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Downtown Open House Showcases Creative Scene: First Friday March 6, 2009

Greensboro, N.C. –The public is invited to experience Center city’s creative community for First Friday, March 6th. First Friday is a free, self-guided tour of Downtown Greensboro’s shops, galleries and alternative art venues that participate with extended hours (until 9pm) on the first Friday of every month. Unlike any other Friday of the month, this First Friday offers specially programmed activities including pottery and weaving demonstrations, a music jam, exclusive jewelry maker, meet the artists and much more. The event is free, open to all ages. In addition to the featured venues, visitors can explore dozens of specialty shops and restaurants, many offering specials for the event. First Friday is an opportunity of discovery of our local artistic community and ultimately to encourage commerce and support of locally-owned, independent businesses and non-profits located in Downtown. The event is sponsored by Downtown Greensboro Inc. and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro.

Find further updates and a downloadable map/guide on the dedicated Web site, www.downtownfridays.com, available on the day of the event.

Participating First Friday venues to date:

Ambleside-528 S Elm St.

The gallery will host a reception and Group Show "Watercolor at its Best." Featuring great watercolorists of the US, England, Europe and Asia Works by Ion Carchalan (Moldova), David Easton (UK), Sterling Edwards (US), Leslie Frontz, (US) Nigel Price UK, and Guan Weixing (China). Exhibition continues throughout March.

Area-515 S Elm St.

Greensboro’s only modern/contemporary home furnishings shop will be showcasing exciting cosmopolitan home accents and new accessories by European designers.

Cultural Arts Center - 200 N. Davie St.

- **Green Hill Center for NC Art**
Currently showing "If You Can Kill A Snake With It, It Ain't Art," the private collection of one of NC's acclaimed poets and Jargon Society Press Publisher, Jonathan Williams. Enjoy the exhibit and local folk group, the Nutbush Ramblers from 6-8pm.
- **Guilford Native American Gallery**
The gallery and gift shop will be open showcasing authentic Native American arts and crafts, jewelry and pottery.
- **Center for Visual Artists**
Come out to a Golf Show! CVA featured artists created putt-putt holes that visitors will actually be able to play for a small donation, and golf-related artwork of all media.
- **Art Alliance**-Several potters works will be showcased in the Atrium.

Gate City Yarns - 231 S. Elm St.

Recently renovated yarn shop, Gate City Yarns, will be holding spinning and weaving demonstrations throughout the evening.

Jules Antiques & Fine Art -530 South Elm St.

The antique shop is in the middle of a "WINTER SALE" with everything in the store discounted 20-50%. Inventory will be a diversified collection of high end international antiques from Europe and the United States with an eye for the unusual. The most recent arrival is a 19th century hand-carved wooden English confessionnal! The shop will serve their "famous" hot apple cider and a selection of Australian wines.

Lyndon Street Artworks - 205 Lyndon St.

- Lyndon Street Artworks features over forty local artists' working studios that are open to the public,
- Potter **Mariana Rodriguez-Pardy** will be demonstrating hand-built and thrown techniques used in her collection "Antidotes and Potions," a series of clay bottles with original designs inspired by her roots in Mexican folk art and healing traditions.
- **Julie McKnight** is working on a new line of "deconstructed" fused wine bottles. Julie will host chain maille jewelry artist, Chris Bettini, as a guest artist. The chain maille jewelry pieces are made with exacting attention to detail and tight closures, and she has transformed this ancient art form into wearable pieces of intricate weaving made of precious and non precious metals.
- Special guest, **Alunda** of Aroma Adonai, is a certified aromatherapist and will be demonstrating the creation of aromatherapy blends.
- Painter, **Cass Catlett** will be demonstrating her flowing watercolor techniques on the Lyndon Street Artworks stage.

Also see a collection of unique artwork by the following Lyndon Street artists: **Lida Witherspoon; Karen Bjork Dischell; Charlotte and Erik Ström;** Susan Ridenour and Erik Beerbower.

Mack and Mack - 220 S. Elm St.

Join in a Music Jam. Bring your own instrument to play or enjoy listening to music at this Fashion Design house turned music salon. All levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The two-hour jam session will end with a performance by F-Art Ensemble.

The Pink Cupcake - 120 W. Smith St.

Stop by this adult and kid-friendly salon to experience the artistic talent of facial art, complimentary to all visitors. Also receive complimentary hair cuts and nail polishing services for First Friday only.

The Tin Rooster - 602 S. Elm St.

Fine art photographer, Donald Schoenleber, will be visiting The Tin Rooster to share and celebrate the splendor of architecture and nature. Join them for a celebration and exploration of the beauty of a photographer's extraordinary lens.

Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios- 410 Blandwood Ave

Home to 13 artists, painters and photographers, Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios will have open studio tours from 6-9 pm. The studio is located at the corner of Blandwood Ave. and Spring Garden St. Plenty of onsite parking available.

Yew Tree Gallery - 604 S. Elm St.

Explore the expanded new gallery and exceptional original fine art. The gallery showcases watercolors, oils, acrylics, pastels and pottery from 19 artists. Also participate in a silent auction of two original paintings by Chuck McLachlan currently under way. Gourmet refreshments will be served.

Additional venues may be open including many restaurants offering evening specials. Also check out the "Hot Deals" section on the Downtown Greensboro Inc. website, www.downtowngreensboro.net.

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.