



Contact:
Lee Mortensen, Vice President
Downtown Greensboro Inc.
lee@downtowngreensboro.net

Altina Layman, Interim CEO, United Arts
Council of Greater Greensboro
alayman@uacARTS.org

May First Friday: May 7, 2010

Fifteen Venues Offer Sampling of Downtown Greensboro's Arts Culture

Greensboro, N.C. – Discover Downtown Greensboro's creative community on First Friday, May 7. All activities are free from 6-9pm unless otherwise noted. This evening will feature painting demonstrations, live musical performances, new art exhibits and more from more than 15 venues.

First Friday is a free, self-guided tour of Downtown Greensboro's shops, galleries and alternative arts venues that participate with **specially programmed events and extended hours** (until 9pm) on the first Friday of every month.

First Friday is an opportunity to discover the center city's local artistic community and encourages commerce and support of locally-owned, independent businesses located in Downtown. The event is promoted through a partnership between Downtown Greensboro Inc. and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro.

For further information and a downloadable map/guide, visit the First Friday Web site, www.downtownfridays.com. Visit DGI's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for daily updates.

PARTICIPATING VENUES AS OF PRESS TIME (all events are free, unless otherwise noted):

Ambleside Gallery – 528 S. Elm St.

A group show featuring wildlife paintings by Italian artist Dino Paravano, English artist Matthew Hillier and American artist Julia Rogers. Also landscape and still life paintings by Sarah Watts, Lindsay Harkness and Leigh Rodenbough, and permanently displayed are the watercolors by Chinese painter, Guan Weixing. Refreshments served.

Center City Park – 200 N. Elm St. (corner of Elm St. & Friendly Ave.)

Joining First Friday, Center City Park will liven up the heart of downtown with live music, Mischief Makers Handmade Market and activities for children every First Friday from 6 to 9pm, through October.

May 7: 6pm - [Crystal Bright and the Silver Hands](#); 7:20pm - [Amelia's Mechanics](#)

Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

Center for Visual Artists

Opening reception for "SIZE matters." This is a small work/ big work art exhibition featuring various mediums along with *Linear Interpretations*, a guest exhibition featuring local artist, John Charles Gibbs and contemporary artist, Dustin Merkamp.

****Green Hill Center for NC Art**

Exhibition for *Richard Ritter: 40 years of Glass*. Organized by the Fine Art Museum of Western Carolina University and the Toe River Arts Council, Green Hill Center for NC Art is honored to present *Richard Ritter: 40 years of Glass*. *Richard Ritter: 40 years of Glass* will include over 70 works from 1969 through 2010, including stunning selected pieces from the Grail, Florescence and Floral Core series.

Showing of *Private Collections*. *Private Collections* is a survey of artwork collected from Green Hill Center over the past three decades.

Elements Gallery – 602 South Elm St

Grand opening of North Carolina pottery and fine crafts gallery featuring 30 leading potters and glass artists from throughout the region and state. Refreshments served.

Elm Street Center – 203 S. Elm St.

Pottery and Music! Visit the Elm Street Center for an exciting pottery exhibit featuring local potter, Ann Lynch as well as musical entertainment. Full cash bar available.

High Lonesome Strings - Triad Stage – 232 S. Elm St.

Traditional local youth band **Wide Open Bluegrass** featuring Haley Owens, *banjo*; Daniel Greeson, *fiddle*; Luke Van Hine, *mandolin*; Joey Doss, *bass*; Jordan Robertson, *dobro*; and Adam Van Hine, *guitar*, of the High Lonesome Strings Bluegrass Association, will be playing bluegrass music in the lobby of Triad Stage in celebration of Downtown Greensboro Inc.'s First Friday and ArtBeat from 6-7:30pm. This portion of the concert is free and open to the public prior to the EMF Fringe event.

Indie Market - Corner of South Elm and MLK in Downtown Greensboro

An open-air market where local artists and crafts people showcase handmade and vintage items. The May market includes J Britt Gardner Pottery, Donna's Delights, Wild N Crazy Vintage and Home Brewed Art and more. Open from 4pm - 9pm.

