PRESS RELEASE
September 1, 2017
Contact: Peter Hay, Exhibits Director
peter@durangoarts.org
(970) 259-2606, Ext. 12

Durango Autumn Arts Festival Returns for Celebration of Art & Community
23rd annual event hosts 100 artists and fine craftspeople from the region and across the country

(DURANGO, CO)—The Durango Arts Center (DAC) will present its 23rd annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 & 17, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. outdoors on East 2nd Avenue in historic downtown Durango. More information, including a downloadable PDF of the Festival Guide is available at www.durangoarts.org/daaf. Durango Autumn Arts Festival is a signature community event showcases the creativity of makers from around the country. The 2016 festival welcomed nearly 8,000 guests and was ranked by artists as among the top 50 festivals in the country for sales of fine craft in Art Fair Sourcebook.

The festival is made possible by numerous local business sponsors, in-kind contributions, over 100 volunteers and a premier sponsorship investment by First Southwest Bank for the fourth year in a row. DAC encourages festival-goers to visit First Southwest Bank’s new facility at the corner of East 2nd Avenue and College Drive, where additional welcoming activities will be shared during the weekend.

The Durango Autumn Arts Festival is an annual fundraising event for the Durango Arts Center, whose mission is to enrich the community through innovative visual and performing art, and arts education. DAC advances appreciation and participation in the arts as a cultural leader in the region. As a local hub for visual and performing arts activities, DAC provides year-round programs through over 20 exhibits, live theatre and arts education for all abilities, ages 5+.

FESTIVAL ARTISTS
This year features an increase in booths to 100 selected from 208 applicants by local jurors photographer Kathy Myrick, jeweler Gretchen Magwitz and painter Ann Smith. Artists and fine craftspeople from 17 states, including 9 local makers, will be present to meet the public and share their creative work in booths lining East 2nd Avenue from 9th Street to College Drive. Numerous exhibitors will be returning this year, including the 2016 award winner, Best of Show for “Best Booth,” Mikel Robinson, who is an internationally collected mixed media artist from
Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also returning is 2016 Best of Show for “Fine Craft,” Suzanne Williams, a jeweler who also creates 3D assemblages and shadow boxes containing graphic images that feature intricate three-dimensional dioramas.

Local artists juried into this year’s Festival include glass artisan Signe Studdard, jeweler Happy Harrington, Briana Paxton, who creates photo-realistic paintings and mixed media work inspired by her upbringing in the American West, and veteran Autumn Arts Festival exhibitor Linda Geer, whose wearable fiber work is a crowd favorite.

**FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES**
The festival is FREE to all. Live, local entertainment on the Main Stage, situated between the Durango Arts Center and Ecosphere Environmental Services on East 8th Street, will present musical talent all weekend including: Sweetwater Station, Six Dollar String Band, Hello Dollface, The Lost Souls, and several youth and adult bands from local nonprofit organizations, iAm Music and Stillwater Music.

The Food Court offers locally sourced, artisanal food from Bounty from the Belly and Mountain Stir fry. DAC will host a booth with wine and craft brews from Steamworks Brewing Co., and fresh-squeezed lemonade by Tom Cat’s Lemonade. Ragtime Kettle Korn will offer their deliciously flavored non-GMO kettle popped corn.

The Creation Station, the festival’s hands-on activity area for all ages, will be offering free face painting and several hands-on activities, as well as activities from the newly opened MakerLab at the Powerhouse Science Center.

**STREET CLOSURE INFO**
The 23rd annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival does require a Special Activities Permit for the closure of East 2nd Avenue between College Drive and 9th Street from 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 17. This segment of East 2nd Avenue and the intersections at 7th Street, and 8th Street will be closed to all vehicle traffic. 7th and 8th Streets will be closed at the alleys to the east and west of East 2nd Avenue. Northbound traffic from College Drive, will not be able to access East 2nd Avenue. Southbound traffic on East 2nd Avenue will be detoured at 9th Street, to use either 3rd Avenue, or Main Avenue. No Parking signs will be posted the Thursday before the event to alert public and private parking of the closure. The City Parking Lots impacted by this closure, are located on East 2nd Avenue between 9th and 8th Streets (North of Durango Arts Center), 8th and 7th Streets (South of Ecosphere), and the lot on the corner of 7th Street and 2nd Avenue.

**FESTIVAL CONTACTS**
For questions regarding the Festival artists and jurors, please contact Peter Hay, DAC Exhibits Director at (970) 259-2606, Ext. 12 or peter@durangoarts.org.
For questions regarding the event logistics and entertainment please contact Eric J. Bulrice, DAC Technical Director at (970) 259-2606 Ext. 19 or eric@durangoarts.org.

For questions regarding the street closure or Special Activities Permit, please contact Mike Kelly, City of Durango Community Events Supervisor at (970) 375-7331 or mike.kelly@durangogov.org.

Durango Arts Center | 802 E. 2nd Ave, Durango, CO 81301 | 970.259.2606

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