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July First Friday: July 3, 2009

Greensboro, N.C. –The public is invited to experience center city's creative community for First Friday, July 3! 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.

The event is free and open to all ages. Residents and visitors are encouraged to come Downtown to explore the venues within the historic district on South Elm. After the adventure, head over the 35th annual Fun Fourth Festival going until 11pm near Downtown's Cultural District.

First Friday is an opportunity to discover our local artistic community and encourages commerce and support of locally-owned, independent businesses 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:

Ambleside Gallery – 524 S. Elm St.

International and regional artists. Enjoy live music. Refreshments will be available.

Basketdoodle – 317 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

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

Elsewhere Artist Collaborative – 606 S. Elm St.

The living art museum will host an Artist Conversation with resident Casey Droege, a Pittsburgh, PA based photographer and fiber artist starting at 8pm.

Focal Points Art Gallery – 300-B S. Elm St.

Tours of the partially constructed space of this new gallery, live music from Eating the Invaders, homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Cheesecakes by Alex.

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon St.

Erik and Charlotte Ström will be demonstrating their painting techniques, live on the stage in the Lounge. These artists, and many more, can be found at Lyndon Street Artworks for First Friday and throughout the year: Erik Beerbower, Gabrielle Beard, Cass Catlett, Anne Marie Davis, Karen Bjork Dischell, Andrew Comstock, Anni Frohlich, Kris Hohn, Ann Lynch, Julie McNight, Trace O'Connor, Jim Petersen, Ernie and Lois Rich, Susan Ridenour, Mariana Rodrigez-Pardy, Copper Chameleon, Erik and Charlotte Ström, and Lida Witherspoon. Lyndon Street Artworks features over forty local artists' working studios that are open to the public.

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

Hear alto saxophonist, Travis Wilson on the patio and enjoy an evening fish fry or some tasty light meals.

Old Photo Specialist – 320 S. Elm St.

Old Photo Specialist will be demonstrating our newest feature--Express Portraits--portraits while you wait! In celebration of our nation's birthday we will feature restored military pictures to honor the men and women who have served our country.

Riva's Trattoria – 257 N. Greene St.

Featuring paintings by Cubist, Emmett Williams, and works by Joe Bergeron, Renee Skelly, Amy Brabeck and Tracy Marshall of the Marshall Art Gallery. See new back patio mural and meet the local artist and Riva's server, Eric Moss. Enjoy live music while dining at this family-owned Northern Italian café.

The Yew Tree Gallery – 604 S. Elm St.

Yew Tree Gallery at 604 S. Elm Street, Greensboro, will host a book signing for **Dr. Denise Tucker**. Dr. Tucker's first mystery novel, Keeping House: A Madame President Mystery has just been published by Bluewater Press.

Keeping House is the first in a series of seven mysteries, each one set in a famous house, villa or castle around the world. The story features the White House and the rise of America's first female president as well as settings in Greensboro. The cover art was created by Greensboro artist **Richard Phillips** whose art works are available at Yew Tree Gallery.

Yew Tree Gallery is home to 16 painters who work in a variety of media and styles, including oils, acrylic, pastel, pen and ink, and watercolor.

Tin Rooster – 602 S. Elm St.

Experience *Hot Nights at the Tin Rooster* featuring the extraordinary belly dancers from Studio 318: World Dance Oasis set in this eclectic upholstery and design center.

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*. Also partake in **Corkage Fee-Free Fridays** where patrons can bring their own wine bottle and avoid a corkage fee

*Ticketed Events:

***Mack and Mack - 220 S. Elm St.**

This month, Mack and Mack makes a departure from their open music jam with a special concert by Greensboro's own Dr. Eugene Chadbourne. Known internationally for his unique brand of alternative high-concept rockabilly songs and for performing on invented instruments, Dr. Chad rarely has time to perform in his hometown. F-Art Ensemble will perform as his backup band. A \$5 admission fee will be charged at the door and the performance begins promptly at 7:30pm with limited seating. Coolers are welcome.

***Fun Fourth Kick-Off Block Party! – Corner of Summit, Lindsay & Church**

Come join the party to benefit Fun Fourth with great food, cold beer and dancing in the street! Entertainment 7:00pm -- The Soul Brothers Band/ 8:30pm -- The Embers
Admission: \$10 at the gate.

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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.