



Media Release
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42nd ANNUAL CENTERFEST FEATURES LARGEST ARTIST AND ENTERTAINMENT LINE UP IN ITS HISTORY

DURHAM, NC-- The Durham Arts Council proudly presents the **42nd Annual CenterFest Arts Festival on Sept. 17 and 18** featuring 147 juried fine artists and craftsmen from 17 states, music and entertainment on 6 stages from 74 performing groups, two Kids Zones, Beer Garden, great food, a showcase of over 40 non-profits, government services, and community organizations, CenterFest After-Party, and more. The lineup of visual artists, performers and community is the largest CenterFest ever presented, and will entertain, delight and inspire a projected 30,000 visitors. Hours are Saturday 10 am - 6 pm, and Sunday 11 am – 5 pm, plus a Saturday evening after-party from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Herald-Sun Stage and Beer Garden. CenterFest is located in the heart of downtown Durham on the City Center streets surrounding the Durham Arts Council at 120 Morris St., Durham, NC 27701. Admission is free, however a \$5 suggested donation is welcomed to support the festival and the arts programs of the Durham Arts Council. More information is at www.centerfest.durhamarts.org or at 919-560-2787.

“CenterFest is North Carolina's longest running juried outdoor arts festival and last year drew a record crowd of nearly 35,000 visitors,” stated DAC Board President, NC Senator Mike Woodard. “CenterFest is a major signature event of Durham and showcases not only the arts but our vibrant downtown.”

Visitors can enjoy and purchase wonderful art, learn how to throw a pot on a pottery wheel, record their CenterFest experiences at the Peoples Channel TV booth, enjoy face painting and the new Chalk Wall, kids rides and lots of make-and-take art activities. CenterFest draws visitors from a broad region for a weekend of art enjoyment, shopping, entertainment, delicious food, and exploration of all the great things the newly revitalized downtown Durham has to offer.

“Last year CenterFest achieved the national ranking of ‘Top 100 Fine Arts Festivals in the United States’ by Sunshine Artist Magazine and this year we continue to build the festival’s reputation with more top artists and entertainment than ever before, plus new arts encounters and surprise elements that are sure to amaze and delight festival visitors of all ages,” stated Sherry DeVries, Durham Arts Council Executive Director.

Visual Artists

A record number of excellent artist applications have resulted in the competitive juried selection of **147 visual artists representing 17 states, and including 82 North Carolina artists, with 39 artists from the Durham/Triangle area.** This year’s Merit Award Judges will view the work

of artists in Painting, Photography, Basket-Weaving, Clay, Drawing, Fiber, Glass, Leatherworking, Printmaking, Wood, Jewelry, Mixed Media, and Sculpture. CenterFest is proud to have the support and partnership of these distinguished fine arts judges who will be selecting the Visual Artist merit award winners:

- Linda Dougherty, Chief Curator & Curator of Contemporary Art, North Carolina Art Museum
- Lauren Turner, Assistant Curator for the Collection, Ackland Art Museum
- Cheryl Cullum Stewart, Public Art Consultant

The merit judges will select the winning artists and award cash prizes totaling \$2,500 to Best In Show, First Place, Second and Third Place winning artists. Visual artist information:

<http://centerfest.durhamarts.org/2016-artists/>

Special artist highlights

Fong Choo (ceramics) of Louisville, KY, has received numerous awards of excellence from the Smithsonian Craft Show- Washington DC; and the American Craft Exposition. Fong Choo creates wheel thrown porcelain teapots in various jewel toned hues.



Award winning Brian Bortz of Durham, NC blends hardwoods, wood veneers, and shell to create marquetry and inlaid mosaics on a variety of furniture and furnishings.



Returning artist, **painter Jeannie Maddox of Dothan, AL**, is known for her works of photorealism, especially her swimmer series. Her larger-than-life paintings have been acquired by collectors from Japan, Italy, Holland, Venezuela, Switzerland, and throughout the United States.

CenterFest 2016 Citizens Choice Award

Festival-goers are invited to pick their favorite CenterFest Visual Artist for a chance to win prizes in the **CenterFest 2016 Citizens Choice Award contest, sponsored by Durham Coca-Cola Bottling Company**. Voting/Entry Forms will be available at all CenterFest Information Booths and at CenterFest Visual Artist booths. The Citizens Choice Award will be presented to the winning artist at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the festival.

Performing Artists

CenterFest 2016 Entertainment Committee has selected a great line-up of **74 performing groups, providing continuous music, dance and entertainment on 6 stages. Over 600 individual performers will be sharing their talents at CenterFest. SATURDAY EVENING PERFORMANCES:** The CenterFest Herald-Sun Stage and Beer Garden at Bull McCabe's will remain open on Saturday night for the enjoyment of downtown Durham visitors. **Bands will continue on the Herald-Sun Stage until 9:00 pm.**

Special performer highlights



La Fiesta Latin Jazz Quintet plays Saturday 3:00 pm on the CCB Plaza Main Stage, featuring nationally famous saxophone player Greg Gelb, and top percussionists Ramon Ortiz and Beverly Botsford, and Andy Kleindienst, bass; Steve Anderson, piano.



