

**For Immediate Release
June 18, 2010**



July First Friday: July 2, 2010

Explore Local Arts, Music in Downtown Free To Support Local Commerce

Greensboro, N.C. – The public is invited to discover Downtown Greensboro and its creative community on First Friday, July 2. The evening will feature live music performances, new art exhibits and the 35th annual Fun Fourth Festival Block Party. All activities are free from 6-9p.m. unless otherwise noted.

First Friday is a self-guided tour of Downtown Greensboro's shops, galleries and alternative venues that participate with **specialty programmed arts events and extended hours** (until 9p.m.) on the first Friday of every month.

First Friday 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 information and a downloadable map/guide, visit the First Friday Website, www.downtownfridays.com. Visit DGI's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for updates.

PARTICIPATING VENUES AS OF PRESS TIME (all events are free, unless otherwise noted):

Ambleside Gallery – 528 S. Elm St.

Featuring still life oil paintings by Jim Celano, acrylic wildlife by Matthew Hillier, watercolors by Alexis Lavine, oils and pastels by Leigh Rodenbough, oil landscapes and abstracts by Frank Rowland and pastels by Sarah Watts.

Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

-Center for Visual Artists

The Center for Visual Artists presents first annual community recycled/ reclaimed art exhibition, *TRASH*, beginning July 2, 2010. This exhibition explores the issues of waste and consumption through works primarily made of trash.

CVA will also feature a guest exhibition by local artist Anne Marsh. Anne's pieces are lively and colorful, containing layered recycled mixed media with repeated patterns. Her most recent body

of work, *North Carolina Mardi Gras*, has been featured at Fincastles restaurant in Downtown. For additional information, visit <http://www.greensboroart.org/> or call 333-7485.

-Green Hill Center for NC Art

Green Hill presents *Meet the Artist @ The Shop*. Greensboro painter, Les Caison III shows and discusses his "slices of life," or "narrative" paintings which house social commentary. See pieces, "Beacon" and "Montief" from his latest series inspired by Joseph Bathanti's *The High Heart*, a collection of short stories. Event is from 5:30-7:30p.m.

Elements Gallery – 602 S. Elm St.

Featured artist for July (beginning with First Friday) is Suzanne Cowan, who is a mixed media artist using Raku clay, metal and other objects to create wonderful shadow boxes, wall plaques and jewelry. The intricacy and thought that goes into her wall art are culminated in the naming of each piece. Be sure to look closely lest you miss some hidden aspect of her work.

Indie Craft Market – (corner of South Elm St. and Martin Luther King Dr.)

The Indie Market is a place where local artists and crafts people come together for an Open Air Market of handmade and vintage items, with a little music thrown in for your shopping pleasure.

Some of the local talent for the July Market includes Dancing Free Designs, Verbage, LeeLu Creations, Faye's Crochet and Sweet Gum Puppets. Market is open from 4p.m. - 9p.m.

International Civil Rights Center & Museum – 134 S. Elm St.

Celebrate First Friday at The International Civil Rights Center & Museum. Live performances by local talent that explore how music conveys the spirit of resistance and the love of liberty. Free entry into lobby area, museum tours regular price.

Jules Antiques – 530 S. Elm St.

Introducing a private line of original art cards. Browse hand-made, pre-packaged individual cards by Agnes Preston-Brame, with more than forty designs available.

This month Jules is also featuring a collection of antique sterling silver, recently acquired from a local estate. Goblets, cordials, salt and pepper sets and trays. The pieces date from 1760 to the early 1900's.

To celebrate First Friday on the Independence Day holiday weekend, Jules Antiques and Fine Art will be serving refreshments that are - Red (wine) - White (wine) and Blue (water)!

Just Be – 352 S. Elm St.

Explore almost 150 handmade artists' works including eclectic jewelry; pottery; glass; sculpture; soulful prints; eco-friendly candles; body products; handmade cards; home décor; textile; and handmade vintage-style clothing for kids and adults.

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon St.

Lyndon Street Artworks features over forty local artists' working studios. Come see potters, painters, sculptors, glass artists, metal smiths and many other types of creative people at work. Make your purchases from the artists in their studios or buy original art on display in the Artworks Collective Gallery. Enjoy refreshments, wander through the studios, and talk with artists.

Mack and Mack – 220 S. Elm St.

Drop in to Mack and Mack's showroom to hear the inscrutable musical meanderings of The F-Art Ensemble. These classically trained musicians use the superb acoustics at Mack and Mack to explore open improvisation. No one, including the musicians, knows what will happen until the notes are played. Refreshments.

Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios – 410 Blandwood Ave. (corner of Blandwood Ave. and Spring Garden St.)

SUMMER IN THE CITY exhibit and reception featuring new, original oil, watercolor and pastel artworks. Also browse found object works and pottery pieces. Gallery artists include: Jerry Cartwright; Chase Ferguson; Vicki Johnson; Jeanne Twilley; Kathy Brusnighan; Judy Meyler; Carol Meetze-Moates; Kathy Phillips; Steve Robinson; Carol Sams Hamlin; Allie Scott; Phyllis Sharpe; Jane Smith.

Yew Tree Gallery – 604 S. Elm St.

Yew Tree Gallery's featured artist for First Friday is Jane Averill. She paints in oils from life around her, often including people interacting with their environment, animals, reflective surfaces, and plants. Jane taught art in public schools for 28 years, and has owned Serendipity Art School for the last ten years where she offers classes for children and adults.

Yew Tree Gallery displays all 15 member-artists' work, with a special themed show entitled *SPRING AND SUMMER*.

****Fun Fourth Kickoff Block Party - Corner of Summit, Lindsay & Church streets (Ticketed event)**

After enjoying First Friday shopping, come join the party to benefit Fun Fourth with great food, cold beer and dancing in the street! Featuring entertainment by classic Beach Music band The Extraordinaires at 7:15p.m. and 80s rock group Nantucket at 9:15p.m. Admission is \$10 at the gate with free parking available in the Church Street Deck and area surface lots. Event is from 7p.m.-11p.m.

**** Ticketed event**

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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. Visit www.downtownfridays.com

About Downtown Greensboro Inc.

Downtown Greensboro Incorporated is a nonprofit 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.