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June First Friday Showcases Downtown Creative Scene for Summer: June 5, 2009

Greensboro, N.C. –The public is invited to experience center city's creative community for First Friday, June 5! First Friday is a free, self-guided tour of Downtown Greensboro's shops, galleries and alternative arts venues that participate with extended hours (until 9pm) on the first Friday of every month.

This First Friday, experience specially programmed activities at more than a dozen Downtown locations including craft and fine art demonstrations, pottery exhibitions and live jazz at a Charleston-inspired courtyard. The event is free and open to all ages. First Friday is an opportunity to discover our local artistic community and encourages 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. For further updates and a downloadable map/guide, visit the First Friday Web site, www.downtownfridays.com.

PARTICIPATING FIRST FRIDAY VENUES TO DATE:

Artmongerz – 610 S. Elm St.

Featured acrylic painter, Bessie Kreidler, displays colorful abstract works inspired by nature.

Basketdoodle – 317 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Open mic night that encourages readings, poetry, music and performances.

Center City Park -200 N. Elm St. (intersecting at Elm, Friendly and Davie)

Join poet and host, Josephus III for Center City Poetry Experience, an open mic event at the Pavilion from 6-8pm

Greensboro Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

-African American Atelier

Guilford County Minority Student Exhibition sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

-Art Alliance of Greensboro

Meet local artists and students and enjoy the exhibit of handmade pottery & paintings on display in the Atrium. Class, workshop and Art Camp information for Summer 2009 will be available.

-Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art

Presenting saxophonist, Susan Fancher. Celebrating the release of her CD, "In Two Worlds", she will be performing in the Green Hill Gallery among the works of art in Plane & Pedestal, nine nationally recognized North Carolina artists that cross boundaries between mediums.

Ganache Restaurant & Bakery – 403 N. Elm St.

Featuring works by international artists from Marshall Art Gallery: Ion Carchelan; Nikifor Svirinstukhin; Vadim Palamarchuk; Eudoica Zavtur; and Angela Candu. Also featuring American artists: Kitty Williams; Tony Forrest; Michelle Courier; Peter Kostenko; and Rhea Gary.

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

"Champagne and Jazz in the Garden." This Charleston-style garden will be festooned with a million pink roses, magnolias in bloom and much more. A new shipment of antiques from Europe, Asia and the Americas will arrive including area rugs - Persian hand knotted silks, custom designed silk & wool blends and several machine made domestics, at sale prices. Hear sounds of Nancy McCracken & her Jazz Trio in this unique Downtown garden.

Just Be – 352 S. Elm St.

Featuring favorite local Greensboro potters Leanne Pizio, Marnie Joyce, L.T. Hoisington, Earthworks potters Jim Rientjes and Molly Lithgo, and South Elm Pottery & Gallery owner Jim Gutsell. See funky hand-carved pieces, colorful and functional work as well as wood-fired pieces will be available. Musician Jyohni Burkette will also be drumming throughout the evening and offer 4-5 drums for children to join in.

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon St.

The Piedmont Triad Woodturners Association will demonstrate their craft. Also see over 30 resident artists who will all open their studios for visitors to explore.

Mack and Mack - 220 S. Elm St.

Drop-in throughout the evening to join in a Music Jam. The two-hour jam session will end with a performance by F-Art Ensemble beginning at 7:30pm.

Manny's Universal Café – 321 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Live jazz by Andrew Calhoun and Friends on the patio and an evening fish fry.

Mary Contrary – 227-A S. Elm St.

Explore a trunk show featuring jewelry artist and Greensboro native, Amy Bruner de Rodriguez, now a resident of Asheville. Meet Amy and see her hand-crafted, wearable art.

Old Photo Specialists – 320 S. Elm St.

Featuring photo restoration demonstrations, wedding photography by Mike Micciche and the frame gallery featuring antique and modern frames.

Riva's Trattoria – 257 N. Greene St.

Meet Joe Bergeron and see his artwork as well as works by Beatrice Schall, Renee Skelly and Amy Brabeck, Tracy Marshall.

Tin Rooster – 602 S. Elm St.

An expansive display of Eastern European paintings partnered with Molee fine art.

Undercurrent – 327 Battleground Ave.

Featuring original works for sale and on display by local artist Billy Cone, as well as an autographed copy of his book of photography, *Living Statues*.

Winter Light Gallery & Art Studios - 410 Blandwood Ave.

See works by featured Impressionistic oil painter Kim Holleman and from the 10 other resident artists.

First Friday events after 9pm:

Greensboro Cultural Center – 200 N. Davie St.

-Studio 305

Join a belly dance jam and bazaar from 9:30pm-11:30pm. A \$10 donation for participants while spectators can watch for free.

-Studio 323

Participate in a professional dance workshop with dance and drum teachers from across the country. Class starts at 12 midnight-2am for a \$20 fee at the door and \$15 in advance by contacting Wesley Williams at Dreammaker33001@yahoo.com.

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.