Nancy Middleton and Friends take the Herald-Sun Stage at 6:00 pm Saturday. One of North Carolina's iconic songwriters, Nancy gained national recognition with her album "*The Way I Do*." After a successful move to Nashville, she returned home to Durham to continue her career as one of the most popular performers in the area. Nancy shares songs from her popular new release "*Loaded*."



Glass Harp Music by Brien Engel. Brien is part of an exciting new community helping to revive and promote the enchanting art of glass music. His glass harp is comprised of goblets and snifters of various sizes, which he plays by carefully rubbing their rims with moistened fingers. His current instrument features 50 glasses, and is one of the largest in the world. Brien will be performing and demonstrating all day Saturday and Sunday. Sample:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSx0Sx5KBXs&feature=youtu.be>

Plus **The Bouncing Bulldogs** who just won two International Championships this summer, Ricardo Diguez & The Tropic Orchestra, Silver Drummer Girl, Aerial dancers, North Carolina Jazz Ensemble and many more.

More Performer information: <http://centerfest.durhamarts.org/2016-performances/>

New Pet Oasis!

CenterFest will offer a refreshing refuge for visitors' pets with water, shade and treats. Provided by Animal Protection Society of Durham in the Ninth St. Bakery Parking lot. Pets on leashes are allowed at CenterFest.

Durham Rotary Club Day at CenterFest

Saturday, September 17th is designated "Rotary Day at CenterFest." The Rotary Club of Durham is a Palladium Sponsor of CenterFest for the second year. The Durham club is part of Rotary International, the global network with more than 1.2 million members committed to creating positive, lasting change throughout their communities and the world. Locally, the Durham club is one of the state's oldest and largest, with more than 230 members.

Bike valet parking system, is provided courtesy of the **Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission and Bike Durham**.

Food and Beverage and CenterFest Beer Garden

CenterFest features a variety of classic festival foods and locally-sourced food from a variety of food vendors and local food trucks sure to satisfy anyone's appetite - from burgers, barbeque, bratwursts, seafood, and Thai, to traditional roasted corn, gyros, ice cream and turkey legs. CenterFest also features a Beer Garden in partnership with Bull McCabes Irish Pub. CenterFest will also have numerous Coca-Cola product booths, sponsored and donated by Durham Coca-Cola, to quench the thirst of festival goers of all ages.

Creative Kids Zone and Clay Fun Zone

The CenterFest Kids Zone includes fun, hands-on art activities, a new "Chalk Wall", face painting by Paint Savvy, and the popular Bounce House, Slide and Trackless Train. Hands-on, make and take art projects are free. Face painting and kids rides have nominal fees. The Kids Zone Stage will feature family-friendly entertainment including musicians, magicians, storytellers, and more. The CenterFest Clay Fun Zone features the opportunity for kids and adults to try their hand at "throwing a pot" on the clay wheel with Durham Arts Council Clay Studio instructors.

CenterFest Sponsors

CenterFest is presented and produced by the Durham Arts Council with support from official festival sponsors including **Presenting sponsor:** The Herald-Sun, **Platinum Sponsors:** WRAL.com and Mix 101.5; **Gold sponsors:** Durham Coca-Cola, TROSA, Net Friends, SciMed Solutions, Spark Productions; Boom Magazine, Triangle Downtowner Magazine, The Peoples Channel; **Palladium Sponsors:** The Rotary Club of Durham, ABC Channel 11; **Silver Sponsors:** Bull McCabes Irish Pub, B.Wallace Design & Construction, Carolina Woman, Durham Magazine, Downtown Durham Inc., DPAC, James Hardie Building Products, Panera Bread, Renewal by Andersen, Rivers Agency, WUNC 91.5, Worksmart, Yelp! and many other business sponsors and partners. CenterFest is also assisted by The City of Durham and the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau. Sponsor information: <http://centerfest.durhamarts.org/2016-sponsors/> CenterFest information at www.centerfest.durhamarts.org or call 919-560-ARTS. #Centerfest

About Durham Arts Council

Durham Arts Council, Inc. is a private, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes excellence in and access to the creation, experience and active support of the arts for all people in our community. The Durham Arts Council, one of the oldest arts councils in the United States and one of the largest in North Carolina, manages a historic City-owned building at 120 Morris St., a public facility in downtown Durham that attracts nearly 400,000 visitors a year. The Durham Arts Council has year-round programs including art exhibitions; classes in the performing and visual arts; artist residencies; advocacy and fundraising for the arts; grants for artists and arts organizations; the Durham Art Walk; and CenterFest. For more information, visit www.durhamarts.org.

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