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Things to Do

## What to Do in Sarasota This Weekend

Don't miss Thursday's BT23 State Street Block Party, March Madness at The Bay and The Ringling's free opening event for its *Reclaiming Home* exhibit.

By [Bethany Ritz](#) Updated March 16, 2023



*Mama Bears* will screen at Fogartyville on Tuesday, March 21.

Image: Promotional Image Courtesy of Mama Bears

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## Jump to Your Genre

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The Sarasota area boasts a wide and intriguing number of arts, cultural, sports and food events throughout the year, from museum exhibits and concerts to plays, ballet and choral performances, craft shows, films and more. Keep up to date on what's happening here, and check in regularly.

***Editor's note:*** *In-person events are subject to change. Please check before venturing out.*

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## Art

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### SPAACES + Art 4 Change

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SPAACES + Art 4 Change's latest exhibit, *Metaphors: Finding The Poetic In The Mundane*, with art from Anja Palombo, Jeffery Cornwell and Meg Pierce, is described as "sculptures, tapestries, and paintings intimate the smooth curve of a body part, stitching in a garment, or

a small view of sky, encouraging the viewer to look deeply and question detail.” The show is on view through March 25 with gallery visiting hours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at 2087 Princeton St. [spaces.art](http://spaces.art)

## Ringling College Galleries

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Several exhibits are on view at the campus galleries, including the Therman Statom show *Cuento Sobre El Aprendizaje: Stories About Learning*, through March 24; *Lee Mayer: Lost Summer*, through March 17; the glass show *Circles + Spheres* featuring work from the Richard and Barbara Basch collection, through March 24; and Jay Youngdahl’s installation *The Mangroves of Masters Bayou*, which is available to the public by making an appointment through April 21. (941) 359-7563; [ringlingcollege.gallery](http://ringlingcollege.gallery)

## Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College Editor’s Pick

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On view now: *Sara Berman’s Closet* and *Richard Benson: The World Is Smarter Than You Are* are both on view through May 7; *A Beautiful Mess: Weavers and Knotters of the Vanguard* is on view through June 25; and *Xaviera Simmons’ The structure the labor the foundation the escape the pause* will continue on view on the grounds outside the museum through early 2023. (941) 309-4300; [sarasotaartmuseum.org](http://sarasotaartmuseum.org)

## The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

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Opening on Saturday, March 18, the *Reclaiming Home: Contemporary Seminole Art* group exhibition opens, which marks The Ringling’s first presentation of contemporary art by Native American artists with ancestral, historical and present-day connections to Florida. To celebrate, the artists will be present to discuss their work at [a free event at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 18](#). They will be available for casual walk-throughs as well as a panel discussion.

The community gallery’s show *Glimpse of the Artist: A Community Celebration* is presented by Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition (SAACC) through April 30. *Gods and Lovers: Paintings and Sculptures from India* runs through May 28. In the Chao Gallery, through April 2, is *The Marvellous Marbling of Matsui Kōsei*. June Clark’s *Harlem Quilt* will be in the Contemporary Gallery through March 26, and *As long as there is sun, as long as there is light: Selections from the Bring Gift and The Ringling Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art* through Jan. 7, 2024. Sunset viewing of the James Turrell Skyspace *Joseph’s Coat* in full color is a separate ticket on Thursday, March 16, at 7:20 p.m. (941) 359-5700; [ringling.org](http://ringling.org)

## Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

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*Tiffany: The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature* is on view at the gardens’ downtown Sarasota campus through June 25. The augmented reality show *Seeing the Invisible* is on view at the Historic Spanish Point campus. (941) 366-5731; [selby.org](http://selby.org)

## **Amplifying Visions & Artists Talk**

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Fabulous Arts Foundation is partnering with Fogartyville for the exhibit *Amplifying Visions*. On Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. Fogartyville will host performances and an art talk in addition to the exhibit, which will showcase and amplify LGBTQ+ artists. The show will run through April 18. [wslr.org](http://wslr.org)

## **Comedy**

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### **McCurdy's Comedy Theatre**

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On the schedule at the downtown club: Dale Jones, March 15-19. Tickets and info: (941) 925-3869; [mccurdyscomedy.com](http://mccurdyscomedy.com)

### **Jay Leno**

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Best known as the host of *The Tonight Show*, this award-winning comic will perform one show at 7:30 p.m. on March 28 at the Van Wezel. (941) 263-6799; [vanwezel.org](http://vanwezel.org)

