

NIGHT AT A MUSEUM

What better reason to head to the city than to experience top-notch art in a new way? These days, some of Charlotte's top museums are keeping the lights on—and drawing big crowds—after hours. Here's your guide for a Queen City art fix.

by PIPER ANDERSON



Bechtler by Night

On certain nights, stars twinkle in a velvety sky as art enthusiasts admire vibrant, beautiful artwork to a backdrop of clinking cocktails and glimmering lights. The gallery goers are there for Bechtler by Night, a series hosted by the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art on the third Friday of every month. From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the museum opens all four floors of its gallery to the public free of charge. Many would-be museum goers aren't able to make the museum's normal hours, so Bechtler by Night is an effort to make the museum more accessible to the community.

"This event really brings our most diverse crowd through our doors on a consistent basis," Andrew Goh says, a digital communications specialist for the museum. "Young to old, families to groups of friends, many different people of all different walks of life."

Each event in the series has a different theme, so depending on the night there might be interpretive dance, live music, Bechtler Bingo, and gallery scavenger hunts. Food from Modern Café is always available, in addition to a cash bar featuring a specialty cocktail based on the night's theme. After all, gazing at art is wonderful, but gazing at it with a glass of wine and a brownie is particularly inspiring.

Bechtler by Night is the third Friday of every month— check out the schedule at <http://bechtler.org/Programs/Bechtler-by-night>



Science on the Rocks

Care for a little science with your martini? On the third Friday of every month, the Discovery Place hosts Science on the Rocks—an adults-only evening of drinking and learning! What more could you want? Music, games, and workshops make Science on the Rocks an unforgettable experience, with different themes each night. June, for instance, was Game Night at Science on the Rocks, complete with a hands-on exhibition called Beyond the Rubik's cube, Jumbo Jenga, Colossal Connect Four, Super Duper Dominos, cockroach races, and a charity drive.

5-9 p.m. every third Friday of the month, tickets are \$8 in advance at \$10 at the door. Cash/credit bars available through levels 1 and 2. Schedule available at <http://www.discoveryplace.org/events/>

Science on the Rocks is zany, fascinating, and absolutely fun! It's a chance to embrace your youthful spirit and act like a kid again with your friends and family, while also learning a lot of cool things and drinking (a lot) of good cocktails.



Gantt After Dark

At Gantt After Dark, you can mingle under the stars and enjoy an exquisite view of Charlotte’s nighttime cityscape on the Gantt Center’s rooftop terrace. Happening once a month with a new theme each night, this series is put on by the Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture to provide guests with a fun and glamorous after-hours way to experience all the museum has to offer. Guests can start enjoying the center’s art before even stepping into the building—the center itself is architecturally stunning, with abstract lines and a contemporary feel. Gantt After Dark typically runs from 6 to 10, and the galleries are open for people who may not have the opportunity to visit during normal hours.

“The idea is to really have a cultural experience where art and culture come to life,” David Taylor says, the President and CEO of the Gantt Center.

In addition to food, drinks, and live music, special segments occur at the events. One such series is Paint and Sip, where you buy tickets for \$20 (\$25 for non-members) and participate in an evening of guided painting and wine tasting with a featured artist. Guests can also meet with visual artists, watch them live paint, and shop at the gift shop.

“It’s a combination of the community,” Taylor said. “There are artists there, art enthusiasts, people who enjoy music, people who want to come and network; so it’s just all age groups, and it’s a great demographic of people.”

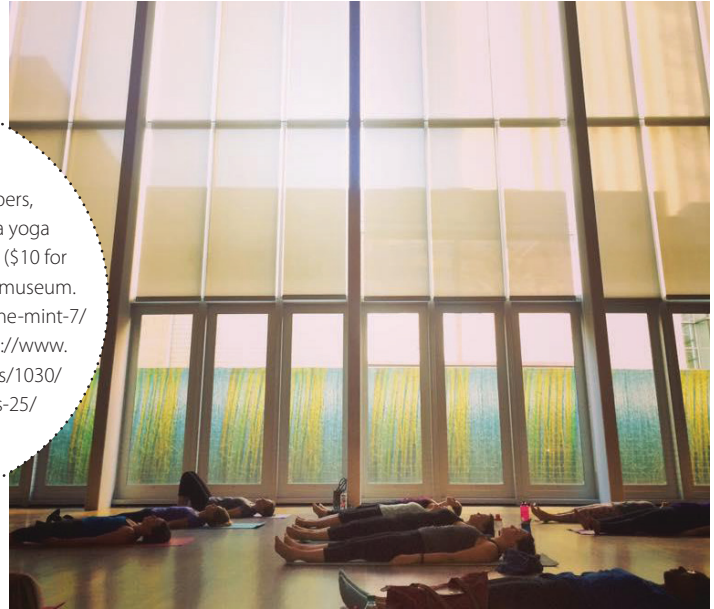
Admission to Gantt After Dark is free depending on the night, and upcoming nights in the series can be found at <http://www.ganttcenter.org/calendar/>



Wine on Wednesdays

Save, sip, and sashay around the Mint. Every Wednesday night from 5 to 9, the Mint Museum gives the public free gallery access! In addition to appeasing your budget, Wine on Wednesdays has live music and— you guessed it— a wine cash bar. Peruse exhibits like “Pumped: The Art of Shoemaking” with a merlot, and sip on a sauvignon blanc while visiting the “Grainer Collection” of contemporary British studio ceramics. For further incentives to give yourself a mid-week reward, WOW nights also offer savings on merchandise from the Uptown shop and free wine refills. If you’re feeling particularly spunky, you can also enjoy an hour long yoga class at 5:30 during the weekly event! If you visit the gallery in your yoga get up, you’ll get an extra 5% off that night’s shopping special. After all, where else can you admire ancient warrior art right after doing warrior poses yourself?

Yoga is free for mint members, and non-members can buy a yoga passport through NC Yoga Bar (\$10 for a single class) <http://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/1065/yoga-at-the-mint-7/> For more information visit <http://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/1030/wow-wine-on-wednesdays-25/>



The next concert is Thursday, September 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and admission is \$15 for Mint members and \$20 for non-members— for more information check out <https://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/806/latin-american-music-concert/>

Latin Music Concert Series

Lose yourself in Latin rhythms and salsa the night away at the Mint Museum’s Latin Music Concert Series. Feedback about the series has been incredible, as the audience loves the local artists who perform. The concerts see a diverse group of guests, but they all share a common thread: a love for Latin American music. From classical to tango, flamenco to samba, Latin jazz to contemporary beats, music from all over Latin America resonates through the evening air.

“The mission with this concert series has been to share the diversity and beauty of music from different regions of Latin America and Spain, beyond what is already known, and feature at every concert musical gems that are sometimes not known outside the countries where those were composed,” Claudia Soria says, the Latino Community PR Manager for the museum.

Although the concert series focuses on music, other art forms at the concerts are included as well, such as poetry, dance, and art exhibitions by Latin American artists that relate to the theme of the concert. There is a cash bar at the event, and children 12 and up are welcome. So put on your dancing shoes and have some samba-rific fun!

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