

I Love the Burg

A huge, four-day arts festival is coming to St. Pete's EDGE District

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St. Pete has long been heralded as a home for the arts, and the city's newest festival is creating one of the biggest arts-centric events the region has seen. The inaugural Booker Creek Arts Festival is transforming the entire EDGE District into a walkable art gallery this November.

Taking place November 12-15, the sprawling festival will feature hundreds of artists spread across more than a dozen different venues in the bustling neighborhood. The free event will transform the EDGE District into "a walkable living gallery," featuring visual art, live mural painting, glass blowing, dance, music and children's activities spread throughout the district.

Artists will compete for up to \$50,000 in jury-awarded prizes, among the largest prize purses for an inaugural arts festival in the region, while visitors participate directly by voting for the People's Choice Award. The goal is to celebrate Florida's artists, with hundreds of juried artists from throughout the state participating in the expansive showcase.

Organizers expect to draw attendees not just locally, from across the state, region and country. Their aim is "to spark meaningful connections between artists, audiences, and local businesses, highlighting the role of arts and culture in building vibrant communities and inviting visitors to take a lasting piece of Florida's creative spirit home." In the vibrant EDGE District, storefronts will become showrooms as street corners transform into stages.

"We want visitors to experience the creativity and energy that make St. Pete one of the country's most exciting arts communities while creating new opportunities for artists and local businesses alike," committee chair Leslie Curran said.

Visitors will have the opportunity to meet artists in person, learn about their creative processes, and purchase original works directly from participating creators. By bringing artists and audiences together throughout the district, the festival aims to inspire creativity, strengthen community connections, and create lasting cultural and economic impact for the region.

Visitors interested in attending and artists interested in participating can learn more at bookercreekarts.com.