

# NATIONAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS EXCHANGE



## Examples of Types of Cultural Districts

### Cultural Compounds

#### **Forest Park; St. Louis, MO**

<http://www.forestparkforever.org/>

Forest Park is the home to the St. Louis region's major cultural institutions—the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum, Science Center, and the Muny Opera. Owned and operated by the City of St. Louis, Forest Park opened to the public in 1876, and is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. With 1,293 acres, it is approximately 500 acres larger than Central Park in New York.

### Major Cultural Institution Focus

#### **The Pittsburgh Cultural District; Pittsburgh, PA**

<http://www.trustarts.org/>

Located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh and more than 14-square blocks, the cultural district is a project of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. The Trust was established in 1984 to help revitalize the Pittsburgh downtown region through the creation and ongoing development of the Downtown Pittsburgh Cultural District. There are more than 90 retail stores, 50 restaurants, seven theaters (including the Benedum Theater), eight public parks and art installations, and a dozen art galleries.

### Downtown Area Focus

#### **City of Cumberland Arts and Entertainment District; Cumberland, MD**

<http://www.alleganyartscouncil.org/static.php?page=208>

The Cumberland Arts and Entertainment Districts is located in beautiful mountains of Allegany County, MD (pop. 21,000). The district was established in 2002 and designated as one of Maryland's Arts and Entertainment Districts. It is managed by the Allegany Council on the Arts. This small town has managed to create a successful district by utilizing a combination of creative marketing strategies, property tax incentives, tax credits, and community grants attracting artists and small businesses to downtown Cumberland.

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## Cultural Production Focus

### **The Warehouse Arts District; Tucson, AZ**

<http://wamotucson.org/about-tucson-warehouse-arts-district>

The Warehouse Arts District is an informal group of businesses, artists and arts organizations that have developed this unique part of Tucson by banding together to create this informal arts district in one of the oldest places in Tucson. This funky District was created in the 1980s and is home to visual artists, music venues, skateboard shops, landscape designers, art galleries, car repair shops, a desert plant nursery, beer brewing facilities, coffee roasting facilities, fashion designers, military outfitters, bars, puppeteers, bicycle shops, printers, and vacant land.

## Arts and Entertainment Focus

### **The District, Nashville, TN**

<http://www.thedistrictnashville.org/location>

The District began officially in the late 1980s as a collaboration between Historic Nashville Inc, local businesses and the Metropolitan Historical Commission. It covers about six blocks of Nashville's historic and famous nightlife areas on Broadway, 2nd Avenue, and Printers Alley. Famous for its live country music, numerous bars and restaurants, as well as its influence on country music, The District also has several historical sites including the Ryman Auditorium and Fort Nashborough, alongside modern music venues such as the Nashville Convention Center, the Country Music Hall of Fame, Gaylord Entertainment Center, and the Schermerhorn Symphony Hall.

## Naturally Occurring Focus

### **St. George, Staten Island, NY**

<http://urbanomnibus.net/2013/07/naturally-occurring-cultural-districts-st-george-staten-island>

Located in the borough of Staten Island, NY, St. George is home to significant cultural institutions like the Staten Island Museum, the St. George Theatre, Sundog Theatre, and the Universal Temple of the Arts. This burgeoning cultural district is also the center of informal gallery spaces on Staten Island as well as numerous neighborhood music venues.

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## More Resources:

### **[Cultural Districts Handbook: The Arts as a Strategy for Revitalizing Our Cities](http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2013/by_topic/cultural_districts/Cultural%20Districts.pdf)**

Looking for a place to start? Check out this comprehensive, introductory handbook on cultural districts.

([http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2013/by\\_topic/cultural\\_districts/Cultural%20Districts.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2013/by_topic/cultural_districts/Cultural%20Districts.pdf))

### **[Creative Placemaking](http://arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf)**

Are you interested in learning about creative placemaking? Check out this white paper completed for The Mayors' Institute on City Design in partnership with the United States Conference of Mayors and American Architectural Foundation.

(<http://arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf>)

### **[State Policy Briefs: State Cultural Districts](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Creative-Economic-Development/StateCulturalDistrictsPolicyBrief.pdf)**

How do other states develop state statutes and guidelines for their states? This resource from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies can shed some light (<http://www.nasaa-arts.org/Research/Key-Topics/Creative-Economic-Development/StateCulturalDistrictsPolicyBrief.pdf>)

### **[Maryland Arts and Entertainment Districts: Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis FY 2013](http://www.msac.org/sites/default/files/files/Maryland%20Arts%20and%20Entertainment%20Districts%20Impact%20Analysis(1).pdf)**

If you're looking for a comprehensive review of the economic and fiscal impacts of a state's established districts, check out Maryland's

([http://www.msac.org/sites/default/files/files/Maryland%20Arts%20and%20Entertainment%20Districts%20Impact%20Analysis\(1\).pdf](http://www.msac.org/sites/default/files/files/Maryland%20Arts%20and%20Entertainment%20Districts%20Impact%20Analysis(1).pdf))