

## Story Ideas & Reasons to Profile Chapel Hill and Orange County, NC



### What's New in HOTELS

New 123-room **AC Hotel by Marriott** is opening soon in downtown Chapel Hill with pool, fire pit, tapas bar and underground parking. Construction began summer 2016 with November 2017 opening. <http://achotels.marriott.com/>

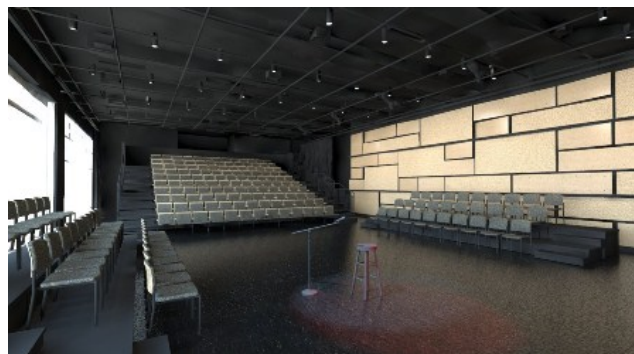
Recent addition - Chapel Hill's Southern Village's 110-room five story **Hyatt Place Hotel** which and includes 1,700 sq. ft. of meeting space opened on May 2, 2017. <https://chapelhill.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Carrboro, NC to get second Hotel. Five-story, 42,228 square-foot **Hilton Garden Inn** expects to break ground in 2018. This addition to the 300 Main East Main Street development, features 150 rooms, bar & bistro, pool and 10,000 -12,000 sq ft of meeting space. (Approved but no ground breaking date set). Will provide info, when a definite go.

### What's New in the ARTS

The \$120 million **Carolina Square** continues to grow with addition of restaurants and retail at 123 West Franklin Street. It includes one 11-story and two five-story buildings with 246 apartment units, 159,000 square feet of office space, and 42,000 square feet of retail space. The project will have landscaped green space within an urban park including public art and structured parking decks with 880 total spaces.

Franklin Street will also be the home of the new performance venue **CURRENT in Carolina Square**. It is an ArtSpace + Studio. This venue will house both an adaptable black box-style theater and a multi-purpose studio space, together totaling about 5,000 square foot. It features immersive and co-creative arts experiences, including interactive theater. **Set to OPEN February 2018. [www.carolinaperformingarts.org](http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org)**



The **Ackland Art Museum** has received its largest gift ever, donated from UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus Sheldon Peck and his wife Leena, valued at \$25 million. The unprecedented commitment includes an \$8 million endowment to support a new curator and future acquisitions. The gift of art is 134 primarily 17th-century European masterworks, valued at \$17 million, including seven works by Rembrandt van Rijn. With the Peck Collection gift, the Ackland becomes the first public university art museum in the United States to own a collection of drawings by **Rembrandt** and only the second university art museum in the nation to do so. Also Ackland Art Museum has commissioned its first major site-specific, outdoor art installation in nearly 20 years: a "stickwork" by Chapel Hill-based artist Patrick Dougherty entitled *Step Right Up*. The large-scale piece—comprised of five individual stickwork sculptures—was constructed entirely of tree saplings and is on view in front of the Ackland Art Museum through August 2018. Celebrate Ackland Art Museum's 60 anniversary in 2018. [www.ackland.org](http://www.ackland.org)

### What's New is Science

Morehead Planetarium & Science Center on the UNC Chapel Hill campus has announced a \$5.2 million expansion, **"#TakeUpSpace"**, building project to reimagine this North Carolina icon as a modern-day, technology-advanced science hub. This will be the first expansion since opening in 1949. They include moving the main entrance to the building's west end facing McCorkle Place; a modern, reconfigured lobby space; a more extensive exhibit hall that will pay tribute to UNC's history as a pioneer of science exploration; an interactive "maker space" that's part exhibit, part program; an updated science demonstration stage and expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances researchers are making in science, health and technology. More than early 60 astronauts have trained in celestial navigation at Morehead Planetarium & Science Center - including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon! As the first planetarium in the South and the only one on a university campus, Morehead would eventually receive the distinct privilege of training those early NASA astronauts between 1959 and 1975. [www.moreheadplanetarium.org](http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org)

### **New Comedy Club Opening in Downtown Chapel Hill**

- Former SNL writer is bringing comedy back to Franklin Street with the PIT Chapel Hill (People's Improv Theater) . Opening by end of 2017. <https://www.facebook.com/ThePITChapelhill>

