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Discover Downtown's Creativity on New Year's Day January First Friday: Jan. 1, 2010 6-9pm

Greensboro, N.C. –After the champagne toasts, horn blowing and revelry of New Year's Eve, Downtown Greensboro is poised for another party on New Year's Day. January's First Friday, the monthly exploration of creative expression, will feature a community bonfire, fine painting and craft demonstrations and an avant garde musical performance.

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. The event is an opportunity to explore the center city's local artistic community and encourages commerce and support of locally-owned, independent businesses located in Downtown.

First Friday co-promoters, DGI Vice President Lee Mortensen notes "First Friday is a creative way to kick start many of the common New Year resolutions that we engage in: whether it be **Spend more time with family & friends**-First Friday is an all-ages-appropriate event and a good setting to share new experiences with those you care about. **Get Fit**-strolling to the First Friday stops is an easy and way to burn off calories while enjoying the exercise. **Quit Smoking**- alleviate smoking pangs with the distraction of new sights and sounds. **Enjoy Life More**-de-stress and **Learn Something New**-artist demonstrations and meet-the-artists receptions are engaging. Many of these opportunities are introductions to an art form and even offer classes so you can try your hand at a new hobby. And even if your resolution is to **Get out of debt**, First Friday fits the bill - it's free!

First Friday is promoted through a partnership between Downtown Greensboro Inc. and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro. Check for future updates and a downloadable map/guide at the First Friday Web site, www.downtownfridays.com.

PARTICIPATING FIRST FRIDAY VENUES TO DATE:

Gate City Yarns – 231 S. Elm St.

Explore Fiber arts- knitters, crocheters, hand spinners, felters and weavers. Classes and demonstrations are available at this locally-owned yarn shop too.

Jules Antiques & Fine Art – 530 S. Elm St.

The two-story antiques gallery will feature hand-knotted Persian rugs and a new collection of over 400 international, vintage jewelry pieces. Refreshments will available.

Just Be – 352 S. Elm St.

From jewelry to journals, Just Be offers inspirations for the New Year. Stop by for fantastic savings at the After Holiday Sale of local, and fair trade & made arts and fine crafts.

Lyndon Street – 205 Lyndon St.

Warm up with a new year's bonfire to throw out last year's transgressions and start afresh and new. Artistic fire rings created by metal sculptor Erik Beerbower will be featured. Charlotte Ström will be demonstrating painting techniques on the stage and enjoy artwork created by these and many more of over two dozen Lyndon Street studio artists: Erik Ström, Karen Bjork Dischell, Vance Garvin, Lida Witherspoon, Erik Beerbower and Susan Ridenour.

Mack and Mack – 320 S Elm St.

Mack and Mack will open for the New Year at 3pm. At 6pm, the F-Art Ensemble will help us welcome 2010, with a performance of traditional winter tunes rendered unrecognizable. Join in the fun and music and enjoy refreshments, compliments of Greensboro's fashion design studio.

Mary Contrary – 227 S. Elm St.

In the spirit of renewal of a new year, Mary and staff will demonstrate an easy technique to decorate flower pots without ever touching a living plant (if this is not your thing.) Visitors can give the pots away, use them for something other than plants...or share with someone else to put plants in them and take care of them. Come and see what can be done with basic terra cotta pots with this budget-conscious craft.

Yew Tree Gallery – 604 S. Elm St.

Enjoy the painting demonstration by artist Anne Kiefaber and refreshments in the gallery. Yew Tree Gallery is featuring the work of Anne Kiefaber during January 2010. Anne studied at the Shuler School of Fine Arts and in Paris at the Louve Evening School and the Ecole Montparnasse. She is a member of the National Portrait Society and the Pastel Society of North Carolina. She has been teaching adults and children in her studio for two decades.

Also, an exciting new group exhibit entitled "Treasures" featuring the work of many members of Yew Tree Gallery will run from January through March.

New Year's Day Dining Options During First Friday (to date)

While many locally-owned restaurants across the Triad close for the holiday, these Downtown restaurants will be open for dining: **Grey's Tavern** ([link](#)), **Liberty Oak**, **M'Coul's Public House**, **Mellow Mushroom**, **Natty Greene's** and **Thai Pan**.

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.

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.