

MIZZOU

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the Mizzou Alumni Association

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Arts and entertainment

Looking for a little culture? In Columbia, whether you're on campus or running around town, there's no shortage of things to do and see. Check out our arts and entertainment picks below, organized by [events/places to go](#), [sculptures](#), and [shops and galleries](#). Did we miss something? Let us know: [facebook](#) [Join MIZZOU magazine on Facebook](#).

Events/places to go

Cooper's Landing | 573-657-2544

Cooper's Landing may be better described by what it isn't than by what it actually is, but here goes:

Situated about 10 miles south of Columbia on the banks of the Missouri River, the campground/eatery/drinkery/live entertainment and music venue/fishing store draws an eclectic crowd by car, bike and boat.

Crawling toward the arts | wealwaysswing.org | artrageousfridays.com

If you're a fan of art, music and good spirits, listen up. Columbia Daily Tribune columnist Jon W. Poses, MA '80, founded the not-for-profit "We Always Swing" Jazz Series in 1994. The 2009 installment of the Pub Crawl — the group's fundraising event — showcased music acts at 16 venues in Columbia, including The Pasta Factory and Mojo's. Several downtown studios



and galleries host a perambulating event known as Artrageous Fridays. The quarterly “gallery crawl” features activities, live music and artists on site to talk about the artistic process.

Mizzou athletics

A crisp autumn afternoon, a sea of black and gold, and the surge of 70,000-plus fans screaming “Z-O-U!” after a Tiger first down — there’s nothing like Mizzou football. In fact, enthusiasm for all Missouri athletics grows annually as the wrestling, volleyball, softball, men’s basketball, swimming and diving, gymnastics and soccer programs continue to make national waves. Mizzou Arena has become one of the toughest home-court advantages in the country, and the athletics training facilities are among the best in the NCAA. In Columbia, it’s never too early to grill a brat and play a game of washers. Oh yeah, and the tailgates literally have tails, too.



Ragtag Cinema | 10 Hitt St. | 573-443-4359

Columbia’s art house theater was founded in 2000 and has evolved into a hot date spot and a must-see experience for out-of-town guests.

Originally located on 10th Street, the charm of the theater’s new space resides in its informal atmosphere and art house films. Comfy sofas and upholstered chairs comprise the seating in the small theater (there are two screens). The building also shares space with Uprise Bakery and 9th Street Video.

“People often come here for dinner and a movie — and a movie,” says Sarah Bantz, Ragtag executive director. Toast your company with a glass of wine or beer as the opening credits roll.

Roots ’N Blues ’N BBQ

The smoky aromas waft gently to your nose, but the music smacks you right in the face. With 30 acts, 13 vendors and thousands in attendance, the Roots ’N Blues ’N BBQ festival has made Columbia an annual music destination. The 2009 edition featured dozens of Grammy Award-nominated artists including the Blind Boys of Alabama, the Steeldrivers and Booker T.

One of the three stages is in Peace Park, which was formerly McAlester Park and was renamed after the tragic shootings at Kent State University in 1970.

Patrons are encouraged to wander from performance to performance, and the barbecue contest draws culinary teams from around the country. Smokin!

Speaker’s Circle | MU campus, west of Ellis Library

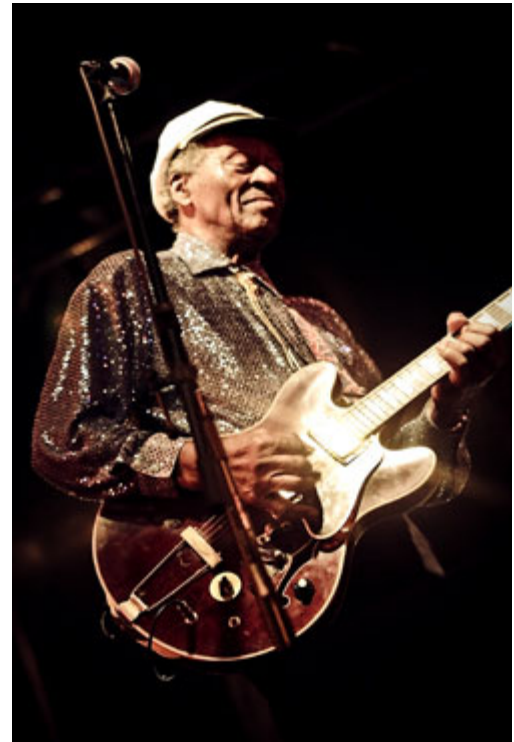
An unofficial monument to freedom of speech, Speaker’s Circle is an amphitheatre west of Ellis Library where anyone can speak without a license to those who care to listen. Religious rallies, protests, vigils, demonstrations and performances occur with regularity, and the sound carries all the way up Ninth Street.

