



A stroll up cobblestone Chalmers Street is Charleston's other City Gallery (133 Church St., 843-958-6459), in the historic Dock Street Theatre. It specializes in experimental work by emerging visual artists. Past St. Philip's Episcopal Church is One of a Kind Gallery (164 Church St., 843-534-3774), where 6-foot oxidized-copper frogs guard the entry to whimsical blown-glass jellyfish, stained-glass kaleidoscopes and artfully functional posters. End this loop at Meeting Street, where talented artisans, including some weaving the region's sweetgrass baskets, grace the open-air Market Hall.

A second downtown loop, focusing on King Street and its cross streets, offers a good overview of South Carolina artisans. You can begin at the city's oldest fine craft cooperative, the Charleston Crafts Gallery (87 Hasell St., 843-723-2938), which features works by 25 to 30 artisans. During Piccolo Spoleto it hosts crafts events at Wegg Square.

Corner 10 (285 Meeting St., 843-853-3345) is the working studio of

Smith Kilian Fine Art displays paintings and photos by the Smith family, as well as varied sculptures. Lin Barnhardt's painted, hand-built clay model of Charleston's Circular Congregational Church is in Edward Dore Gallery.

20 ceramists. Its rich diversity of styles is the intimate gallery's strength. Raymond Clark gallery (307 King St., 843-723-7355) specializes in functional American-made craft, including Michael Bruner's sculptural glass goblets and Larry Watson's earthy, spiral-handled teapots.

On Saturdays between April and December, you could spend hours at the Farmers Market in Marion Square (King and Calhoun streets, 843-724-7309), where juried artisans rub elbows with local farmers. Also nearby, at the College of Charleston's Simons Center for the Arts, the Halber Institute of Contemporary Art (54 St. Philip St., 843-953-5680) hosts several fine international exhibitions a year, plus the "Young Contemporaries" show, which debuts works by select students.



You can end your tour by following St. Philip Street to Elizabeth Carlton's radiant ceramics studio (85 Wentworth St., 843-853-2421), which is sure to make you smile—if you aren't already. ●

No extra fee after the visit, family to Charleston, meet and art lover
ELIZABETH RUSSELL CONNELLY never tires of smiling to discuss more of the city.

► Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs estimates that more than 150 art galleries call the city home. To learn about more Charleston galleries and art-related events, visit www.americansville.com.