### **What's New in Food, Brews & Farms**

#### **Blue Dogwood Public Market <http://www.bluedogwood.com/>**

This indoor food market will feature 15+ fresh food vendors, retail vendors, and pop-ups. Featured items include local beer and a butcher. The retail vendors will make unique, local food accessories, such as custom oyster knives and flavored bitters. And our temporary pop-up vendors guarantee that our market is always fresh and exciting. Browse through our diverse market, and dine on choices including empanadas, vegan wraps, Italian baked goods, charcuterie, tea, coffee, fresh juices, chocolate and more. Phase 2 includes an outdoor beer garden. **Downtown Chapel Hill, 306 West Franklin Street. Opening Early 2018.**

### **Orange County has 8 breweries, with number 9 breaking ground in 2018**

Newest brewery is farm-based, **Dingo Dog Brewing Company** (2016), North Carolina's first "non-profit" brewery. Located in an up-fitted horse barn on PlowGirl Farm, Dingo Dog strives to craft locally-conscious beers in its "zero waste" facility that features Orange County, NC produce, much of which is grown right outside our doors on the farm. With the incorporation of its parent company, Dingo Dog Charitable Trust (501c3 pending), Dingo Dog will funnel all of its profits into providing capital and operational grants to independent, "no-kill" animal sanctuaries and rescue organizations in North Carolina. Currently building a **taproom** in Carrboro, NC opening in 2018.

**COMING SOON:** New small batch nano-brewery and bottle shop, **Craftboro Brewing Depot** is breaking ground in 2018. This onsite craft brewery will also carry a select assortment of craft beer from NC and beyond. It is coming to the new 40,000 square foot multi-building, retail center in Carrboro, South Green that will be located just off Highway 54, serving as the "gateway" to the southern entry of Carrboro. <http://southgreencarrboro.com/>

**OPENED IN JULY 2017 - ORANGE COUNTY'S FIRST WINERY - Botanist and Barrel Winery in Cedar Grove, NC in northern Orange County,** NC brews, ferments and play with delicious fruits and herbs picked at the peak of ripeness to create an enjoyable experience for those that walk through their doors. Experience wine, cider, juice in the tasting room of this farm-based winery. For the inaugural 2017 season, currently open on **Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm to 5pm**. If you would like to visit us during another time, you can arrange a private tour and tasting for groups of 4 or more. <https://www.botanistandbarrel.com/>

**Chapel Hill's Award-winning Top of the Hill Distillery just added Spiced Rum to its collection of handcrafted spirits** including organic vodka, Moonshine Carolina Whiskey, Piedmont Gin and Eight Oak Carolina Whiskey created from scratch using only organic Carolina wheat and botanicals distilled in a copper pot & Columns from a 5th generation German still maker. **It's the only certified organic and local distillery in the deep South. Popular on-site tours.** <http://www.topodistillery.com/>

### **Food Accolades**

Chapel Hill is home to two 2011 James Beard Award Winners **Andrea Reusing** (Best Southeast Chef) of Lantern and the restaurant **Crook's Corner**, An American Classic. Lantern was a semi-finalist for 2013 Outstanding Restaurant in the James Beard Competition. **Aaron Vandemark, a six-time James Beard Best Southeast Chef nominee (2011-2016) and chef of Panciuto in Hillsborough** (pop 6,600). In 2017 Reusing was a semi-finalist for Outstanding Chef in the Country and **Gabe Barker, of the Pizzeria Mercato** in Carrboro, was a semi-finalist for Rising Star Chef. Bon Appetit named Pizzeria Mercato one of their three best new pizza joints in America in Fall 2016.

### **Check out Hillsborough, NC**

**Historic Hillsborough** in 2015 was a top three Coolest Small Town in America. Home to Mystery Brewery Company and the **ultra popular Riverwalk in downtown Hillsborough** is an accessible, asphalt, wooden bridges, urban greenway that stretches about 1.8 miles along the Eno River corridor between Gold Park in western Hillsborough and trails east of town. This trail for walking, jogging and cycling and provides a comprehensive pedestrian network for recreation and commuting in town. The greenway's downtown portion is the primary route for the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fall 2017 of the call for the formation of the Trail. See the reconstruction of the **Occaneechi Indian Village** along with Eno River in downtown Hillsborough.

**For a list of 2017 Holiday Events including The Carolina Inn's popular 12 days of Christmas, visit [www.visitchapelhill.org](http://www.visitchapelhill.org)**

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