

Get cultured in Columbia

The Capital City offers an assortment of art-oriented activities for young and old

BY MEG MOORE
THE GAMECOCK

Traffic thickens to a stand still on game days, fliers advertise student discounts at local clubs and restaurants, and school-related merchandise sells quickly at area stores. Yes, Columbia exhibits all the tell-tale signs of a college town, from the Five Points bars to the city's assortment of take-out restaurants.

Yet the Capital City remains a place where one can explore his or her more "cultured" side as well. With its museums and theaters, operas and ballets, the community offers citizens, from students to state officials, a variety of art-oriented activities in which to indulge.

The visual arts are alive and on display around Columbia. From the work of Monet to the handicraft of local artisans, the city displays a masterful collection of art in its various galleries.

The McKissick museum, located on the USC Horseshoe, provides both students and the surrounding community with access to an impressive array of creations. The museum houses two permanent collections — the Lawrence L. Smith Mineral Collection and the Baruch Silver Collection — and features a variety of traveling exhibitions throughout the year.

The city maintains a sizable art museum as well. The Columbia Museum of Art's permanent collection spans 17 galleries and includes works from a variety of artistic

periods. On exhibit are pieces from assorted legends of the art world including Jasper Johns, Robert Indiana and even Monet. In October, the museum will hold a traveling exhibition featuring the work of Edward Hopper.

The theater scene is also thriving here in the Capital City. USC's theater department and associated organizations put on a variety of shows each year. Theatre South Carolina's 2003-2004 season opens Sept. 26 with the production "Tartuffe."

Columbia is also home to assorted community theater companies. The Workshop

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Cultural Hotspots:

Columbia Museum of Art

Main and Hampton streets
(803) 799-2810
\$5, \$2 students, free Saturdays
McKissick Museum
Bull and Pendelton streets
(803) 777-7251
Free

Trustus Theatre

520 Lady St.
(803) 254-9732
\$17.50, \$12 students, \$13.50 matinees

Workshop Theatre

1136 Bull St.
(803) 799-4876

Koger Center

1051 Greene St.
(803) 251-6333



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The Koger Center on Assembly Street plays host to university and area events.

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