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NEW ACTIVITIES BRING VARIETY TO OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

(OMAHA, Neb.) May 31, 2017 – Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF) has been a highlight of summer in the city since 1975, but there's always something new for visitors to enjoy.

The 43rd annual OSAF is presented by First National Bank and takes place in downtown Omaha June 9-11 on Farnam Street alongside the Gene Leahy Mall. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 11.

Gallery One

Gallery One, presented by First National Bank, is a new program to support new and emerging local artists who have had extremely limited or no experience exhibiting and selling their artwork at art fairs and festivals. In addition to a waived application fee and free exhibit space, Gallery One artists will also receive assistance from a professional artist regarding how to best exhibit their work to the public at the Festival.

Performing Arts Outreach Program with Omaha Street Percussion

On Thursday, June 8 and Friday, June 9, OSAF is partnering with Omaha Street Percussion for two days of musical workshops with participants from Girls Inc. of Omaha, Completely KIDS, Compassion in Action and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. The instruction culminates in a group performance on the Luigi Waites Main Stage in the Festival's World Music Pavilion on Saturday, June 10 at 2 p.m. Youth will learn various musical techniques with a focus on percussion along with cooperation and teamwork.

DIY with The Makery

Festival attendees of all ages can explore their own artistic abilities by choosing from a selection of DIY projects offered through The Makery, including a fairy garden with live succulents, mini string art, painted mandala, jewelry stamping, wine glass painting, and clay ring dish. Participants pay a materials fee of \$15 to \$25 to create their "fail-proof" project that can be completed in less than 30 minutes.

About The Omaha Summer Arts Festival

Named the 2016 "Best Festival" in Omaha Magazine's Best of Omaha awards, OSAF is consistently recognized as one of Omaha's best annual events. OSAF also receives consistent honors in the art fair industry including being selected as one of 2015's Top 100 Fine Arts Festivals in the country by ArtFair SourceBook. National honors include being tagged as one of the "Top 20 Can't-Miss Summer Festivals" by Smithonian.com in 2014, and as one of the Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association in 2011.