

**The Musical and Creative Arts:
The Compass Music and Arts Center**

A visit to Brandon would not be complete without a trip to the Compass Music and Arts Center. Once part of the former Brandon Training School, the 52,000 square foot building is being transformed into a thriving arts locale. The Center offers a steadily growing range of exhibits, performances, programs, and workshops celebrating music and the creative arts. It includes a 250-seat performance hall for live music, dance performances,



Compass Music

art exhibits, and community functions, as well as a children's activity room and studios that offer artists an inspiring space to create and showcase their work.

For lovers of great and rare music the Compass Center houses the international classical music company, Divine Art Recordings Group, with a catalog of over 400 classical and jazz CDs and DVDs. For lovers of vintage music and old phonographs, radios, and televisions, the Compass Center has a Phonograph and Radio Museum that tells the story of home entertainment from the 1880s through the present day. Small admission charge.

Search the Compass Treasure Chest and Bagatelles for that unusual find or the Compass Bookstore for books on music and other topics. Visit the Otter Valley Model Railway Room which explains the historical scope and impact the railroad has made in Brandon and surrounding areas. View the Gute Stube, an authentic 1930s German parlor, and buy fresh Vermont goods at the Farmers' Market within the Center.

Compass is open daily from 10-5 p.m. with Heart and Soul Café serving lunch, coffee, and freshly baked goods (Tues-Sat). Compass is located in Park Village, off Arnold District Road, just north of downtown Brandon. See the website cmacvt.org for updates.



Brandon Music

More Musical Arts: Brandon Music

Surrounded by open countryside, Brandon Music is housed in a beautiful historic barn (a former gallery of folk artist Warren Kimble). It offers intimate weekly live concerts of many types of music including classical, jazz, folk, and traditional. A pre-concert dinner option is available. Many of the famous musicians who have played here, such as the world-renowned pianist Andreas Boyde and Vermont favorite Sarah Blacker, highly recommend it to other musicians, as Brandon Music is known for its attentive, appreciative, and receptive audiences, and its exceptional acoustics. It lies at the junction of Rt. 73 and Country Club Road, opposite the Neshobe Golf Course. Call 802-247-4295 or visit the website brandon-music.net.

The Written Arts: Book & Leaf Bookstore

Browse works by several local authors and poets, other Vermont authors, and a broad selection of books, while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and freshly baked goods. 10 Park St. Visit bookandleaf.com for details.



THE ART AND SOUL
OF VERMONT
BRANDON, VERMONT



Cover photos (clockwise): Liza Myers, Brandon Music, Brandon Town Hall, BAG

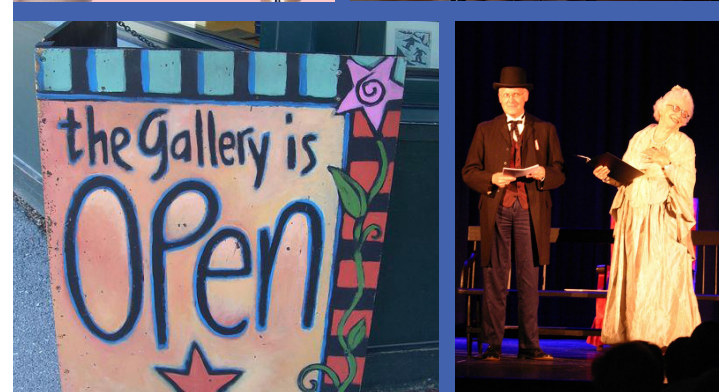


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BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE THE ARTS

THE ARTS IN BRANDON

Brandon is a rich, vibrant, and varied center for the Arts and has much to offer those with a creative spirit. Home to many highly regarded artists—including the nationally renowned folk artist Warren Kimble—as well as actors, dancers, authors, poets, musicians, and an international classical and jazz recording company, Brandon is known as “The Art and Soul of Vermont.” Brandon offers visitors a diverse arts experience by hosting many performances, exhibits, attractions, activities, and workshops that can be enjoyed year round.



Nationally renowned folk artist Warren Kimble working in his studio.

Warren Kimble

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE:

The Visual Arts: Brandon Artists Guild

More than 40 of the area's talented artists exhibit and sell their works at the Brandon Artists Guild, affectionately called “The BAG”. The beautiful BAG gallery at 7 Center Street is open to the public 6 days a week throughout the year (free admission; closed Mondays) and displays numerous works—for viewing and for purchase—by Guild artists working in many media: paintings in oil, acrylics, water, and giclee; arts in wood, metal, ceramics, and paper; jewelry, and other assorted arts of every description. No tour of Vermont's galleries is complete without a visit to this very special community of artists whose reputations extend far beyond the borders of Vermont. For general information, including hours, detailed information on all the artists, and information on visiting other artists' galleries around town, visit brandonartistsguild.org.



Stacie Mincher



BAG

The Performing Arts: Brandon Town Hall and Community Center

The grand and historic Brandon Town Hall was built in 1861 and its first use was the gathering place for Union soldiers leaving to fight in the Civil War. It subsequently became a destination point for Brandon and surrounding communities. As one of the largest buildings in town and situated in the center of Brandon, it is more than a landmark; it is an important community resource intimately tied to Brandon's history and its future.



Brandon Town Hall



The Brandon Town Players performing *Kilroy Was Here*.

Due to neglect and disrepair, the town closed the hall in 1981, but in 1998 The Friends of The Brandon Town Hall was established as a volunteer corps of concerned citizens to rebuild, restore, and renovate Town Hall. It is now a vibrant and exciting center of town activities.

The large upper hall hosts a variety of events from May to October, with something scheduled almost every weekend. Recent events for children included Tom Joyce (magician), The No Strings Marionette Company, Backpacktheater, Jon Gailmor, and Encore Theater. The most popular event is the monthly original silent movies on our big screen with accompanying live music. Among many other performances and events are the Middlebury College Community Chorus, Drum Journeys of Earth, an annual Talent Show, an eclectic variety of bands featuring everything from Vermont Folk Music to Big Band Jazz, and theater productions by The Brandon Town Players. Town Hall also hosts 20+ vendors during the towns' Moonlight Madness Celebration the first week of December. The facility may be rented for weddings, birthday and anniversary parties, dances, and other private events.



Brandon Town Hall

For more information about Brandon Town Hall or the summer schedule, visit brandontownhall.org. The Schedule of Events brochure is available during the summer season at the Brandon Visitor Center in the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, in stores around town, and in Brandon's local weekly newspaper, The Reporter. You can also visit Town Hall on Facebook, contact them at info@brandontownhall.org, or call 802-247-5420.