

PARK CITY

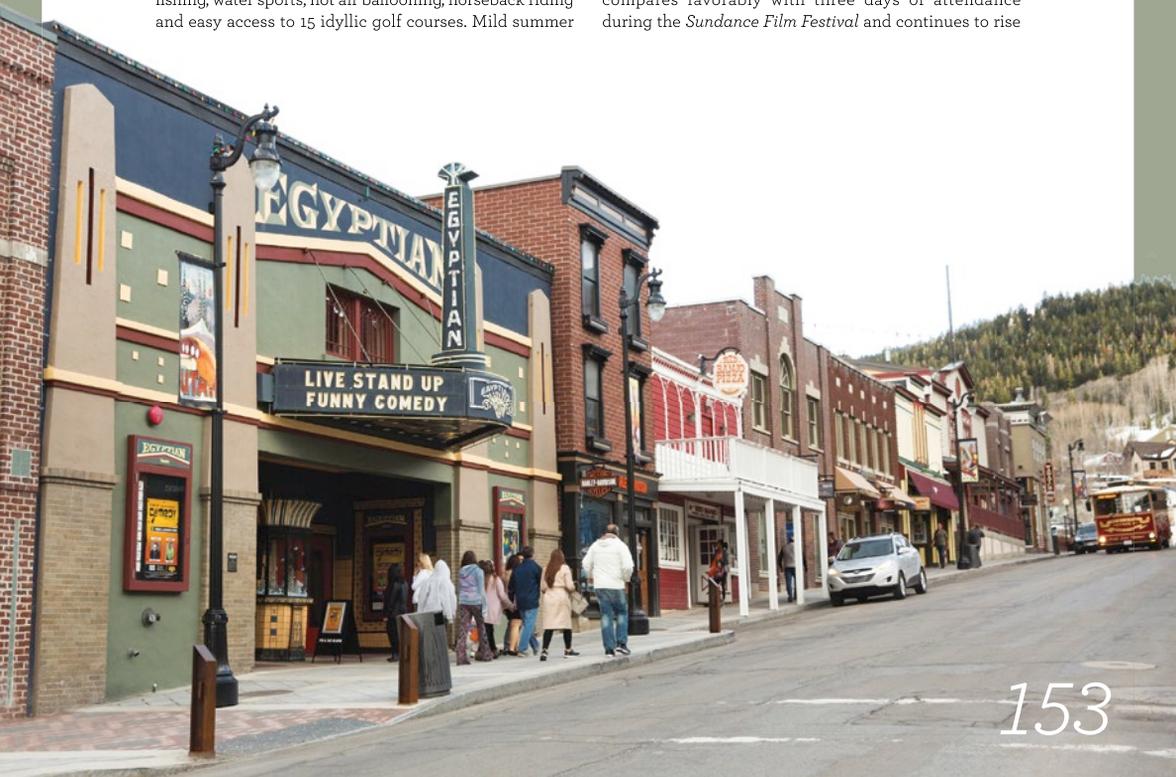
By Kelly Skeen

Park City, Utah, has long been known as a winter destination. From world-class skiing to the acclaimed *Sundance Film Festival* in January, this quaint mountain community is brimming with tourists, locals and part-time residents during the colder months. Park City's summer season, however, now rivals what was once this historic mining community's tourism peak. As the temperatures rise and the snow melts from the mountain, outdoor enthusiasts replace their skis and snowshoes with hiking boots and mountain bikes and hit the 400-plus miles of public trails. Deer Valley, Park City Mountain and Canyons ski resorts even offer lift service for bikers. Park City is also known for its fly-fishing, water sports, hot air ballooning, horseback riding and easy access to 15 idyllic golf courses. Mild summer

temperatures due to the city's high elevation create an ideal environment for its abundance of outdoor activities. Visitors who are drawn to Park City for outdoor recreation may be surprised by what else the city has to offer. Arts and culture is an increasingly strong point for this community and, in addition to outdoor tourism, attracts a demographic of its own. Art collectors, artists and art enthusiasts from Utah and around the country come to Park City for its year-round gallery stroll, film series, festivals, theater performances, concerts and more.

"It's a mountain community, it's a ski community, but arts are the other anchor," says Jory Macomber, executive director of the **Kimball Art Center**. "The more we can become an arts destination in the fall, spring and summer, the better it is for everybody." The Kimball Art Center plays an important role in this mission as it hosts the defining and biggest event of the summer. The **Kimball Arts Festival** brings in national artists for a juried competition and fair that stretches down historic Main Street. Out of nearly 1,000 applicants, 220 artists are chosen to participate and sell their work during the festival. Attendance reaches over 50,000 Utah and out-of-state visitors during the course of the event, which takes place annually in early August.

