

**Somerville Bicycle Committee's 19th Annual Tour de Somerville:
Arts in the 'Ville - Saturday, October 15, 2011 (revised 12/12/2011)**

This bike tour visits places throughout Somerville where art is produced, exhibited, or performed. We'll be stopping at the places marked with *asterisks* .

START in Seven Hills Park, behind the Holland St entrance to Davis Square MBTA station. Exit park to Holland St. On your left, across the street, is

1. Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant & Music Club, 17 Holland St. (JohnnyDs.com)
Presents a variety of local and national jazz, blues, rock, folk, and other musical artists.

Turn right onto Holland St and ride through Davis Square. In order, you will pass

2. Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square (SomervilleTheatreOnline.com). Five movie screens, as well as live concerts and other stage shows in the 900-seat main theatre, which opened in 1914. Also contains a 31-seat "Micro-cinema" and a branch of the **Museum of Bad Art (MuseumOfBadArt.org)**. Many of the concerts here are presented by **World Music (WorldMusic.org)**. Each spring, the Somerville Theatre is the primary venue for the **Independent Film Festival of Boston (IFFBoston.org)**. In March 2012, Somerville's community theatre company **Theatre@First (TheatreAtFirst.org)** will present *Pride and Prejudice* on the Somerville' Theatre's main stage.

3. Inside-Out Gallery , in the windows of CVS at One Davis Square, features local artists. The Somerville Arts Council (**SomervilleArtsCouncil.org**) curates these exhibits, which usually change monthly.

4. Davis Square Theatre, 255 Elm St (DavisSquareTheatre.com), in the basement of Foundry, reopened in November 2011 after four years of disuse. It was formerly Jimmy Tingle's Off-Broadway theatre.

5. The Burren, 247 Elm St (Burren.com) features primarily Irish and acoustic live music, in two separate rooms. It also hosts the **Saturday Local Artist Market (Burren.com/SLAM.html)** on some Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.

Fork left onto Summer St. On your left you will see

6. Rosebud Bar and Lounge, 381 Summer St (RosebudBarDavis.com). Back room behind the Rosebud Diner features local bands.

On your right, at the intersection of Elm and Russell streets, you will see

7. Urban Promise Church, 52 Russell St, technically across the city line in Cambridge. The church has hosted community theatre productions from **Theatre@First (TheatreAtFirst.org)** and **Post-Meridian Radio Players (PMRP.org)**.

Continuing down Summer St, you will pass (on your left)

8. Sprout, 339R Summer St [a converted garage in the back] (TheSprouts.org). a community education and research organization devoted to creating and supporting the community-driven learning, teaching, and investigation of science. They also hold monthly spaghetti dinners, presenting a variety of performers exploring a common theme.

Turn left on Cedar St, then left again on Highland Ave. On your right, you will pass

9. Prince Gallery, 361B Highland Ave (ThePrinceGallery.com), a tiny little poster gallery and framing shop.

Turn right on Whipple St. On your left, you will pass

10. Q Division, 363 Highland Ave (QDivision.com), a recording studio and record label.

Continue along the driveway around the NStar building. Turn left on Willow Ave, then immediately right onto the Somerville Community Path. At the end of the path, turn right on Cedar St. On your left you will pass

11. Prince Artist Studios, 145 Cedar St. A row of small artists' studios in a former garage. Visit them during Somerville Open Studios (SomervilleOpenStudios.org) in May.

Turn left on Highland Ave. You will pass all of the following places on your left:

12. Ruchika Madan Tableware + Tile, 259 Highland Ave. (RuchikaMadan.com) A ceramic artist producing decorative and functional pottery and handmade tiles.

13. Jade Moran Jewelry, 257 Highland Ave. (JadeMoran.com) Custom hand-made jewelry.

14. e. scott originals, 199b Highland Ave. (escottoriginals.com) Hand-crafted jewelry by Emily Scott.

15. Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. (ArtsAtTheArmory.org) Performances, special events, and visual art exhibits throughout the year. The Armory is also home to the **New England Folk Music Archives (NewEnglandFolkMusic.org)** who hold their monthly Folk Bridges Salon Series on the first Wednesday of each month. NEFMA shares basement space with Mark Sandman's recording studio and record label, Hi-N-Dry.

Turn right on Benton Road, left on Gibbens St, right on Central St. You will pass Central Street Studios on your left, and the Somerville Museum on your right.

16. Central Street Studios, 57 Central St. This building contains many artists' studios. Visit them during Somerville Open Studios (SomervilleOpenStudios.org) in May.

17. Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road (SomervilleMuseum.org) presents exhibitions featuring local visual arts, history and culture. The museum also hosts an early music series on a few Sunday afternoons from November to April.

Turn left on Summer St, right on Laurel St, left on Somerville Ave, immediately right on Properzi Way, and left on Tyler St.

* **18. Artisan's Asylum, 10 Tyler St (ArtisansAsylum.org)** A non-profit community craft studio, offering working space and classes to the public to encourage do-it-yourself culture and community craftsmanship. Contains a metal shop, woodworking shop, welding facilities, fabric studio, electronics assembly shop, and more. Artisan's Asylum is also home base for Somerville's art-bike gang **SCUL (SCUL.org)**

At end of Tyler St, turn left on Dane St, then immediately right on (unmarked) Frost St. Turn left onto another unmarked street that passes through the old American Tube Works industrial complex. On your right as you make the left turn is

19. Paper and Provisions Warehouse building, 438 Somerville Ave, which contains a number of artists' and musicians' studios.

Turn right on Somerville Ave, left on Quincy St. Near the end of Quincy St, on the left, is

20. Katherine Martin Widmer School of Painting, 40 Quincy St offers painting classes for kids and adults. No web site, but you can read about them at http://somervillenews.typepad.com/the_somerville_news/2005/02/widmer_teaches_.html .

Turn right on Summer St, right on Church St, left on Somerville Ave. You will now pass a series of clubs and restaurants that feature live music. (Odd addresses on left, even on right.)

21. Radio, 379 Somerville Ave. (<https://www.facebook.com/radiosomerville>) Brand-new club features local bands. Formerly the site of Club Choices.

22. Bull McCabe's, 366A Somerville Ave. (BullMcCabesBoston.com)

23. PA's Lounge, 345 Somerville Ave. (PAsLounge.com)

24. Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave (SallyOBriensBar.com)

25. Machu Picchu, 307 Somerville Ave (MachuPicchuBoston.com) Peruvian restaurant features live Andean music on Friday nights (only).

Three more points of artistic interest on the right, just before we get to the center of Union Square:

26. Third Life Studio, 33 Union Square (ThirdLifeStudio.com) A performance, teaching, and rehearsal space for music, dance, and other artistic and spiritual practices. Home to the monthly OpenSound series of experimental and avant-garde musical performances (**OpenSound.org**)

27. Creative Union Gallery, 29A Union Square (CreativeUnionGallery.org) Sells original paintings, crafts, jewelry, and other creations by artists with disabilities at Somerville's Walnut Street Center and Medford's Outside The Lines Studio. (Formerly called "It's a Gift")

28. Somerville Grooves, 26 Union Square (SomervilleGrooves.com) Somerville's only record store. Vinyl lives!

We will shortly turn right on Washington St to leave Union Square, but first, here are some other Union Square art-related venues that we won't be riding directly by:

29. Bloc 11 Cafe, 11 Bow St (Bloc11.com) Coffeehouse with live music on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

30. Dance Union, 16 Bow St. Weekly dance classes in Tango, Salsa, Line Dance, Zumba, Blues. Weekly dancing and monthly social dancing with exhibitions and performances. Home to **Tango Society of Boston (BostonTango.org)** and **Blues Union Boston (BluesUnionBoston.com)**

31. Hub Comics, 19 Bow St (HubComics.com) "The comic book shop for NPR listeners"

32. Precinct, 70 Union Square (PrecinctBar.com) Live music club and restaurant.

33. Design Annex, 66 Union Square (DAnnex.org), above Precinct. A co-working space with a focus on the needs of the design industry.

34. Union Square outdoor plaza, in front of Precinct, is home to many ArtsUnion events throughout the summer and early fall, most notably the annual "What the Fluff?" festival. Events are sponsored by the Somerville Arts Council (**SomervilleArtsCouncil.org/programs/artsunion**) and Union Square Main Streets (**UnionSquareMain.org**).

35. Somerville Community Access Television, 90 Union Square (Access-SCAT.org) in the old fire station facing the plaza. Houses the SCATV Art Gallery with monthly exhibits by local artists, TV and video production, and **BostonFreeRadio.com**, an Internet radio station.

36. Starlab, 32 Prospect St. A recording and rehearsal studio in a nondescript warehouse building in a junk metal yard. Starlab also very occasionally holds indoor and outdoor concerts.

Turn right onto Washington St, then right again onto Hawkins St, left on Lake St, left again into Olive Square.

