

Press Release



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Greater Augusta Arts Council
1301 Greene Street
P.O. Box 1776
Augusta, GA 30903
706-826-4702 x 1
706-826-4723 (Fax)

For Immediate Release

Contact Information:

Brenda Durant
Greater Augusta Arts Council
P.O. Box 1776, Sacred Heart Cultural Center
Brenda@augustaarts.com
www.AugustaArts.com

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Arts in the Heart Festival Has Exciting Changes

AUGUSTA, GA – (July 29, 2011) – The Greater Augusta Arts Council will hold the 31st annual Arts in the Heart Festival from September 16-18, 2011 in historic downtown Augusta, GA. This year the festival relocates to Broad Street, which will be closed to traffic for the duration of the festival. The Global Food Village and Global stage will continue to occupy the Augusta Common with ethnic food from 35 countries provided by local cultural groups. Over 90 Fine Arts and Crafters booths will extend down Broad Street with plenty of shade to make the festival an even more enjoyable experience for attendees. In addition to the popular Global Stage, Community Stage and Family Stage, Arts in the Heart will have a new Troubadour Stage on Broad Street for spoken word, acoustic performances, theatrical readings and a poetry slam. The festival will continue to feature a free children's area where kids can create crafts from around the world, a southern beer garden, E-Z-Go Golf Cart Raffle, The Augusta Chronicle Singer Songwriter Competition, over 40 performances, and a young artist's market featuring art from children 18 and younger. Featured country is Greece.

Arts in the Heart has an exciting lineup of performances this year including a Snapdragon reunion, featuring Ronnie Hill, Travis Petrea, Erin Jacobs, Tara and Kevin Scheyer; the Eskimojitos featuring John Krueger, Zach Swenson, Jack Craig and Rino Mendoza ; Greek performers Alpha Omega from Atlanta; Karen Gordon with Children's Jazz; and many more. Another new addition this year is a Community Talent Show, coordinated by Steve Walpert director of the Ft. Gordon Dinner Theatre.

A festival favorite is the Fine Arts and Craft area, returning Artists include Last Year's Winners: Lisa Davin 2010 1st Place Winner, Linda Tong 2010 2nd Place Winner, Katrina Gray 2010 Merit Winner and Juliet King aka The Grunge Goddess, 2010 Merit Winner. Some of the new artists include Jeannie & Sam Maddox, Elizabeth Malpass, and Silas Stoddart.

Utilizing the high amount of visitor traffic that the ArtsintheHeart.com website receives during and after the festival, we will be adding a new feature with Live streaming during Friday and Saturday. In partnership with Fox 54 and RedWolf, the Greater Augusta Arts Council will make it possible for people all around the world to get a taste of the festival and Augusta. The streamed video will remain accessible for viewing during the year.

Weekend badges for the Arts in the Heart Festival are \$5 in advance and \$7 day of and children under 10 are free. Advance tickets will be Available at all SRP Federal Credit Union Locations in early August. The Arts in the Heart Festival has won many awards including being voted Best festival by readers of Augusta magazine and Applause. Don't miss out on the fun, for more information visit <http://www.artsintheheart.com> or contact Brenda Durant at Brenda@augustaarts.com.

The Greater Augusta Arts Council is located at 1301 Greene St. in Augusta, GA. Its mission is to advance the arts and thus, enrich the quality of life in Augusta and the Central Savannah River Area.

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Attachments: Bios on Select Bands and Photos

Performer Biographies

Eskimojitos

Four dashing young men accidentally formed Eskimojitos in late 2009. What started as a one-off show performing original music one night in Augusta, Georgia turned into a band. They dubbed themselves "Eskimojitos" because the name "Foo Fighters" had already been taken. Band is comprised of John Krueger (lead vocals, guitar, harmonica, keyboard), Zach Swenson (drums, guitar, vocals, keyboard), Jack Craig (bass guitar, vocals) and Rino Mendoza (lead guitar, keyboard, vocals),

Snapdragon

In 1994, Tara Scheyer closed her eyes, pointed at the atlas, and landed on Augusta, GA. The next day she moved here with everything she owned in her van and Snapdragon was born. They recorded the album "Drinking Watermelon Sugar" with indie label Clutch Artery and later signed a national distribution deal with Pound Records. Snapdragon toured the U.S. extensively to support the CD, had a video on MTV, and topped the alternative radio charts at #6 in the nation with their song *Farrah Fawcett*.

After five years of touring and many line-up changes, Snapdragon called it quits in 1999 when Tara moved to Nashville to write songs for Reba McEntire's Starstruck Publishing. In 2002 she came back to Augusta with husband, Kevin, to start the family music project, Tara Scheyer & the Mud Puppy Band. Snapdragon has reunited twice for fund-raiser events. They will again take the stage for the 2011 Arts in the Heart Festival. The current line-up features these favorite former members: Tara Scheyer, Kevin Scheyer, Erin Jacobs, Travis Petrea and Ronnie Hill.

Alpha Omega Sound

Alpha Omega Sound, of Atlanta, Georgia, is a Greek folk band that has performed throughout the eastern United States and boasts one of the largest Greek music repertoires around. Alpha Omega Sound was a creative and collaborative effort formed over 22 years ago. Since its creation, Alpha Omega Sound has played for all types of events including weddings, baptisms, Greek nights, birthdays and festivals. The band is comprised of several musicians with years of vast musical experience. Members include: John Papadimitriou (bouzouki, lead vocals), Tassos Dimoglou (bouzouki), Theofillos Kouremetis (guitars, bass), Dimitri Papadimitriou (drums, percussion), John Papaspyrou (keyboards) and Dimitrios Dallas (clarinet, violin). Their discography includes, "Midnight in Athens" and their 2011 release, "Koitzontas Piso" (Looking Back). They are proud to perform at the Augusta Arts Festival and wish the Augusta community and all of its festival patrons: "kali diaskedasi" (have a great time!).

Karen Gordon Children's Jazz

Karen Gordon is a jazz musician and the organizer of three for profit concert series in Richmond, Columbia, and Aiken counties – Candlelight Jazz, Garden Jazz, and Aiken Jazz Festival respectively. At Arts in the Heart, Karen Gordon's Garden City Jazz presents Jazz4Kids- an interactive program of tunes for kids and kids at heart. They'll play swinging nursery rhymes, folk tales and cartoon themes-songs that remind us of the good old days

Selection of Exhibiting Fine Artists and Photo Names:

Last Year's Winners who are returning:

Davin_Lisa_2 – Artist Lisa Davin 2010 1st Place Winner
Tong_Linda_3 – Artist Linda Dong 2010 2nd Place Winner
Gray_Katrina_2 – Artist Katrina Gray 2010 Merit Winner
King_Juliet_7 – Artist Juliet King 2010 Merit Winner

New Artists:

JeannieSam_Maddox_1 – Artists Jeannie & Sam Maddox
Malpass_Elizabeth_4 – Artist Elizabeth Malpass
Stoddart_Silas_5 – Artist Silas Stoddart