## **Dance**

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### **Art of Performance at The Ringling: *Balance & Imbalance***

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Soon-ho Park's Seoul-based dance company Bereishit will perform two dance works, *Balance & Imbalance* and *Judo*, on March 18-19 at the Historic Asolo Theater. [ringling.org](http://ringling.org)

## **Film**

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### **Sarasota Film Festival**

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This annual festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. [See our write-up](#) of some of the films and events in store. Events begin next week on March 24. [sarasotafilmfestival.com](http://sarasotafilmfestival.com)



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/xX2tOJTmPgA>

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### **Mama Bears Editor's Pick**

Fogartyville is screening this documentary, in which mothers fight to make the world a kinder and safer place for the LGBTQ community, for free on Tuesday, March 21, at 7 p.m. Registration is required. [wslr.org](http://wslr.org)

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### **Food and Drink**

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#### **“Veg Head” Music & Wine Festival**

This is a brand-new event that is part of the [Spring Indie Market at UTC](#) on Saturday, March 18, from 12 to 6 p.m. The outdoor festival will feature vegetarian and vegan food trucks and vendors, live jam bands on stage all day, wine sampling from wineries across Central Florida and beyond, and a spring indie market featuring more than 60 local artisans. Located near the east entrance of the mall in parking lot four. (941) 552-7000; [mallatutc.com](http://mallatutc.com)

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#### **BT23 State Street Block Party Editor's Pick**

Better Together is a free party on State Street hosted by The Gulf Coast Community Foundation. On Thursday, March 16, head to State Street from 4-7 p.m. to get your fill of music, food, entertainment and fun for the whole family, including a 360 photo booth, “compliments bar,” face painting and poetry on demand. [gulfcoastcf.org](http://gulfcoastcf.org)

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#### **Sarasota Farmers Market**

The Sarasota Farmers Market in downtown Sarasota will have its usual parade of goods, along with live music, Saturday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. [sarasotafarmersmarket.org](http://sarasotafarmersmarket.org)

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### **Bradenton Public Market**

This market runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays through May with live music, goods, snacks and great food products. [realizebradenton.com](http://realizebradenton.com)

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### **Miscellaneous**

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#### **Watch It! at The Bay: *March Madness***

Catch your favorite college team competing in March Madness on the big screen at The Oval from Thursday through Sunday, March 16-19, noon to 8 p.m. Registration is recommended. Bring chairs, blankets and friends. [thebaysarasota.org](http://thebaysarasota.org)

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#### **Poets Unplugged: Rebel Poet**

Fogartyville's poetry night is hosted by spoken word artist [Melanie Lavender](#). Doors open at 7 p.m. Rebel Poet, a Latina poet, host and art curator, will take the stage at 8 p.m., followed by an open mic at 9 p.m. [wslr.org](http://wslr.org)

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#### **Sarasota County Fair**

This year's county fair kicks off this Friday, March 17, at 5 p.m. at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. That night will showcase a dairy cattle show, Southern Express Bluegrass, and magic and hypnosis shows by Ron Diamond. Both performers play throughout the fair, which runs through March 26. [sarasotafair.com](http://sarasotafair.com)

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### **Music**

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#### ***Hermitage Turns 20: Andy Sandberg & Broadway Friends in Concert***

To celebrate the 20th anniversary season of this leading national arts incubator, Hermitage artistic director Andy Sandberg returns to his Broadway roots to sing a benefit concert at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. He's bringing along some Broadway friends, too. This one-night-only event will raise funds for the [Hermitage Artist Retreat](#) following the impact of Hurricane Ian last fall. (941) 263-6799; [vanwezel.org](http://vanwezel.org)

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#### **Sundays at The Bay: Cassie Jean & the Fireflies**

Sundays at The Bay is a free, outdoor weekly music and performance program offered from 6 to 7 p.m. at The Oval. This week on Sunday, March 19, is Cassie Jean & the Fireflies. [thebaysarasota.org](http://thebaysarasota.org)

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### **Oscura**

This restaurant in Bradenton sidelines as a 200-person music venue with comedy nights once a month. This Thursday, March 16, is a free show with Me Umbra, Jordan Esker and Matthew Frost. Friday, March 17, is a house and deep techno night with the Deep & Groovy x Trippy Squad DJ takeover. (941) 201-4950; [oscura.live](http://oscura.live)

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### **Sarasota Orchestra Masterworks**

