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March First Friday: March 5, 2009

The Race is on and Art Abounds in Downtown This First Friday!

Greensboro, N.C. – The public is invited to experience Downtown's creative community for First Friday, March 5, 6-9 pm. This evening will feature new and original art and crafts, artist "meet and greets," participatory art and the *Around Downtown in 80 Minutes*, a fast-paced scavenger hunt around the center city with more than 80 participating teams who hail from across the Triad.

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.

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

PARTICIPATING VENUES TO DATE (all events are free, unless otherwise noted):

Ambleside Gallery- 528 S. Elm St.

Exhibition of works by members of the Pastel Society of North Carolina. A collection of more than 60 paintings by some of the leading pastel painters in the state.

Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

- Green Hill Center for NC Art (Atrium level)

Ongoing *Embodiment* exhibition with music by alternative gypsy folk band Crystal Bright and the Silver Hands (Crystal Bright, Diego Diaz, Pete Lewis and Chris Micca) and baroque rock band Silverhillmine (Mario Gallucci, Chris Wilkes, Jim Starr and Christian McKinney). Cash Bar (members free)

- Greensboro Ballet (Third level)

The Firebird, a free showing in Suite 302 from 7-7:45pm. This production is performed to music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by George Skibine. "This ballet is exciting and

beautiful. The choreography brilliantly captures the essence of the music. If one is new to ballet performances, this is a great 'first' ballet to see" says Maryhelen Mayfield. A visual feast!

- Center for Visual Artists (Atrium level)

Opening reception and guest exhibition *A Series of Work on Canvas* by Artist Ron Curlee II. An N.C. native from Lenoir, Ron Curlee II is an artist who specializes in large abstract art work on canvas as well as being an accomplished interior designer and published poet. His work can be found in collections throughout the U.S. as well as Australia.

Elm Street Center – 203 S. Elm St.

Enjoy music by band, Jazz with Andrew Calhoun and Friends. Both lobby area and the Upper Regency rooms open offering cash bar.

Gate City Yarns – 231 S. Elm St.

Vote for your favorite knitwear in the "Bulky Knits" Contest concluding on First Friday. See window displays of contest participant's knitwear and purchase locally made art supplies to indulge in your favorite crafts including knitting, crocheting, hand spinning and weaving.

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

A new display of antique and contemporary tribal African Art pieces, featuring thirty pieces from around the world including; sculpture, masks, staffs and carvings. The upstairs gallery displays beautiful small hand knotted Persian rugs and runners.

Winter Sale continues thru March 20th featuring a continually expanding vintage jewelry collection. Hot cider and a selection of winter wines available.

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon Street

Lyndon Street Artworks features over 40 local artists' working studios: potters; painters; sculptors; glass artists; and metalsmiths at work in their creative spaces.

Kris Hohn will be on stage demonstrating several different forms of painting expression! From 6-7pm, she will expressively paint to different songs. From 7-8pm, volunteers can come on stage to participate in body painting. Come lend an arm or leg for a few minutes! From 8-9 pm, she will take the inspiring designs from the body paintings and incorporate them into a final large painting.

Erik Beerbower has been making unique recycled bicycle tables and would be happy to make a customized piece for you.

Erik Strom is still evolving his bold and complex black and white inkings. Visit the Strom Art Studio to observe.

Charlotte Strom has been creating colorful and far-away landscapes. Find your favorite!

Mack and Mack – 220 S. Elm St.

Drop in to Mack and Mack's showroom for refreshments and 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.

Old Photo Specialists – 320 S. Elm St.

Highlighting a new portrait technique that displays a soft focus creating a dreamy quality. Perfect for thinking about spring photo displays.

Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios – 410 Blandwood Ave

Explore *Botanicals in High Definition* and *Portraits with Pulchritude* by Judy Meyler. Judy is an accomplished artist and teacher, and is a member of the Plein Air Painters of the Piedmont (POPS). She currently maintains a studio at Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios. Her work is collected throughout the United States.

Yew Tree Gallery – 604 S. Elm St.

Accomplished artist Leigh Rodenbough is featured for March. Leigh specializes in oils and pastels. His landscapes of local counties are widely sought after and his passion for sailing provides a unique interpretation of seascapes and sail boats. His book *Leigh Rodenbough: Timeless Reflections* is available at the gallery. Join Yew Tree for refreshments and meet Leigh this night only.

Yew Tree Gallery group exhibit entitled *Treasurers* will also be shown and run through the end of March.

Around Downtown in 80 Minutes – Now You See Them, Now You Don't!

One hundred teams of two will be participating in a scavenger hunt in this game of speed and fun to visit as many Downtown destinations as possible in 80 minutes. Teams from across the Triad will participate: Madison; Eden; Winston-Salem; Trinity; Clemmons; Belews Creek; Asheboro; and Greensboro. In 80 minutes, teams collect enough passport stamps to win several great prize packages. Pre-registration is required and open until March 1 at www.triadstage.org. Participation is free. This event is sponsored by Triad Stage and Downtown Greensboro Inc.

Ticketed Event(s)

Community Theatre of Greensboro (Cultural Arts Center Fourth floor)

A performance by The Sunshine Boys in Studio 413 beginning at 8pm. Purchase tickets from \$15 to \$25 by calling 336-333-7469(333-SHOW).

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.