

5 Ways Orange County Celebrates Art

In Orange County, CA, art is celebrated every day. The diversity and creativity throughout the area ensures a community-wide appreciation for the arts. That appreciation is easily seen in the art galleries, museums, and events curated by art lovers and local artists. Here are a few of the ways Orange County celebrates art.

Local Art Galleries

There are many great art galleries in the OC, and [Sandstone Gallery](#) is certainly tops among them. This beautiful space places its focus on contemporary fine art, putting the work of some of today's best Southern California artists on display. If you find yourself in Laguna Beach on your OC visit, you should definitely spend some time taking in the amazing pieces of art at Sandstone. And as a bonus: it's only a block away from the [Laguna Art Museum](#)!

Laguna Art-a-Fair Fine Art Festival

The Orange County city of Laguna Beach has hosted their [Art-a-Fair](#) for the past fifty years. This festival celebrates the fine arts and crafts produced by local artists and artisans. The works showcased range from traditional paintings to glass, wood, and jewelry. Not only does this festival function as an art gallery but it also works to support local artists as festival-goers purchase their pieces. Nothing says "art appreciation" like supporting local artists.



Annual Elvis Festival

A lighthearted event, the [Elvis festival](#) showcases local musicians as they cover hit songs by Elvis Presley. While the musicians play, you can also dine on "Elvis-themed" food provided by local restaurants. Guests get the chance to sing karaoke as well as view Elvis memorabilia from collectors.

First Saturday Art Walk

While most places celebrate First Thursday for their art walks, downtown Santa Ana breaks the norm with their [First Saturday](#). On the first Saturday of each month, local art galleries and businesses come together to display local art. With about 20 different locations each month, visitors can stroll through downtown Santa Ana, enjoy discounts on food, and view local artwork. This tradition was started in 1999 and has been a piece of Santa Ana's culture ever since.

Laguna Beach First Thursday

Also set in Laguna Beach is the [First Thursday](#) Art Walk. Very similar to Santa Ana's First Saturday, First Thursday occurs on the first Thursday of each month, placing local art around the city, drawing business to the city's establishments and providing publicity for the city's artists.

Orange County International Street Fair

The Orange County [International Street Fair](#) is an enormous celebration of the area's wide diversity. Each street is devoted to a country or region in the world, containing booths with food, drinks, alcoholic beverages, handicrafts, and art. While this particular festival is not entirely devoted to art, there is still an excellent variety of fine art, traditional arts, and crafts along with cultural performances of song and dance throughout the duration of the festival.

Cities that appreciate art tend to be the best places to live, and Orange County's healthy [real estate](#) market proves it is no exception. They are full of colorful, passionate people and foster close-knit ties between members of the community. Orange County definitely places great value on its local culture, celebration of the arts, and its citizens. Whether you decide to move to Orange County or just go to visit, you will not be disappointed by what you find.

Catherine Workman grew up in a small town where she yearned to stretch her wings. Now that she's left the nest, she spends every available weekend exploring different cities across the country and someday, across the world. She started [WellnessVoyager.com](#) with her friends to share her travels and experiences and hopes to inspire others to embrace the hidden gems of the world.

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