to local students with need through area schools and organizations, and awards two \$1000 college scholarships annually to promising high school seniors from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties planning to further their fine art studies.

PCCA may be best known for presenting the Art & Apples Festival, a nationally acclaimed fine art fair held annually the weekend after Labor Day. The second largest fine art fair in Michigan, Art & Apples welcomes more than 250 exhibiting artists and over 125,000 visitors to stroll the beautiful 30-acre Rochester Municipal Park and enjoy art, performances, and homemade apple pies.

PCCA programs reach many different segments of the region and serve as tools for community enhancement and economic development by improving quality of life and drawing visitors to the area. PCCA is an important cultural resource and destination, and a vital presence in greater Rochester's diverse and growing business and residential community.