



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

Altina Layman, Director of Marketing and
Community Affairs, United Arts Council of
Greater Greensboro
alayman@uacARTS.org

December First Friday: Dec. 4, 2009

Greensboro, N.C. –The public is invited to experience Downtown’s creative community for First Friday, December 4. This month’s event will join two of Downtown’s most anticipated experiences - **First Friday** and **Festival of Lights**. Enjoy a variety of **street musical performances**, the **Center City Christmas Tree Lighting** and arts of all mediums. The highlights also include Santa’s Workshop at the South Pole, a **Downtown gift basket giveaway**, a photo opportunity as an elf and try your hand at Kris Kringle Karaoke – all free. December’s First Friday is sure to be the largest to date with activities for all ages with an emphasis on local, unique goods and arts.

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 monthly First Friday event 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 updates and a downloadable map/guide, visit the First Friday Web site, www.downtownfridays.com.

PARTICIPATING FIRST FRIDAY VENUES TO DATE:

Ambleside Gallery – 528 S. Elm St.

Artist reception for watercolorist Alexis Lavine and viewing of current collection, “Small Landscapes: A Glimpse at a Time,” a holiday show including 30 affordably-priced pieces featured through December 31. Refreshments and artist meet and greet.

Artmongerz – 610 S. Elm St.

View works by featured artist and master ceramicist, Kim Burroughs. Also enjoy fresh art from resident artists, refreshments and live music.

Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

-Tour a **Holiday Open House**...a showcase of the arts with sounds from Greensboro Youth Chorus Chorale, Suzuki Strings, Greensboro Tuba Quartet, Jamestown Pipe and Drums,

Greensboro Saxophone Quartet, and the Chris Hankins Jazz Experience. Also browse Center for Visual Artist's Art and Craft Holiday Gift Sale.

*-Downstairs, enjoy the **EMFfringe Party with Rockin' the Christmas Tree** with Lawyers, Guns & Money with special guest, Logie Meachum. Tickets for the EMF Party are \$10 and show begins at 8pm. All other offerings are FREE.

Indie Market – corner of Elm and MLK

Featuring art, crafts, vintage and one-of-a-kind items from over 45 local artists.

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

Author, William J Hirsch Jr., AIA will talk about his book, “Designing *Your* Perfect House (Lessons from an Architect),” answer questions and autograph copies. Bill is a prominent architect in North Carolina and has written a wonderfully informative book that has received numerous awards as well as being an Amazon.com’s best seller. Stop in for hot cider or a glass of wine and let Bill help you plan your dream home.

Jules’ upstairs gallery will also display “The Art of The Persian Rug”, featuring many of their intricately designed rugs from Pakistan, India and other countries. They are all hand knotted wool, or silk & wool blends, and Jules certifies the authenticity of each rug. A visual demonstration of production methods, for this type of rug, will be on display during the show.

Just Be – 352 S. Elm St.

Local Chapel Hill artist Rose Rosely of Rosely Folk Art. Her funky fabulous wall folk art is fun and priced to sell with pieces starting at as little as \$10 .00. Her roosters and folk dogs are just begging to become a part of your home decor. She is a local favorite and a participating artist in the Fearington Village Folk Art Show each year. Don't miss out! These are going to go fast.

Bring in two or more canned goods during the weekend of December 4 - 6 and enjoy 15% off your purchase of regular priced items. (consignment items excluded from discount)

Lyndon Street Artworks and Artworks Collective Gallery @ Kress Terrace on Elm Street for First Friday/ Festival of Lights – 212 S. Elm St.

Several Lyndon Street artists will come to the Kress Terrace for December’s First Friday night only. Explore new art works and watch demonstrations by astounding potter, Po-Wen Liu. Po-Wen has recently moved his working studio to Lyndon Street Artworks. Also at Kress, music by the band, Invisible: Rhythm 101. A performance unlike anything you have ever seen or heard from the most unusual instruments.

Lyndon Street Artworks and Artworks Collective Gallery – 205 Lyndon St.

Meet resident artists Charlotte and Eric Strom and visit and buy original art from open studios. Make your purchases from the artists in studios or buy their original art on display in the Artworks Collective Gallery. Refreshments available.

Mack and Mack – 220 S. Elm St.

F-Art Ensemble will be performing their unique style of improvised mayhem in a concert called The F-Art Holiday Spectacle. With years of practice making a spectacle of themselves, the F-Arters are well-equipped to infuse your favorite holiday classics with a fresh flavor.

Mary Contrary – 227-A S. Elm St.

Award-winning News & Record metro columnist Lorraine Ahearn will be signing her recently published book of stories The Man Who Became Santa Claus, and Other Winter Tales.

The home décor shop will also be raffling off a 4' fluffy faux tree adorned with white lights, hand-made little girls with aprons holding silver bells, clam shell garland and dried flowers. "Mary, Mary quite contrary, how does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row." Raffle tickets for \$2 per ticket or \$5 for three tickets.

Old Photo Specialists – 320 S. Elm St.

Glass artist Meg Issacs will showcase some of her holiday glassware. Also see how Old Photo Specialists restore cherished memories with high quality restoration and reproduction techniques. Flowers are beautiful, but they soon wilt, candy is delicious, but it soon gets eaten, but an old photo by Old Photo Specialist will last forever!

Salon Bailey's – 320 S. Elm St.

The salon will be hosting an art opening until 10pm with traditional and contemporary artists JJ Greeson and Ron Curlee featured through February. Food and refreshments available.

Studio B – 520 S. Elm St.

Local triad aluminum artist Scott Harris and commercial, editorial and fine art photographer Dan Routh will exhibit original pieces at the event. Free and open to the public.

Winter Light Gallery & Studios – 410 Blandwood Ave....more just this morning!

Artists will be featuring original small works during Dec. in the gallery. Open to the public weekdays and Sat. Located at 410 Blandwood Ave., corner of Spring Garden St.

Yew Tree Gallery - 604 South Elm St.

December's featured artist, Helen Shaw's watercolor's reflect her love of light and color whether it is in a landscape, a flower, or the beautifully curved lines of a chair. Helen has studied with many nationally recognized instructors including Linda Kemp, Sterling Edwards, Kate Worm and John Salminen.

Santa's Workshop at the South Pole (500 & 600 block of S. Elm @ Lewis Street)

For all ages. Visit the Kris Kringle's Karaoke Corner, enjoy holiday cookie decorating, catch Santa's helper sightings and take your own Elf pictures at a photo booth. Also register to win a Downtown Gift Basket, first 50 visitors receive reusable shopping bags. It's all free!

Sponsored by DGI and United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro.

***Ticketed 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.

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.