

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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www.ruraltexastourism.com 979-561-6667 cc@cvctx.com

*NATIONAL REGISTRY HOMETOWN FAYETTEVILLE ART
CAPTURED IN CULTURE, NEW MEDIUMS FOR STUDENTS, AND
CONVENIENT GALLERIES TO VISIT ALL IN CLOSE PROXIMITY*



Students Art Work at the Weimar Civic Center with ARTS



"It's not over until it's over" as the quote goes and such is the case for summer "ART" in the wonderful community of Fayetteville where all needs can be met for a visitor within a short distance—a real perk for visiting in the sweltering heat. Whether gawking at treasures in climate controlled galleries around the square, educating yourself on architectural terms and beauty of cemeteries and trees, or witnessing the "visions" of our future in the children's masterpieces, Fayetteville is clearly a destination.

As Arts for Rural Texas wraps up its summer program, the young adults clearly are relishing their special time in so many forms of art, including Alcohol Ink Creations with Georgia Pohl at the Weimar Civic Center. "This is fairly new form of art that is being exposed to local youth," states Ms. Pohl. And, thanks to ARTS, numerous locations in the area were utilized this summer exposing the kids to a variety of elements. Many of these fine works are displayed at the gallery on 114 N. Live Oak throughout the year making it possible for locals and visitors to enjoy these creations.

Some of these same young adults may be part of the Emerging Artist Competition (grade 6-12) with \$3,000.00 of awards handed out. Art is due by August 9 and opening reception is August 12. ARTS hosts visual and performing artists and their works in the Main Gallery and the Ross Gallery. ARTS mission is simple--to heighten the experience of art in the rural communities with an emphasis on providing an educational opportunity for children. They may be reached at 979-378-2113 or www.artsforruraltexas.org and are open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 am – 3 pm.

Strolling a few short steps away at 102 West Main Street is the Red & White Gallery. With the bragging rights of being in the oldest commercial building in Fayette County, this grand old building houses the likes of The Summer Group Show (with Texas artists through August), Art+Craft (opening September 16), and "The Texanist" (drawings by Jack Unruh opening October 14). Open Friday from 4-8 pm, Saturday 10 am – 8 pm, and by appointment, Red & White Gallery may be reached at (713) 818-9766 or www.redandwhitegallery.com.

Continuing on that gallery jaunt leads the visitor across the historic courthouse square to the Artist's Vault Gallery (another unique gallery) on 123 N. Washington. When they say "vault", it seriously means viewing in an old bank vault—more of that great history in Fayetteville. Open from 10 am – 3 pm, this venue is located in the Old Bank Building and spotlights exhibits with local talent as well as guest artists regularly. For more information call 979-378-2221 or e-mail lmarschall@txins1.com. Some of the local artists/artisans (referred to as BRAG for Brushy Road Artist Group) include Karen Bookout, Mike Clann, Cindy Fanning, Martha Philipp, Kathy Sauer, and Kathy Griffith (potter). For more information on this group, contact Kathy Seifert Griffith at 713-385-0230.

The art trek on the square concludes at 201 N. Washington at the Country Place Gallery where local artists Clovis Heimsath, Mike Clann, Pat Johnson, Mary Quieros, and Mark Chapman display their art. The gallery has the artist's emotions racing through the vein of their wonderful works much of which portrays the local atmosphere of this loving historic hometown and is open on weekends and whenever the artists are at work. They may be reached at 979-966-9777 and you may meet the artists by appointment.

Art takes many forms and for those true "trekkers and historians", Fayetteville will not disappoint. Famed Karel Charles Andera (1851-1929) has some very special works at 301 South Thompson Street within the St. John's Fayetteville Catholic Church Cemetery. He created ornate distinctive cast metal crosses marking the final resting places of Roman Catholic Czechs. Andera came to the United States with his family in the early 1860's from Hrobska Zahradka (Garden of the Graves), a small village near Tabor, Bohemia. He was established as a carpenter, woodcarver, furniture maker, coffin maker, photographer, as well as the iron cross grave markers which he began creating in 1875 in Spillville, Iowa. Early crosses were fashioned out of wagon strapping and were first carved in wood, then in plaster form. Finally they were sent to a foundry to be cast. They ranged in size from two feet to ten feet tall and were sold for between \$15 and \$22. The markers never rust (no one has been able to replicate this formula for cast metal crosses), were sold in eight designed symbols, and it's a great treat to visit this respected site. And yes, this is just another example of more incredible works of art (these a little more unknown) in the community of Fayetteville.

If you are into history with a common thread of interconnecting communities, try the Square Live Oak and the Tree in the Street Sorority of which Fayetteville remains in good standing. The Sorority includes towns from Columbus south to Goliad and west to Bigfoot and Uvalde and this one tree is the membership card. Settlers recognized the majesty of the Live Oak and its stubborn resistance to ax blades and wedges. Thanks to Mason Romans, who gave a check for \$1000 in memory of his wife, there is a fund at the Fayetteville Bank on this grand Oak Tree. Because of its sturdiness and considering that British cannonballs in the War of 1812 bounced off the sides of the U.S.S. Constitution (constructed of Oak timber), the name "Old Ironsides" has been given in recognition of the incredible sturdiness of the Oak.

Music lovers will not be left out in Fayetteville--acoustic jamming on the square takes center stage throughout the year except in December on the second Saturday of each month as the Fayetteville Picking Park welcomes guests from all over to delve into a special form of music. Live acoustic bluegrass is the theme with a joyful purpose of educating those interested (including those "toe-tappers") in this form of music. It is a free event, everyone is reminded to bring chairs and their instruments, and slow jam gears up at 1:00 pm at the Old Fire Station

led by Lou Lou Barbour. For more information contact Debbie Stepan at 512-914-6640. This is a free event with all ages welcome.

“Restaurants, lodging, shopping, and businesses extend their hometown hospitality to welcome all visitors and locals that come to share these experiences at this incredible National Registry community.” Fayetteville is located on Highway 159 a short distance from La Grange and zip code 78940 for GPS.

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Cathy Chaloupka

Rural Texas Tourism, LLC