

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**35th ANNUAL OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK
JUNE 26, 27 and 28, 2009**

For three days in June, the Omaha Summer Arts Festival will fill the streets of downtown Omaha from 10th to 15th and Farnam Streets with art, music, children's activities, food and more. The Festival will bustle with people of all ages from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27, and from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. The Festival offers a great opportunity to experience the energy of downtown Omaha and support a wide variety of artists.

The Artists' Market

Visitors will have the opportunity to browse and buy the beautiful artwork of 135 juried artists from across the country. Selected from among hundreds of applicants by a jury of local and regional art professionals, the artists represent 22 states in the U.S. Nineteen of the artists—more than ever before—are Nebraskans!

Artwork in a broad range of media including jewelry, sculpture, photography, painting, fiber, wood and more will be available for purchase. From a precious \$5 hand-carved toy, to a beautiful \$50 ceramic vase, to an intricate \$500 oil painting, there is something to pique the interest of every Festival-goer.

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Omaha's ArtSeen

Festival visitors can interact with local artists and watch live artist demonstrations at Omaha's ArtSeen. Presented in partnership with downtown art galleries, stations featuring clay-throwing, lamp work, glass beading, paper-making and more will be interspersed throughout the Artists' Market. Demonstrations will be provided by local artists affiliated with the Omaha Clay Works, Passageway Gallery, Hot Shops Art Center and Old Market Artists Gallery.

Music

Year after year, performers on the World Music Pavilion Stage entertain visitors of all ages in a fun, comfortable and convenient atmosphere from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Renowned artists and a wide range of musical genres including blues, jazz, Latin, folk, acoustic and more create concerts with broad appeal.

Festival-goers can anticipate a great concert line-up at the World Music Pavilion this year. Acts include the Street Railway Company Jazz Band, Chicago's Lubriphonic, Luigi Inc., Mexico City's Los de Abajo and others! Keeping with tradition, award-winning Brulé will offer its crowd-pleasing contemporary Native American music at the Festival, as well.

The Omaha Summer Arts Festival is always committed to bringing the best world music to the stage. Past acts have included Dizzy Gillespie's famous energetic big-band jazz music; Lil' Brian and the Travelers' Zydeco stylings; Grammy®-winning BeauSoleil's blend of country, jazz and blues; Poncho Sanchez's get-up-and-dance Salsa; and The Hot 8 Brass Band's Cajun flavor.

Food and Libations

In addition to a full weekend of entertainment, Festival visitors can look forward to the TasteFest and Festival Cafés which will feature a variety local vendors offering tasty foods ranging from wraps, wok-fired vegetables, gyros, grilled shrimp and spring rolls to traditional Festival fare including pizza, hamburgers barbeque, kettle corn, funnel cakes, shaved ice and more!

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Vendors will include Paradise Today Coffee Bar, Texas Roadhouse, Marc O's, Dippin Dots, Mama's Pizza, Pacific Rim, Kettlecorn Confections, The Parthenon, Made 2 Grill, Old World Almonds and RoRo's Concessions, among others. Festival cafés include Wine & Jisa Cheese Café, Hy-Vee, O'Dining & Lounge and Whole Foods.

Just inside the World Music Pavilion, beer, wine and more will be available for purchase. *Alcoholic beverages will not be sold until after 4 p.m. on Friday and after 12 p.m. on Sunday.*

Children's Fair and Young Artist Exhibition

Families and children will discover *It's Easy to be Green* at this year's Omaha Summer Arts Festival Children's Fair. Presented at the heart of the Festival, the Children's Fair will offer dozens of hands-on activities and art projects for children ages three to 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 27 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 28.

Kids will enjoy crafts made with recycled products and activities geared toward planet-preservation. Admission to the Children's Fair, all of the stage entertainment and several activities is free. The remaining hands-on crafts and other activities cost one to five 50-cent tickets each.

More than 300 artwork created by students in grades six through 12 will be displayed as part of the Festival's 14th annual Young Artist Exhibition. Grades six through eight will display work in the Michael Phipps Gallery on the main floor of the downtown W. Dale Clark Library, and grades nine through 12 will exhibit at the Artists' Cooperative Gallery. More than \$3,000 in senior scholarships, recognition awards, art supplies and special prizes will be awarded at private receptions for students, teachers and family members on Saturday and Sunday.

Sponsor Recognition and More Information

The 35th Annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival, presented by First National Bank, is sponsored by Target, Qwest and WOWT Channel 6. Additional supporters of the Festival include the

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Douglas County Board of Commissioners; 1110 KFAB, KGOR 99.9 FM, The Brew 96.1 and KAT 103; Kashi; Creighton Medical Associates; Hy-Vee Food Stores; Peter Kiewit Sons,' Inc.; Nebraska Lottery; Omaha Steaks; Burlington Capital Group; Nebraska Arts Council; HearthStone Homes; The Mammel Foundation; Omaha Public Power District; RDG Planning & Design; Whole Foods Market Omaha; *The Reader*; Planet Earth Distilled Drinking Water; Nebraska Craft Brewers Association, Boulevard Brewing Company, Oriental Trade Company and It's a Wonderful World Childcare Centers. The Festival is professionally managed by Vic Gutman & Associates.

The Omaha Summer Arts Festival has been named Omaha's Best Annual Festival, one of the Top 100 Fine Arts Festivals in the country and one of 2007's Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association. The Festival was also the first inductee into the National Association of Independent Artists' Hall of Fame in 2008.

The official Omaha Summer Arts Festival program will appear as a pull-out supplement to the June 18th edition of *The Reader*, distributed in restaurants and retail locations throughout Omaha-Council Bluffs and Lincoln. The Festival will also be featured in a four-page special section printed as part of the *Omaha World-Herald's* "Go!" section on Thursday, June 25. For additional information including press releases and complete stage schedules, please visit **www.SummerArts.org**. For photos and interviews, please contact Anna Douglas at (402) 345-5401 or adouglas@vgagroup.com.

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