Stephens Lake | artinthepark.missouri.org | 573-443-8838

Every summer on the shore of Stephens Lake, more than 100 visual artists contribute to the oldest and largest fine arts festival in mid-Missouri. The art ranges from the practical to the bizarre, and the event has been a Columbia fixture since 1958. June is prime time for big events and celebrations at the lake, starting with Art in the Park (June 5–6, 2010), and including the Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition’s Pride Fest (June 12, 2010) and Paws in the Park, a 5K Run/Walk that usually happens in September and benefits the animal rescue organization Columbia Second Chance.

The Blue Note | 17 N. Ninth St. | 573-874-1944

From Missouri’s own Chuck Berry, above, to Slash’s Snake Pit, innumerable varieties of local, national and international acts have rocked across the stage at the Blue Note. You can even watch Mizzou football or the Super Bowl on the 27-foot-wide projection screen.



True/False

This annual documentary film festival is a complete Columbia collaboration, with screenings throughout town from the Windsor Auditorium at Stephens College to the Forrest Theater in the Tiger Hotel.

Since its launch in 2004, True/False has expanded in scope and popularity, bringing international filmmakers and 23,000 film enthusiasts to Missouri in 2009.

Founded by David Wilson and Paul Sturtz, the four-day extravaganza features music, banquets, film workshops, dance parties and a parade alongside more than 35 documentaries.

“We see True/False as an entity that can question the documentary status quo and examine films that demand a level of critical thinking from the audience,” Wilson says.

University Concert Series | 800-292-9136

Striving to make big-name performances more affordable and to promote community engagement, this series has featured household names such as Bonnie Raitt, Huey Lewis and the News and B.B. King (April 2010). Concerts are in Jesse Auditorium in Jesse Hall, and tickets range from \$17–55 with half-price tickets for students.

Sculptures

Beetle Bailey | Reynolds Alumni Center, MU campus

The Beetle Bailey statue, designed by the comic strip’s creator, Mort Walker, BA ’48, and his son Neal, was unveiled during Homecoming 1992 and installed in its permanent location beside the Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center in 1999.

Boone County Courthouse sculpture | 705 E. Walnut St.

Above the amphitheatre east of Boone County Courthouse, you'll find a procession of animals playing instruments. You can almost hear the cacophony of "Jamboree," a sculpture by artists Jim Calvin and Andy Davis that features a musical gecko, hare, cat, gator and frog. Dedicated in 1997, the piece is a celebration of community diversity.

Columbia Public Library sculpture | dbri.org | 100 W. Broadway

The two yellow-and-red steel sculptures guarding the Columbia Public Library are hard to miss — the "big" one stands at 38-feet, 9 inches tall, and the other is 30-feet, 4-inches tall. The library's art committee selected artist Albert Paley in 2000 to produce "Cypher," an abstract expression that functions "as a counterpoint to the formal elegance of the architecture," Paley says.



Thomas Jefferson | Francis Quadrangle, MU campus

The statue of Thomas Jefferson on Francis Quadrangle was a gift to MU from the Jefferson Club to celebrate the third president's unique connection to the university. Mizzou is the first land-grant university in the Louisiana Purchase Territory, a deal authorized by Jefferson in 1803.

Shops and galleries

Bluestem Missouri Crafts | 13 S. Ninth St. | 573-442-0211

Located in the heart of historic downtown Columbia, Bluestem features the work of more than 300 artists from Missouri and its eight neighboring states. Everything is handmade, from delicate blown glass to intricate metal sculpture.



Columbia Art League | 573-443-2131

Hosting exhibits, offering summer camps for youngsters and sponsoring events such as Art in the Park (See Stephens Lake, Page 34), this group exists to provide the community with a stimulating environment for experiencing the visual arts. The league celebrated its 50th birthday in July 2009 and enjoys a new home at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

Orr Street Studios | 106 Orr St.

Housed in the former Watkins Roofing building, the redesigned structure contains 21 studios and gallery space for nearly 30 local artists. "We wanted to become a center of the visual arts

for Columbia,” says Chris Teeter, Orr Street Studios chair. “It’s a place where the community can interface with the artists.”

Poppy | 920 E. Broadway | 573-442-3223




When Barb McCormick opened this craft gallery/shop in 1981, she gave customers an origami poppy with every purchase. Featuring the clay, fiber, metal, wood and glasswork of artisans across the country, Poppy, adheres to its philosophy, “art is for everyone.”

PS: Gallery | 812 E. Broadway | 573-442-4831

Founded in 2006, owners Jennifer Perlow, BA ’94, and Chris Stevens, BA ’91, believe that art should be inclusive, not exclusive. The bright and dynamic showroom features art in various media, and the work displayed in the front windows is always eye-catching.

Share your comments with Mizzou magazine at Mizzou@missouri.edu.

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