



Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! Hopefully we are on our way to a healthier and brighter year. We are happy to start the year with five articles on colorful museum gems, including the Eric Carle (think Hungry Caterpillar) Museum at Amherst; the colorful and revealing Tenement Museum in New York City's lower East Side; the Delaware Art Museum that highlights the illustrator Howard Pyle and the Norman Rockwell Museum near Stockbridge. We also seem to take a trip back in time to a contemporary jewel of living history: Little Sweden of the Plains in Lindsborg Kansas.

Our mission is to write about arts and cultural organizations that are integral to their communities and important multipliers of talent and skills and build ties, connections and spirit. We also focus on talented artists and professionals who not only perform but also work in the arts. The Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit organization that helps and guides arts organizations – fledgling and otherwise – has created a brightly painted pinwheel showing the how the arts strengthen and build community. Take a spin and click on the various sections. <https://www.americansforthearts.org/socialimpact>

If you like what you read, please forward to friends and they can subscribe at [www.sideofculture.com](http://www.sideofculture.com) where you can find us online.

Thank you for joining us!

Victoria Larson

### The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers

More than a nostalgic step back to childhood favorites, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, on the campus of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, is also a fascinating window into the sources of inspiration and the working methods of an artist. This bright, colorful, upbeat exploration of an illustrator's world, although focused on juvenile literature, is not just for children. [Read on](#)



### Sharing Immigrants' Stories at New York's Tenement Museum

By Linda Cabasin

While many house museums in America present the lives of famous or wealthy individuals, the Tenement Museum on New York City's Lower East Side has a different, equally important mission. It preserves the modest apartments of ordinary immigrants and migrants from around the world who sought to create a better life and community for themselves in New York from the 1860s to the 1970s. [Read on](#)



### Norman Rockwell Museum: Chronicling American Life

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers and Stillman Rogers

One of America's most widely recognized artists even nearly a half-century after his death, Norman Rockwell lived and worked in the Berkshires region of western Massachusetts for the last 25 years of his life. His legacy is preserved and celebrated there in the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, which holds the world's largest collection of his original artworks. [Read on](#)



### Lindsborg, Kansas: Little Sweden of the Plains

By Cynthia Elyce Rubin, Ph.D.

Following in the footsteps of its resourceful founders, today's Lindsborg artfully blends old traditions with the forces of modern life. Settled by Swedish immigrants in the 1860s, nestled in the Smoky Valley, this community of about 3,500, proudly displays its Swedish heritage and love of the arts. [Read on](#)



### Delaware Art Museum – Giving Illustrators their Due

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers

Museums rarely accord the works – even the originals – of illustrators the same prestige they would give an oil painting of equal artistic merit. This makes the Delaware Art Museum, in Wilmington, a refreshing oasis for those who appreciate the illustrator's art. [Read on](#)



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