



# WOODSTOCK ARTS CONSORTIUM

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## **WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK TO HOST WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL ON THE ARTS Woodstock Taste of the Arts - April 5th through 12th**

*The "most famous small town in the world" hosts a gala five day multi- arts festival involving more than 20 stellar arts organizations and 10 restaurants, celebrating Woodstock's legacy as America's premier historic arts colony.*

(Woodstock New York) February 10: One hundred and six years after its founding as one of America's first art colonies, and nearly 40 years after the most famous concert of all time which bore its name, the town of Woodstock, New York is celebrating a new century of music and the arts with its first time ever weeklong Taste of the Arts Festival, April 5th – 12th, 2008.

In a place where there are more artists per capita than anywhere else in the United States, what would you expect??

Sponsored by the Woodstock Arts Consortium (WAC), the town's considerable cultural bounty will be showcased for five days with a fascinating array of inter-disciplinary arts happenings, concerts, play slams, poetry readings, paint-ins, gallery openings, performances, dance classes, film screening, book signings, wine tastings, giant drum circle and other generally spontaneous activities expressing Woodstock's varied artistic temperaments.

More than 30 diverse arts groups and restaurants are participating. Gallery receptions and art shows will abound, musicians will serenade and craftspeople will ply their artisan wares **while the town's distinctive restaurants offer culinary masterpieces created specifically for the festival at the symbolic price of \$20.08!** Admission to many of the week's events are free or offered for a modest admission charge.

Carla Smith, director of the Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild and spokesperson for the Woodstock Arts Consortium, says the weeklong festival will renew and celebrate Woodstock's legacy as the premier historic arts colony in America:

*"The wealth of Woodstock is reflected in its arts organizations, its scenic beauty and its rich history. In Woodstock, artists represent a sustainable and renewable resource that enhances the quality of life for our citizens and we want to share that with the larger community."*

The *Taste of the Arts Festival* was inspired by the town's successful, three year-old 'Second Saturday' events, which highlight the town's remarkable arts and cultural community. Organized by WAC from June through December, these one-day showcases celebrate the arts



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and substantially contribute to the region's economy. WAC was founded in 2005 to showcase the town's cultural spirit and to foster an economic renaissance of the arts in the greater Woodstock/Hudson Valley region. Currently more than 20 organizations participate in WAC events.

### ***Events during the Taste of the Arts week include:***

Family Arts Day & Show Openings@ the Woodstock Artist Association & Museum; Woodstock Fringe "The Great Nebula of Orion", chamber musical; Woodstock Film Festival screening/Q & A with filmmaker; James Cox Gallery 'Leslie Bender' Art Opening/Wine Tasting plus Artisanal Bread Baking; Maverick Chamber concert; Bird-On-A-Cliff Mystery Dinner Theater; Shadow Puppet Theater; Center for Photography 'Photography Now 2008' openings/reception, artist's talk; Woodstock Tango Beginner Classes; Woodstock School of Art Figure Drawing & Bistro to Go; Fletcher Gallery 'John Ernst' art opening/reception; VARGA Gallery Sculpture & Painters Show/reception; Sweetheart Gallery Paintings & Photographs opening/reception; Town Hall Poetry Slam, Sunday Giant Drum Circle on the Green and much more! A full schedule of events will be available in advance and on-line at [www.woodstockartsconsortium.org](http://www.woodstockartsconsortium.org).

Smith says visitors traveling to April's Taste of the Arts Festival will surely discover an extraordinary resource which continues to hold great attraction:

*"There is a tradition handed down to us from the Native Americans that says visitors to this special place we call Woodstock are fated always to return. It happened with the artists who began the great Hudson River School of landscape painting, and with the founders of the 1903 Byrdcliffe Art Colony which paved the way for the '60's counter culture and renowned Woodstock music scene. And it happened again within the last decade, when a new group of creative entrepreneurs, actors, directors, producers, screenwriters and playwrights discovered us. We think the Taste of the Arts Festival is just the thing to embrace, renew and showcase our vibrant heritage which continues to evolve and inspire."*

For more information, contact Carla Smith, [carla@hvc.rr.com](mailto:carla@hvc.rr.com); (845) 679-2079.

### **WOODSTOCK ARTS CONSORTIUM:**

*Founding Members:* Maverick Concerts, Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, Historical Society of Woodstock, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock Film Festival, Bird-On-A-Cliff Theatre Company, Woodstock Fringe, Woodstock Playhouse, Woodstock Poetry Society, Woodstock School of Art. *Affiliate Members:* East Village Collective, Elena Zang Gallery, Fletcher Gallery, James Cox Gallery, Sweetheart Gallery, VARGA Gallery, Willow Art Gallery, Woodstock Framing Gallery, Woodstock Tango.

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For additional information, visit [www.woodstockartsconsortium.org](http://www.woodstockartsconsortium.org) or call 845-810-0123.

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