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April , 2009  
For May/June issue of NC Festivals

News Release: Visit the Culture of Inside Africa in Rocky Mount This Spring.

The Imperial Centre for Arts & Sciences is a 150,000-square-foot downtown cultural facility. Along with the Children's Museum & Science Center, the complex also contains ten art galleries in The Arts Center, a 305-seat Theater and gallery retail shop.

The Cummins digital planetarium has daily laser light celebrations great for kid's and educational planetarium events on how the night skies have influenced world history. The CMSA galleries are exhibiting INSIDE AFRICA through December 2009. This 6,000 square foot exhibit through selected snapshots offers a deeper understanding of Africa from historical and contemporary perspectives. Animal habitats with Mae the alligator, Lizzie, a 15-foot Burmese python and a living marsh touch tank are also included in a small admission charge.

The Art Center is showcasing the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Juried Art Exhibition presenting works from across the nation in a fine arts and crafts exhibition through September 13th. Additional exhibitions through June include Piedmont potters; Dewane Frutiger – black-and-white photography; Holly Fischer – clay figurative work; and the gallery shop retailing handmade crafts from the Southeast.

The Imperial Centre for Arts & Sciences is located at 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount. A small admission for the Children's Museum and planetarium. The Art Center is free.

During the first full weekend of May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, everyone comes out for the Blooming Festival when Nashville, the county seat, celebrates the coming of Spring with a family weekend of great food, handmade local crafts, live music and children's rides and activities. Sponsored by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce 252-459-4050.

Rounding out the May events, the Pro bowlers return to Rocky Mount May 1-3<sup>rd</sup> for the PBA Southern Region Pro-Am Tournament. A family-atmosphere bowling weekend, you can bowl with the pros on Friday and be a fan on Saturday and Sunday cheering on your favorite Regional Pro during top notch competition.

The Dunn Center at North Carolina Wesleyan College presents the "Color of Justice" performing May 4<sup>th</sup> - a compelling story of a brilliant fighter for human rights and a courageous little girl taking on the doctrine of separate but equal. The box office can be reached at 252-985-5197.

Also at Wesleyan College, the Four Sisters Gallery exhibits the Lynch Collection of Outsider Art. In the Mims Gallery is an exhibition of landscapes by Janet Harper and selections from the permanent gallery.

For kids of all ages Sunset Park with the antique carousel, bug ride and miniature train is open weekends through May and begins a full schedule in June. The new Nash Area Farmers Market offers locally grown fruits and vegetables, homemade jams & pickles, fresh flowers and crafts on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Almost every weekend through November Rocky Mount continues to be filled with the competition of baseball and softball as players from all over the Southeast compete for trophies and bragging rights at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex. Schedules are on-line and at 252 972 1151. Come watch the best compete at our house. Look for soccer in the Fall.

Early July offers two of the areas largest Independence Day celebrations. Rocky Mount celebrates July 3<sup>rd</sup> with live music, food and of course a fireworks finale. On July 4<sup>th</sup> Castalia has a day of great events including a parade, craft and food vendors, classic cars and finishes the day with spectacular fireworks.

It's easy to see that Nash County is the place to be in May and June. Visit and enjoy the events as well as good old "Southern Hospitality." For more information visit [www.rockymounttravel.com](http://www.rockymounttravel.com) or call the Nash County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-849-6825.