According to Macomber, the three-day art festival compares favorably with three days of attendance during the *Sundance Film Festival* and continues to rise



in participation by four to five percent each year. The arts festival kicks off with the *Art Starts Here Gala*, a formal fundraising event that celebrates Kimball's arts education initiatives and its role as a catalyst for local creativity and arts engagement. Tickets are on sale now for this year's gala on August 2, which leads into the arts festival occurring August 3 to 5. The full weekend is Kimball's biggest fundraiser of the year and supports the organization's year-round arts education programming and exhibitions. Sundance Institute, Park City Institute and the Egyptian Theater will host tandem events during the festival including film screenings, concerts and other performances.

The Kimball Art Center is Park City's oldest nonprofit organization founded in 1976 by Bill Kimball. Kimball opened the center as a way to foster what he predicted to be Park City's "third phase." The mining boom was the first, when Park City was one of the most sought after silver camps in the West; this early identity is still present through the historic architecture on Main Street. The second phase came in the early 1960s

after the collapse of the mining industry, when the city surged back to life with the growth of premier ski resorts and a world-class reputation for steep powdery slopes. When the art center opened in the '70s, Kimball wrote a letter to the editor in which he expressed his hope for Park City's future. "Perhaps the third phase will be that the center can provide the opportunity for each person to expand his interest in the arts. I hope so," he stated.

The late Kimball would certainly be proud of his community's collective interest in the arts particularly since the city, in partnership with the Kimball Art Center and Sundance Institute, recently purchased a 6-acre plot of land in Bonanza Park for a new Arts & Culture District outside of the Main Street hub. This "sustainable, walkable, livable and vibrant" district will be anchored by new buildings for the Sundance Institute and Kimball Art Center and will also include commercial art spaces, creative local businesses, innovative food concepts and housing for residents and artists. The new Kimball Art Center will be two

1 Susan Swartz Studios
260 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 655-1201, www.susanswartz.com

2 Mountain Trails Gallery
301 Main Street
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 615-8748,
www.mountaintrailsgallery.com

3 Meyer Gallery
305 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 649-8160, www.meyergallery.com

4 Bret Webster Images Gallery
312 Main Street
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 200-8258
www.bretwebsterimages.com

5 David Beavis Gallery
314 Main Street
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 602-1123
www.davidbeavisgallery.com

6 PROTHRO Gallery
314 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060 (435)
200-8866, www.prothrogallery.com

7 Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery
364 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 649-7598, www.mangelsen.com

8 JGO Gallery
408 Main Street (lower level)
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 649-1006
www.jgogallery.com
www.wonderboxgallery.com
www.sparkleanddolingallery.com

9 Gallery MAR
436 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 649-3001, www.gallerymar.com

10 Lunds Fine Art Gallery
591 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 655-4349, www.lundsfineartgallery.com

11 Montgomery-Lee Fine Art
608 Main Street
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 655-3264
www.montgomeryleefineart.com

12 Terzian Galleries
625 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 649-4927, www.terziangalleries.com

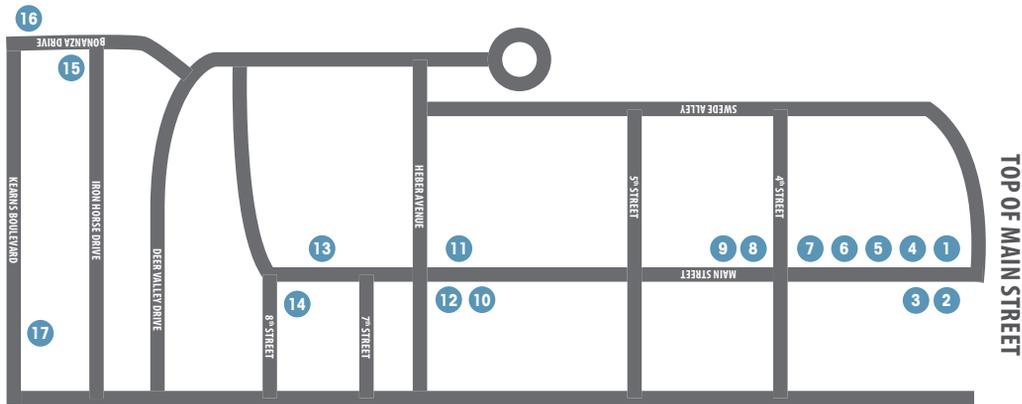
13 Trove Gallery
804 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 655-3803, www.troveparkcity.com

