LIVE AND LEARN

These museums and education centers will spark a sense of wonder about the past, present and future.

BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

The main event at this Danville establishment is a rotating fleet of iconic cars, including a 1963 Ford Thunderbird concept car, 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Sedanca DeVille and 1932 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton. Other sections spotlight the spirit of the Old West, China's rich history and African art. The latest addition, World of Nature, focuses on the planet's diverse species and ecosystems. *blackhawkmuseum.org*

MUSEUM ON MAIN

Delve into Pleasanton's history with artifacts and images of the Ohlone people, Spanish and Anglo settlers, World War II's expanding population, and today's dwellers. Rotating exhibitions add layers of historical depth, while a kids' corner provides hands-on activities. *museumonmain.org*

EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Eugene O'Neill, the only American playwright to win a Nobel Prize, reached the peak of his powers at Danville's Tao House, which he built on

158 bucolic acres in 1937, and where he lived through 1944. Here, he wrote Long Day's Journey into Night and The Iceman Cometh, among other masterworks. Combining elements of Asian and Spanish design, Tao House is now a museum where you can view O'Neill's desk, manuscripts and photos; in September, the Eugene O'Neill Festival showcases live performances. nps.gov/euon, eugeneoneill.org

MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

Visitors to this restored 1891 Danville train depot can explore the lives of early Native Americans, Gold Rush settlers and their successors. *museumsrv.org*

