

BALTIMORE

Artscape Expands into Outer Space

WHATEVER'S OUT THERE IS COMING TO BALTIMORE THIS SUMMER

STEP OUTSIDE OF BALTIMORE'S PENN STATION in mid-July, and you'll be smack-dab in the center of Artscape, which this year is a kaleidoscopic jamboree of space-themed artworks, musical performances, festivities and food. "With *Star Wars* being so popular and a new planet [possibly] being discovered, it seemed to be a current and relevant theme," says Kathy Hornig, festivals director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts (BOPA). Be it fantastical representations of UFOs, unexplored solar systems or designs incorporating abstract realms, the artists, fashion designers and craftspeople of America's largest free art fair are exhibiting magnificently innovative works and wares.

Spanning more than 15 blocks and many off-site venues, Artscape also stages live performances in dance, contemporary music, theater—even the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. No tickets are needed for any venue or event. "Every bit of it is free, providing a platform for people who might not otherwise have exposure to the arts," says Hornig. Of course, attendees

will still want to bring a wallet for purchasing artwork, crafts and food. All beverage and food vendors at Artscape—a deliberate strategy to showcase Baltimore's eclectic food scene. And, Hornig notes, "It's usually the hottest weekend of the year, so we want to make sure that you can find a local beer."

July 15–17. 410-752-8632; artscape.org



Attendees stroll through the art fair at Artscape.



Visitors enjoy family-friendly films.

Flicks From The Hill

Free summertime outdoor movies aren't such a novel thing these days. Unless we're talking about Flicks From The Hill, presented by the avant-garde

American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM). Family-friendly films are viewed from atop historic Federal Hill. Getting a good seat is guaranteed, because the Hill acts as makeshift bleachers for this alfresco amphitheater. The 30-foot-wide screen and speakers, suspended on the outside wall of the museum beneath a crazy, giant golden hand, are framed by panoramic views of Baltimore's spectacular skyline. And, on film days—Thursdays—the AVAM invites visitors to explore the museum for free beginning at 5 p.m. It also hosts pre-movie events and activities each week: bicycle rides, arts workshops, parties and food trucks. Federal Hill.

410-244-1900; avam.org

For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit baltimore.org



SAVE the DATE

INNER HARBOR

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

July 4

Before the fireworks extravaganza, attend Fort McHenry's reenactment of Frederick Douglass' speech, "The Meaning of July 4th for the Negro," and other commemorations. 410-752-8632; promotionandarts.org/events-festivals/fourth-july-celebration

LAKE CLIFTON

BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON ONE CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

July 9–10

It begins with a colorful Caribbean parade of dancers and floats, and leads into an island party with live calypso, soca and reggae music, dancing and food. 202-726-2204; dccarnival.org

MOUNT VERNON

10TH ANNUAL BALTIMORE IMPROV FESTIVAL

July 25–31

More than 30 well-known troupes perform sidesplitting, unrehearsed skits. Wanna try? Pop into one of the interactive workshops. 888-745-8393; bigimprov.org

INNER HARBOR

OTAKON

Aug. 12–14

This anime convention hosts scores of Sailor Moons and 20,000 other costumed cosplayers, who come to parade, perform and attend workshops on Japanese pop-culture and characters. otakon.com

INNER HARBOR

BALTIMORE ART, ANTIQUE & JEWELRY SHOW

Aug. 25–28

The country's largest indoor antiques show presents hundreds of international exhibitors of furniture, artworks, porcelain, jewelry, glass, textiles and more. 561-822-5440; baltimoresummershow.com