* **37. Fringe, 9 Olive Square (FringeUnion.com)** a multidisciplinary co-working space, home to thirteen small businesses and artists' studios (including two bicycle frame builders). Next door is Metro Pedal Power, a bicycle-powered delivery service.

Turn around, exit Olive Square, turn right on Lake St, right on Hawkins St, right on Washington St.

*** 38. Washington Street Art Center and Gallery 321 (WashingtonSt.org)** Artists' studios and a public art gallery with monthly-changing exhibits, open on Saturday afternoons. Washington Street participates in Somerville Open Studios each spring, and also holds its own open studios in early December.

Immediately after Washington Street Art Center, turn left on Perry St, then left onto Lincoln Park walkway, which becomes Lincoln Parkway. Right on Joseph St, left on Newton St, right on Webster Ave, left on Columbia St. Go straight onto Windsor Place (past #70 - **561 Windsor Street**), and straight again into Boynton Yards Technology Park driveway and parking lot.

39. JamSpot, 111 South St (JamSpot.com) Rehearsal and recording studio.

Exit parking lot, right on Earle St, left on South St, left on Harding St, right on Ward St, left on Medford St, right at Glass Stop onto 'lower' McGrath Highway road (do not climb ramp onto the actual highway). Continue under the highway to ...

*** 40. Brickbottom Artists' Building and Gallery, One Fitchburg St (Brickbottom.org)** One of the nation's oldest live-work artist communities, in a former A&P grocery cannery and bakery. Open Studios are the weekend before Thanksgiving (in conjunction with nearby Joy Street Studios). A few Brickbottom artists also participate in Somerville Open Studios in May. Brickbottom Gallery has changing exhibits year-round and is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

Turn left on Chestnut St, which becomes Joy St. On your right you will reach

*** 41. Joy Street Studios, 86 Joy St (JoyStreetStudios.com and JoyStreetArtists.org)** Many non-residential artist studios in a former warehouse. Open Studios are the weekend before Thanksgiving (in conjunction with nearby Brickbottom). Joy Street artists also participate in Somerville Open Studios in May.

At end of Joy St, turn right on Washington St, left on Tufts St, right on Glen St, right on Pearl St, left on Franklin St. At the end of Franklin St, you will be facing

*** 42. Mudflat, 81 Broadway (Mudflat.org)** Pottery studios and school, newly moved into the former Broadway Theatre. Mudflat has an open studio and sale in early December, and another one in May in conjunction with Somerville Open Studios.

Go west on Broadway (past **68E - Somerville Public Library East Branch**), left on Glen St, right on Pearl St. Just after you cross McGrath Highway, on your right, you'll see

43. Mudville, 181 Pearl St (NanHamilton.com/mudville) Another, much smaller pottery studio and school.

Continuing down Pearl St, you'll pass two large artists' studio buildings on opposite sides of the street. Visit both during Somerville Open Studios (SomervilleOpenStudios.org) in May.

44. Pearl Street Studios, 226 Pearl St.

45. Mad Oyster Studios, 2 Bradley St (MadOysterStudios.org) has about 20 artists working in a wide range of media.

At end of Pearl St, bear right on Medford St, turn left on School St, right on Richdale Ave, right on Sycamore St, left on Pembroke St, which crosses Central St and becomes Vernon St. On your left are the massive Rogers Foam factory buildings, which contain

* **46. Vernon Street Studios, 6 and 20 Vernon St (VernonStreet.com)** have been holding Open Studios since 1974, now twice a year. They participate in Somerville Open Studios (SomervilleOpenStudios.org) each May, and hold their own separate open studios in early November.

Continue west on Vernon St, right on Trull St, left on Medford St. On your left is

47. Daniel Maher Stained Glass, 500 Medford St (DMStainedGlass.com) can create new stained glass art or restore existing works. They also offer classes.

Continue northwest on Medford Street into Magoun Square. Turn left on Broadway, and ride to Ball Square, where you will see, on opposite sides of the street

48. The Book Shop, 694 Broadway (BookShopSomerville.com) Somerville's only bookstore. Mostly used books.

49. Blue Cloud Gallery, 713 Broadway (BlueCloudGallery.com) sells arts and crafts by local artists.

Turn left on Willow Ave, right on Kidder Ave, left on Liberty Ave, right on Francesca Ave. On your left at the end of Francesca is

50. Unity Somerville, 6 William St. (UnitySomerville.org) This church hosts community theatre productions from **Theatre@First (TheatreAtFirst.org)**, **Post-Meridian Radio Players (PMRP.org)**, and other local companies. Unity also hosts folk concerts presented by **notloB Music (<https://sites.google.com/site/notlobmusic/>)**

Turn right on College Ave. On your right, in a former Masonic hall, is

51. Museum of Modern Renaissance, 115 College Ave (Mod-Ren.com) is the private home and studio of Russian artists Nicholas Shaplyko and Ekaterina Sorokina, who have covered the walls and ceiling with their colorful paintings. It is usually open to the public during Somerville Open Studios in May, and they also occasionally hold classical music concerts here.

