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Here are 6 Detroit arts and culture things to watch for in 2026

Detroit's arts and culture scene was nothing but eventful this year.

From the openings of the [Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park](#) and the [Museum of Illusions](#), the [cancellation of Noel Night](#) and the [creation of its replacement](#), to the debut of the [AfroFuture festival](#) there was a lot of good (and sometimes disappointing) news in 2025.

Next year is promising to be just as exciting, with Detroit continuing to prove that it's one of the country's top destinations when it comes to arts and culture.

Institutions like the Heidelberg Project are celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2026, the Movement festival has released a partial lineup that includes many Detroit techno giants, and the Motown Museum is set to complete its years-long expansion by the end of the year.

Here are six arts and entertainment news and events to keep in mind for 2026:

Two Detroit arts institutions celebrating milestone anniversaries

Outdoor art installation The Heidelberg Project is entering its 40th year in 2026, while the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is celebrating 20 years in Midtown. When [interviewed by BridgeDetroit in September](#), Heidelberg Project founder Tyree Guyton and former Heidelberg President and CEO Jenenne Whitfield didn't have much to say about the organization's plans for its anniversary, except that there will "probably be lots of celebratory events" on the streets in Detroit's McDougall Hunt neighborhood. In addition, Heidelberg has been hosting its "Second Saturdays" series where people can get together for a day of art and live entertainment. That is expected to continue into 2026, Whitfield said. Lately, Guyton is focused on his newest exhibition, "Heidelbergology: Is It Art Now?," which is showing at the [John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin](#). The display is open until Feb. 15.

Meanwhile, MOCAD's main building has been closed since August [as it undergoes renovations](#). The project will focus on infrastructure upgrades, including HVAC improvements, and will feature a redesigned Woodward Avenue facade with a new public window display, said Jova Lynne, MOCAD's co-director/artistic director. The project is expected to be completed early next year, with the museum set to reopen on April 24. The anniversary year will feature exhibitions from artists Carole Harris and Martha Mysko, along with the first museum retrospective of Detroit artist Olayami Dabls, the founder of [MBAD African Bead Museum](#).