*Emperor* features pianist Behzod Abduraimov playing Beethoven's epic concerto, with guest conductor Sascha Goetzel following with a curated collection from Prokofiev's *Suite from Romeo and Juliet* on March 16-19 at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. (941) 953-3434; [sarasotaorchestra.org](http://sarasotaorchestra.org)

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### **Venice Symphony**

Vocalist and harpist Orla Fallon will perform *A Celtic Celebration* including Percy Granger's exuberant *Molly on the Shore*, music from *Riverdance* and *Symphony No. 3 in F Minor*, known as the "Irish," by Charles Villiers Stanford. on March 17-18. (941) 207-8822; [thevenicesymphony.org](http://thevenicesymphony.org)

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### **Madame Butterfly**

The Sarasota Opera starts off the year with this enduring tragedy by Giacomo Puccini. It follows the story of a young geisha who falls in love with an American naval officer. Performances are at the Sarasota Opera House through March 24. (941) 328-1300; [sarasotaopera.org](http://sarasotaopera.org)

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### **Don Giovanni**

Mozart's most famous opera is a comic and tragic masterpiece that centers around the infamous lover Don Juan and the heartbreak he leaves in his wake. Performances are at the Sarasota Opera House through March 25. (941) 328-1300; [sarasotaopera.org](http://sarasotaopera.org)

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### **Ernani**

Sarasota Opera presents one of the greatest of Giuseppe Verdi's early works, encompassing love, honor and tragedy with passionate choruses and emotional arias. This production features a libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, March 11-26 at the Sarasota Opera House. (941) 328-1300; [sarasotaopera.org](http://sarasotaopera.org)

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### **Thérèse**

This Jules Massenet opera in two acts, featuring a libretto by Jules Claretie, follows a love triangle occurring during the French Revolution with moments of lyrical beauty punctuated by the drama of the "Reign of Terror," March 17-25 at the Sarasota Opera House. (941) 328-1300; [sarasotaopera.org](http://sarasotaopera.org)

## ***Gordon Lightfoot: The Legend in Concert***

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Hailed for defining the folk-pop sound of the 1960s and '70s, Gordon Lightfoot, 84, will be at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall for one night only on March 21. (941) 263-6799; [vanwezel.org](http://vanwezel.org)

## **Theater**

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### ***Godspell***

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This musical composed by Stephen Schwartz was nominated for a Tony Award. It features a parade of beloved songs, including “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord,” “Learn Your Lessons Well,” “All for the Best,” “All Good Gifts,” “Turn Back, O Man” and “By My Side.” Playing at The Players Center’s Studio 1130, through March 19. (941) 365-2494; [theplayers.org](http://theplayers.org)

### ***Network* Editor’s Pick**

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Based on the Academy Award-winning film by Paddy Chayefsky, *Network* examines what happens when we get caught up in the allure and illusion of truth and TV. ([Read Kay Kipling’s review here.](#)) Playing through March 26 in FST’s Gompertz Theatre. 366-9000, [floridastudiotheatre.org](http://floridastudiotheatre.org).



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/-P9qZlr98Tc>

## ***Chicken & Biscuits***

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This comedy by Douglas Lyons and directed by Bianca LaVerne Jones for the AsoloRep proves that while family may drive us crazy, we're lucky to have each other. At AsoloRep through April 13. (941) 351-8000; [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org)

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### ***A Place in the Sun: A Tribute to Stevie Wonder***

*A Place in the Sun* plays through March 26 in Florida Studio Theatre's Goldstein Cabaret. [floridastudiotheatre.org](http://floridastudiotheatre.org)

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### ***Gypsy***

The ever-popular musical about the show-biz life of Gypsy Rose Lee—and domineering mother Rose—plays through March 19 at the Raymond Center at Venice Theatre. (941)488-1115; [venicetheatre.org](http://venicetheatre.org)



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/tdcHpml12Fg>

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### ***The Three Musketeers***

Asolo Repertory Theatre kicks off its 2023 repertory season with Ken Ludwig's *The Three Musketeers*, adapted from the novel by Alexandre Dumas. Playing through March 26. [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org)

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### ***Dreamgirls***

An inspirational journey through American pop music, *Dreamgirls* chronicles one fictional Motown group's rise from obscurity to superstardom. Playing through April 9 at The Donnelly Theatre. (941) 366-1505; [westcoastblacktheatre.org](http://westcoastblacktheatre.org)