International Civil Rights Center & Museum – 134 S. Elm St.

Celebrate African Liberation Month with the Wesley Williams Urban Dance Theater. The performance includes exuberant drumming, singing, and dancing drawn from the cultural traditions of the West African nations of Senegal, Guinea, and the Gambia.

Just Be – 352 S. Elm St.

Just Be is expanding its local artists support by hosting a local Greenhouse Artist. Mike Lambert of Greensboro will show his home grown herbs, vegetables and succulents for sale and ready to be planted. The plantings and fairy gardens are a work of art!

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon Street

Enjoy refreshments, wander through the building. Featuring over forty local artists' working studios that are open to the public. Come see potters, painters, sculptors, glass artists, metalsmiths and many other types of creative people at work in their creative spaces.

Jillian Webb will be demonstrating her painting techniques live on the stage.

Erik Beerbower will show new metal sculptures. **Charlotte and Erik Ström** will be selling signed copies of the children's book "Wishful Thinking", written by Max McNamara and illustrated by Joshua Hendry and Erik and Charlotte Ström.

Mack and Mack – 220 S. Elm St.

Experience the inscrutable musical meanderings of The F-Art Ensemble and supplemental sounds from the Dave Fox Band. The evening includes a dueling piano session between Dr. Fox and Gil Fray and possibly up to eight other players joining them before the evening's end. Refreshments served.

Old Photo Specialists – 320 S. Elm St.

Showing great ideas for Mother's Day presents. See restoration demonstrations, portrait studio and antique frame gallery.

Salon Bailey's – 320 S. Elm St., Ste. A

Open house showcasing *Abstractions* by artist Jeff Woodburn. Primarily latex on canvas. Refreshments served.

Yew Tree Gallery – 604 S. Elm St.

Featuring artist is Jan Greene, a traditional transparent watercolorist. Jan's subjects come from nature, and she paints with luminous colors that run from light to shadow in her work.

Jan Green is the pastor at Liberty Friends Meeting, a Quaker church in Liberty, NC. Painting is a spiritual discipline for her and a source of meditation.

****ArtBeat Greensboro 2010 –**

First Friday is proud to collaborate with Art Beat that includes 10 days of theatre, film, dance, visual arts, literature and live musical performances.

***Carolina Theatre – 310 S. Greene St.**

Cirque Motion "Awaken," an innovative production featuring high-flying aerialists and acrobats, spine bending contortionists, incredible juggling and comedy. Ticket prices range from kids @ \$5.00 to adults @ \$33.00 and several prices in between. [More information here.](#) 2 pm and 8 pm.

Elsewhere Artist Collaborative – 606 S. Elm St.

Radio FM Presents, A First Friday evening of radio waves with live music, interviews, replays, favorites and audio experiments. 8 pm-11 pm. Free. [More information here.](#)

***Triad Stage – 232 S. Elm St.**

EMFfringe/EMFjazz&blues and Mountain Roots Management: An evening with flatpicking masters Larry Keel and Adam Aijala. Triad Stage, 232 S. Elm St. at 8 p.m. Information here.

***Ticketed events**

****ArtBeat events**

About First Friday

First Friday is sponsored through a partnership between Downtown Greensboro Inc. and United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro to promote and encourage participation in the Downtown Greensboro arts scene. Visit www.downtownfridays.com

About Downtown Greensboro Inc.

Downtown Greensboro Incorporated is a non profit economic development organization established in 1997. Our core purpose is to lead the development of downtown Greensboro as a prosperous and vibrant urban center, memorable and meaningful for those who choose to live, work, play and invest here. Visit www.downtowngreensboro.net for more information.

About United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro

The UAC invests in our creative community. Our mission is to inspire growth of creative expression in our community by providing strategic and financial leadership to arts organizations, artists and educators that enhances quality of life and cultivates economic vitality and educational engagement with the Arts. Our vision is for Greensboro to be nationally recognized as a vibrant center for the Arts with a community rich in creative expression. Visit www.uacARTs.org for more information.