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### **Get Inspired with Ocala/Marion County's Arts and Culture Scene**

OCALA, FLORIDA – (March 2019) – Surrounded by a natural wonderland and picturesque landscapes, inspiration isn't hard to find in Ocala/Marion County, making the area an ideal and renowned center for a vibrant arts and culture community. From museums filled with worldly treasures to riveting theater productions and plenty of live performances across a symphony of genres, the County's rich offerings promise delights for every taste.

Museum lovers have reason to rejoice in Ocala/Marion County. The [Appleton Museum](#) is a stunning, 81,000+ square foot travertine marble museum situated on a lush 44-acre property in Ocala. The museum houses five permanent art collections comprised of some 18,000 pieces of art and artifacts spanning five continents. It also boasts a two-story exhibition hall for traveling exhibits and the work of Florida artists. With educational and art programs for children and adults, the Appleton Museum of Art is one of the South's leading art museums, making a visit to this celebrated attraction a must any time of year.

To enjoy the mild Florida weather as you get your fill of the arts in the great outdoors, take a lap around Ocala/Marion County to enjoy the equine art of [Horse Fever](#), a fundraising program for the arts started in the early 2000s by the [Marion Cultural Alliance](#). Benefactors sponsored artists to create near life-size horses that were eventually auctioned to benefit the arts in Marion County. Artists have created more than 70 horses through the years, with sculptures located throughout the County. See how many you can find as you explore more of the Horse Capital of the World™.

For theater aficionados, the [Ocala Civic Theatre](#), one of the largest community theatres in the state, produces upwards of twelve full-staged, professional quality performances every season. The volunteer-based organization serves more than 50,000 guests from Marion County and surrounding areas.

The [Reilly Arts Center](#) offers a variety of live performances throughout the year that range from high profile comedians, ballet companies, and is home to the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. This historic landmark has been a part of the landscape within the community for over 79 years and musicians such as Buddy Holly and the Boston Pops have played the main stage. Officially opened in 2016 under the moniker of the Reilly Arts, it has quickly become a premiere entertainment venue within the county.

For contemporary tastes, the [Orange Blossom Opry](#) is sure to please a wide range of musical preferences. The music at Orange Blossom Opry runs the gamut from traditional to new country, bluegrass, rock and show tunes. They also serve up a special order of humor to add some variety to the lineup. Located in the south Marion County community of Weirsdale, this venue offers up big name talent that the entire family can enjoy. Another premiere entertainment venue bringing in top name entertainment acts to the area is [Circle Square Cultural Center](#). This auditorium style venue holds 830 people in an intimate setting, providing an incredible concert experience for attendees.

Whether you're looking to admire masterpieces from around the world, take in a magical performance of a classic play or listen to your favorite tunes performed live, Ocala/Marion County can make it happen. Plan an arts and culture filled itinerary, book accommodations and learn more about the destination at [OcalaMarion.com](#).

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About: Outdoor adventures abound. Ocala/Marion County offers countless opportunities to connect with nature and relax in a classic Florida destination. Home to the Ocala National Forest, the second largest national forest in the state, as well as historic Silver Springs. This unique destination is ideal for leisure who seek authentic outdoor experiences. Known as the Horse Capital of the World™ with more than 700 horse farms, the County boasts a legacy of breeding and training world champion thoroughbreds. Centrally located less than two hours from Orlando, Daytona Beach and Tampa, Ocala/Marion County is a must-stop when visiting Central Florida.