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# **Artistically Fred**

Whether you're into arts, crafts or just hunting for that perfect antique for your living room, the Fredericksburg area is full of places for visitors to explore and learn about some of the oldest forms of art that our nation has to offer. With pottery studios, art galleries, beginner's workshops and even authentic blacksmiths, the communities across the Fredericksburg area boast quality art to rival any major metropolitan area, with an added aspect of history that no other city can replicate.

## **Artisanal Craftsman throughout the Region**

- [LibertyTown Arts Workshop](#) – The center itself has become a learning hub for aspiring artists with a maze architectural design of 27 studios, which provide a space for more than 60 artists and artisans who practice their crafts in clay, glass, paint, wood and photography. All of these studios are open to the public for visitors to explore and browse through a pottery studio, which also offers clay-throwing courses and has bowls, mugs and other ceramics for sale.
- [Bluebird Glass Studio](#) – From what began as a garage operation with a list of eager customers, the Bluebird Glass Studio blossomed into a fully stocked and skillfully staffed studio that offers much more than just beautiful pieces of stained glass art. Beginners are encouraged to come in and try their hand at making their own project(s) with some of the hundreds of glass colors available in store.
- [Artful Dimensions Gallery](#) – Specializing in three-dimensional art, this gallery is full of clay, glass, metal, wood and fiber 3D pieces. Visitors can walk about the eight studios that all have different mediums or attend a class or workshop.
- [Deep Creek Vintage](#) – Located in Spotsylvania, this historic manor is filled with vintage furniture and collectibles that have been refurbished or painted by the 20 sellers who work within the home. They also offer monthly classes to teach people everything from how to restore furniture and reclaimed wood to crafting holiday decorations.
- [Fraser Wood Elements](#) – The aroma of pine, oak and cedar permeates this downtown store, which specializes in customizable reclaimed woodwork, including shelves, tables, handcrafted home accessories and wood flooring, as well as pieces from other local artists.
- [PONS SHOP Studio and Gallery](#) – Having started in a studio at LibertyTown Arts, painter Gabriel Pons and potter Scarlett Pons, branched out on their own to open a multifaceted gallery, retail store and classroom. In addition to the Pons's own work, the husband-and-wife-owned gallery features innovative fine art, ceramics and handmade items from Virginia artists. The couple also works with many local restaurants and businesses, where they have been commissioned to do murals, t-shirts, dinnerware and other customized items.

## **A Love Story of Art**

Gari Melcher was one of the most successful American painters of his time, and Corinne was a beautiful, young art student and Gari's biggest fan. The two fell in love, and, after traveling the world, spent their last 16 years at their home in Belmont. More than a hundred years later, [Gari Melcher's Home & Studio at Belmont](#) has become a time capsule of sorts for visitors, who can explore the fully preserved home and walk through the gardens or studio and see how the Melchers lived. The home and studio also hosts lectures, workshops and events for visitors. Students often take field trips to the property to study Gari's art and his artistic process.

## **Broadway on the Rappahannock**

Residents and visitors alike are lucky to enjoy Broadway-quality performances without the New York price tag at [Riverside Center for the Performing Arts](#). It's a treasure trove for live theater, producing musical theater classics

since 1998. Performances range from all time classics, such as *Oklahoma* and *Hello Dolly*, to children's shows and holiday favorites.

### **The Art of Blacksmithing**

As an avid blacksmith and lover of nature, Hunter Perkinson believes that "art should imitate life." Anyone that tours the grounds of [Featherstone Forge](#), conveniently tucked along beautiful Lake Anna can see that this ideology is practiced daily. Hunter uses the natural beauty around him to inspire brilliant works that he hand-forges out of iron and steel. His pieces are then sold in local shops, such as Fraser, LibertyTown Arts or Artful Dimensions, or are on display inside his facility. Visitors are able to tour his workspace, purchase art and even take a hands-on class on how to become a blacksmith.

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