

Why See Lancaster? Series: Lancaster – A Great Place to Live and Visit
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Series # Three – The Arts – An Asset

Over the past few months we have been looking at all the assets that make Lancaster one of the best areas to live in and near. Oftentimes, we evaluate larger cities by their cultural opportunities, but not smaller communities, who are seldom able to offer advantages in the area of arts and entertainment.

This can't be said about Lancaster. The arts have been a major part of the county for many years, with credit going to such individuals as Colonel Springs, who realized there was much to be gained by the creative outlets of the people. A small group of artists approached Colonel Springs in the 50's and thus began the Springs Art Show, which had a twenty-five year run. From that informal beginning, the arts took root and we now have a thriving community of well-known artists and an active Arts Council.

In cooperation with the South Carolina Arts Commission, the Lancaster County Council of the Arts began the first Arts in Education program in the state in the early 70's, again with the financial backing of Colonel Spring's legacy. Called Project TAP or Total Arts Program at the time, students throughout the county were introduced to professional artists. These artisans taught in the classroom and community. That program remains today (called Arts in Education) and students graduate with a greater appreciation of the arts in their daily lives and as a possible career.

The future looks even more optimistic with the upcoming University of South Carolina at Lancaster Artist's Series beginning this year. With the auditorium at the University being renovated to bring in known acts, there will be much to enjoy and appreciate that at one time could only be seen in larger cities. We are fortunate to have the foresight of such individuals as Colonel Springs and others who realize the arts offer more than entertainment, but are necessary for the growth and development of individuals as well as a progressive community. We are reminded of this regularly through the activities of the Community Playhouse and the Art League.

To stay aware of the many opportunities in the arts, as well as other events, visit our web site at seelancaster.org.