

City of Gainesville

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

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Immerse Yourself in Art at Gainesville's Downtown Festival & Art Show

GAINESVILLE, Fla. –Downtown Gainesville will transform into a masterful blend of art, music and entertainment on Nov. 16-17 for the 38th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show. Visitors can meet the exhibiting artists, enjoy live music and sample international cuisine each event day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Festivities are free and open to the public all weekend. Since 1996, the Downtown Festival & Art Show has ranked among the top outdoor fine arts festivals in the nation, drawing crowds of more than 80,000 visitors.

Visitors are invited to embrace culture and experience the work of more than 240 talented artists displaying work ranging from original oils, acrylics and vibrant watercolors to unique sculptures, dazzling jewelry, decorative ceramics and vivid photography. Artisans compete for more than \$20,000 in cash prizes.

“We pride ourselves on our rich collection of art and the experience we provide to the community,” said Event Coordinator Sunshine Andrei. “It is always so much fun to walk around the festival and see everyone enjoying the atmosphere.”

Children can enjoy the festival and get creative at the Imagination Station, a free, hands-on art activity area. Drawing with chalk, painting pictures, designing masks, sculpting clay and creating puppets and buttons are just a few of the activities in store. In addition to craft activities, the Imagination Station features a performance area with puppet shows, magic acts and music so children can rock to their own beat. Young and aspiring artists display and sell their original artwork in the Young Artist Courtyard.

Down the road from the Imagination Station and near the steps of the Hippodrome Theatre, more than 50 nonprofit organizations educate the crowd about services provided to the community. Food booths line the streets and give visitors the chance to indulge in sweet barbecue ribs, hearty Mediterranean pitas, Cajun jambalaya, specialty tacos and authentic Thai cuisine. The festive mix of international dishes ensures no guest leaves hungry.

Visitors craving constant entertainment can check out live performances on four stages throughout the weekend. Music from local bands and solo musicians features a blend of folk, jazz, country, pop and soul. Dance companies also catch the eyes of the crowd with ballet, jazz, modern and international dance performances.

The City of Gainesville looks forward to celebrating another successful show and welcomes the community to join in this special event. Start your holiday shopping now and find unique gifts for family and friends, or purchase artwork for your own collection. For more information, visit our website at www.gainesvilledowntownartfest.org, visit our Facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/DowntownFestivalandArtShow> or call 352-334-ARTS.