Eureka!
And so begins the excitement of spring blossoming into the full glory that Maine displays like no other. And also begins a flurry of arts events, where we juggle what to see or hear on any given night for the next six months, until we embrace the holiday season and then finally hibernate again.

Portland’s arts scene sizzles year round with Music, Literary, Theatre, and Arts Festivals. May 2-4 is the last weekend for Maine Playwrights Festival at Portland Stage, and next door don’t miss the last few nights of The Third Hand: Surrendering to Process, at Able Baker. Check out an open call for their summer exhibition, deadline May 24.

Start out the month dancing on May 1 at Sun Tiki with great local bands like Peach Hat. On First Friday, celebrate the new Indigo Arts Alliance’s grand opening on Cove Street. Support the framers & artists at Casco Bay Frames in their new employee group exhibition. Check out Hotline at SPACE, and the C.J. Rasmussen exhibit across the street at Mechanics’ Hall before skipping down to see Flora and Fauna at Maine Potter’s Market.

On Thursday, May 2, the Pihcintu Multi-national Chorus will host a concert and CD release celebration at First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, at 5:30pm. The free event will feature a live performance by Pihcintu, a multi-national choral group, founded and directed by award-winning Portland musician and songwriter, Con Fullam. Pihcintu represents 34 Portland students from over 21 countries, who will welcome over 50 members of the Chicago Children’s Choir. A photo opportunity featuring both groups will take place at 5pm on the steps of City Hall.

“One Journey, Many Roads”
A Portland Concert & Pihcintu CD Release Celebration

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May 2 | 5:30pm | First Parish Church | pihcintu.org

“Into the Nation: Recent Works by Norajean Ferris”

Paintings, pastels and drawings by Norajean Ferris. Norajean started drawing and painting about when she started walking. She earned a BFA in 2015 from Green Mountain College and is a member of the Union of Maine Visual Artists. norajeanferris.com

Opening reception during May’s First Friday Art Walk, May 3rd from 5-8pm.
May 3-31 | UMVA Gallery @ Portland Media Center
Norajean Ferris

Creative Portland’s mission is to support the creative economy through the arts by providing essential resources, by fostering partnerships, and by promoting Portland’s artistic talents and cultural assets. As the official nonprofit arts agency, we support economic development efforts by strengthening and stimulating our workforce, creative industries, and enterprises.

Creative Portland | 84 Free Street | 207-370-4784 | info@creativeportland.com | creativeportland.com

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“Never worry about your heart till it stops beating.”
E. B. White

May 3 | 6-7pm | Mechanics’ Hall
mainemechanics.org

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Indigo Arts Alliance Opening Weekend

Indigo Arts Alliance (IAA) builds global connections by bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds of the African Diaspora to engage in their creative process with an opportunity to serve as both mentors and mentees. An integral aspect of the Indigo vision: to provide Maine based artists of African descent access to a broader range of practicing Black artists and other underrepresented artists of color from around the world.

Opening Night Party
May 3 | 5-8pm | Indigo Arts Alliance
Black, Brown + Indigo Film Series
IAA in partnership with SPACE is bringing the power of Black storytelling to Maine. This series of narrative and documentary features and short films highlights the diversity and complexity of Black lives across the Diaspora. It seeks to bring Portland-area audiences together across communities, using cinema as a means to deepen their knowledge and understanding of African, Caribbean, South American, and African-American culture.
May 3-5 | SPACE
indigoartsalliance.me

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“Ballet Bloom Project

Various! A First Friday Variety Show

Mechanics’ Hall’s new First Friday performance series will feature performers from a variety of genres in an hour-long show set in the Grand Ballroom. Guests can come and go or stay for the entire hour. The inaugural show will feature five performers: The Shank Painters, a pirate-themed folk music trio; Ballet Bloom Project’s “The Shape of Relativity”; a contemporary ballet duet choreographed by Rose Hutchins; The Good Guys, performing four of their original tunes; Johnoah Balin, whose inventive juggling and performance acts are very attantive to the audience; and Brie Hinman’s “Mourning Glory”, an other-worldly modern-contemporary piece, performed by 16 dancers, exploring the relationship between dreaming and memory.

May 3 | 5-8pm | Creative Portland
creativeportland.com
Join in a free self-guided tour of local art galleries, art studios, museums, and alternative art venues on the first Friday of every month from 5 to 8pm.