14 Main Street Gallery
825 Main Street, Park City, UT 84060
(435) 200-4445, www.mainstgalleriaypc.com

15 Julie Nester Gallery
1280 Iron Horse Drive
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 649-7855
www.julienestergallery.com

16 Designs by Knight Gallery
1662 Bonanza Drive #3A
Park City, UT 84060
(435) 649-2005, www.bkjewels.com

17 Kimball Art Center
1401 Kearns Boulevard
Park City, UT 84060, (435) 649-8882
www.kimballartcenter.org





Kimball Arts Festival. Photo by Mark Maziarz. All images courtesy Park City Chamber/Bureau.

Summer Events & Openings

Group Exhibition
MOUNTAIN TRAILS GALLERY
 July 3-8

Heather Barron
TROVE GALLERY
 July 7

Our Favorite Things
TERZIAN GALLERIES
 July 20-August 1

Of Paper: Denise Duong
J GO GALLERY
 July 21

Niki de Saint Phalle
KIMBALL ART CENTER
 July 21-September 16,
 opening July 20

Teresa Kalnoskas: Opus
JULIE NESTER GALLERY
 Through July 24

Mary Sauer: Remnants
MEYER GALLERY
 July 27

Audra Weaser
JULIE NESTER GALLERY
 July 27-August 28, opening
 July 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Kimball Arts Festival
MAIN STREET
 August 3-5

Group Exhibition
MOUNTAIN TRAILS GALLERY
 August 3-5

David Frederick Riley
MEYER GALLERY
 August 4

Thomas Arvid
PROTHRO GALLERY
 August 25

Colby Sanford: Remembering Home
MEYER GALLERY
 August 31

to three times bigger than its current building, encompassing more galleries and interactive exhibition space. The master plan for the district will be revealed this summer with a slated opening for 2022.

Other citywide summer events in addition to the *Kimball Arts Festival* include the Fourth of July parade on Main Street, the *Deer Valley Music Festival*, the *Big Stars Bright Night Concert Series* and, of course, the monthly *Gallery Stroll*. In the Historic District and beyond, Park City boasts nearly 20 fine art galleries offering high-caliber work ranging from traditional to abstract, western to modern. On the last Friday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m., galleries present special exhibitions spotlighting local, national and international artists. According to **Gallery MAR** owner Maren Mullin, summer arts events often become first priority for Park City visitors who plan trips around festivals, concerts or exhibitions for their favorite artists. "We see a lot of people mark their calendars and come out specifically for cultural opportunities in the summer," she says. "Then they stay to enjoy the outdoor recreation."

Cultural opportunities are abundant this summer in Park City including several exhibitions that shouldn't be missed. **Meyer Gallery** opens an anticipated show during the *July Gallery Stroll* for Utah portrait painter Mary Sauer, whose classic figurative paintings are layered with modern philosophies and techniques. Also opening this month is *Of Paper* at **J GO Gallery**, featuring whimsical works

on paper by local favorite Denise Duong; and **Terzian Galleries** presents an all-female artist invitational titled *Our Favorite Things*, spotlighting 10 women painters from Utah and beyond. The Kimball Art Center opens an important exhibition at the end of the month for French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle, a significant 20th-century sculptor, painter and filmmaker.

This summer also marks a meaningful milestone for Gallery MAR, who celebrates 10 years in operation this August with a group exhibition titled *The Perfect Ten*. Mullin honors her long-lasting artist relationships by highlighting 15 gallery artists who have been with her for most of the gallery's 10-year history. Park City visitors can find more information on monthly gallery strolls and exhibitions at **Julie Nester Gallery**, **Mountain Trails Gallery**, **Trove Gallery** and more on the Park City Gallery Association website.

The "perfect day" in Park City is an elusive idea as there are endless opportunities to experience the arts and the outdoors, not to mention gourmet dining and boutique shopping. When asked how to best enjoy Park City summer, Mullin encourages guests to arrive with an open mind and spontaneous attitude. "I love the element of surprise in Park City," she says. "You might wander into a gallery for a show and discover a new artist, or get a recommendation for a new restaurant that just opened up. I would encourage visitors not to over plan and leave openings for a wonderful afternoon to unfold." ●