Continue north on College Avenue, through the Powderhouse rotary (take the third exit). Turn left on Talbot Avenue to enter Tufts University.

52. Tufts University Granoff Music Center, 20 Talbot Ave. (as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter) hosts over 180 concerts each year, many of them free of charge. They also offer music classes to the public for children and adults.

53. Tufts University Art Gallery, in the Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Ave. (http://ase.tufts.edu/gallery/) has changing exhibits throughout the year. Aidekman also contains two performance venues, Cohen Auditorium and the Balch Arena Theatre. For the Tufts drama program schedule, see <http://ase.tufts.edu/drama-dance/performances/drama.asp>.

Continue west on Talbot Ave. Turn left on Latin Way. At end of Latin Way, continue straight on walkway. Where it ends, turn right on Powderhouse Blvd. On your right, you will see Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, which hosts both the Nave Gallery and Parts and Crafts.

54. Nave Gallery, 155 Powder House Blvd (NaveGallery.org) presents changing exhibits throughout the year.

55. Parts and Crafts, 155 Powder House Blvd (PartsAndCrafts.org) run hands-on creative arts, science, and engineering programs for kids and adults to help people learn and do and make things.

Continue west on Powder House Blvd. Turn left on Hardan Rd, right on Ware St, right on Russell Rd, left on Hamilton Rd, left on Barton St, left on Broadway.

56. craftLAB, 1267 Broadway (CraftLabStore.com) An experimental craft studio where new product designs (jewelry, accessories, homegoods) are created in store.

Continue east on Broadway to Teele Square, then bear right on Holland Street to return to Davis Square where the ride ends. While in Davis, you may also want to visit...

57. Magpie, 416 Highland Ave. (Magpie-Store.com) Retail store selling works by independent artists from Somerville and beyond.

58. Comicazi, 407 Highland Ave. (Comicazi.com) Comic book store.

Try as we might, we couldn't put every art-related place along our bike tour route. Here are some others worth knowing about:

59. Behind The Mask Studio, 6 Campbell Park Place (Rear) (BehindTheMask.org) creates custom-made masks, works with theatrical performances that use the masks, and offers classes in mask-making and performance.

60. Elizabeth Peabody House, 277 Broadway (ElizabethPeabodyHouse.org/comm_space.html) has a theatre in a former church sanctuary. It once had a resident theatre company, but the space is now used only sporadically.

61. Miller Street Studios, 11 Miller St (MillerStreetStudios.net) Artists' studios in a former coffin factory. They usually hold open studios only in the spring of odd-numbered years, so probably not in 2012. Also contains **Abrazos Press (AbrazosPress.com)**, a professional and teaching studio for printmaking

62. Mixit Print Studio, 32 Clifton St (MixitPrint.com) A professional monoprint/intaglio studio in Somerville's first-ever live-work artists' building, open since 1987.

63. Muskat Studios, 193 Cedar St. (MuskatStudios.com) Professional lithography studio and gallery, offering workshops to the public.

64. No. 14 Studios. 99 Albion St (Number14Studios.com) Recording studio.

65. Samba Bar and Grill, 608 Somerville Ave (SambaBarGrill.net) Live Brazilian music.

66. Somerville Arts Council office, 50 Evergreen Ave (SomervilleArtsCouncil.org) Our city's official local cultural council, the SAC produces and supports art and culture throughout the city, including ArtBeat in Davis Square and ArtsUnion in Union Square.

67. Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave (TheGrowingCenter.org) A garden, orchard, labyrinth, and amphitheater for outdoor performances.

68C. Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave. (SomervillePublicLibrary.org) hosts a variety of lectures, art exhibits, film screenings, and other cultural events. The library has two smaller neighborhood branches: **East (68E), 115 Broadway** and **West (68W), 40 College Ave.**

69. Time Bomb Studios and Recover Records, 228 Lowell St (myspace.com/davidadammonroe and RecoverRecords.com) Recording studio and record label.

70. 561 Windsor Street, best known as the home of Taza Chocolate, also contains a number of creative businesses such as letterpress printer **Albertine Press (AlbertinePress.com)**,