

SHOP LOCAL

What's New?

MAKE.DO.

SEARCY

Nonprofit creative studio Make.Do. is in the process of moving locations after two and a half years at its original spot on Arch Street. **The studio's mission is to "develop meaningful community by offering affordable creative classes," says owner and founder Jo Ellis.** Make.Do. does this by offering classes at a "pay what you can" price point and partnering with other area organizations. Jo says the opportunity for more square footage and a more accessible studio while still being in the downtown community was the driving force behind the move.

The new location is actually two studios, which gives Make.Do. enough space to utilize one for sewing and one for everything else. "One of our most popular classes is the six-week quilting series," Jo says. "Hand embroidery, lettering, and watercolor are also popular. I try to mix in new classes with the tried-and-true ones to make sure we're always offering something different. Having two studios means even more opportunities for creativity!" Visit Make.Do.'s new studios at 119 and 121 N. Spring St. in Searcy. makedocreate.org



Photo by Ashley Parsons

ART HOUSE

JONESBORO

For Angie and Scotty Jones, the opportunity to open an art gallery in downtown Jonesboro was somewhat serendipitous. "We sold our home in March, and we happened into this lovely loft in downtown Jonesboro," Angie says. Around the same time, she started taking art classes from local artist Gussi Causey, and the two discussed the lack of venues in the city for up-and-coming artists to display their work. The space below their loft was for lease, and, seeing the opportunity for an art gallery there, Angie and Scotty decided to open Art House. **"I never dreamed the response I would receive in so little time. It was apparent this was a real need in our community."** Art House displays work by more than 20 artists, and Gussi and other instructors offer classes in the space. "We are excited to be a part of the new, diverse development happening in downtown Jonesboro," Angie says, pointing to new restaurants and on-trend axe-throwing and board game spots as examples. **"The addition of these establishments has increased traffic on Main Street, and the art gallery was a perfect supplement to the vibe."** Art House is located at 308 S. Main St. in Jonesboro. facebook.com/arhousedowntown



Photo by Rett Peek

RIVER ROCK BUILDERS

LITTLE ROCK

In July, the US Green Building Council (USGBC) announced a home in Little Rock as the winner of its first ever Project of the Year, a people's choice award selected by vote. **The home of Ann and Rick Owen, which was built by River Rock Builders and featured in At Home's June 2019 issue, was voted the winner from 12 residential projects that achieved LEED status in 2018.** The

recognition brings attention to green building in Arkansas, and River Rock Builders owner Keith Wingfield hopes this opens the door to building more energy-efficient homes in the state.

"I wish more Arkansans could see what a cleaner, more energy-efficient, and healthier home they can live in by practicing just a few key principles while building a new home," he says.

Keith became the first Certified Green Builder in Arkansas in 2007 and has since become one of the state's preeminent names in the industry. Visit our blog (athomearkansas.com/blog) for Keith's tips for building a more energy-efficient house and to read more about the Owen residence.