



Supporting and Promoting
Artists and the Arts Year-Round

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Summerfair Returns for 40th Year

Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Fair Set for June 1, 2 and 3

Cincinnati -- It's hard to believe that it's been 40 years since a group of friends, spending their Sunday afternoon hanging out in a Mt. Adams gift shop, came up with the idea for Summerfair. Who would have guessed that what began as a small art fair organized to celebrate the opening of Playhouse in the Park in 1968 would grow to be one of the top rated fine arts shows in the nation?

Summerfair 2007, one of the nation's best known fine arts and crafts festivals, returns for its 40th Anniversary this June 1, 2, and 3 to Cincinnati's historic Coney Island.

An event with a rich history and high standards, Patrons can expect to find an incredible array of art at this year's fair with more than 300 artists participating from across the U.S. and Canada.

"We received more than 1,000 applications from artists interested in being apart of our 40th anniversary show," said Ashley Heil-Oehler, 2007 Co- Fair Chair. "This is an exciting year for us and the competition to be included in the show was fierce. We really think people will like what they see."

In all, artists from almost 40 states and Canada will participate in Summerfair's 40th Anniversary fair, exhibiting everything from photography and painting to woodworking, ceramics and jewelry. Among the artists selected, thirty-one are from the Greater Cincinnati area. (Editors: Please see attached list of Greater Cincinnati Exhibitors).

To help celebrate their anniversary Summerfair 2007 has once again put together a strong line-up of local performers like singer/songwriters Linda and Frank Fazioli, as well as groups like Raison Detra' and Robin Lacy and DeZydeco. Many other bands, soloists, dance and theater groups will also be on hand performing on one of five different stages. Strolling entertainers – including balloon artists, magicians and barbershop quartets – can be found throughout the Fair.

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Summerfair will also be expanding the Youth Arts Rocks! area, a special fair-within-a-fair targeted toward Summerfair's younger arts patrons. This year attendees will have the opportunity to explore Happen's Hesefetasm World (Hesefetasm = Hear, See, Feel, Taste, Smell), a multi-sensory, multi-cultural, multi-FUN experience geared toward children ages 6-12. Children entering Happen's Hesefetasm World will be given colorful 'passports' that guide them through interactive 'sensation stations,' each designed to introduce participants to faraway places through creative exercises using one of the senses.

"We really wanted to do something big in the Youth Arts Rocks! area this year," added **Dee Newton**, 2007 Co-Fair Chair. "Happen, Inc. provides amazing programming for children and we were thrilled, not only bring them back, but to be able to have them do more."

And finally, while Patrons might not have the opportunity to have their handwriting analyzed, view a frog jumping contest or smash a car with a sledgehammer like they did when the show first began, they can help organizers celebrate their 40th anniversary by attending one of the Summerfair Birthday Bashes. Bashes will take place daily, 30 minutes after the gates open, in Moonlight Gardens. Festivities will include a ceremonial blowing out of the candles and cake cutting. Moe Thie with the Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State, and former owner of Virginia Bakery, will provide the cakes.

Summerfair 2007, which will be held 13 miles from downtown Cincinnati at historic Coney Island (just off I-275 at Kellogg Avenue), draws more than 35,000 people each year.

Hours for the fair are 2 to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets can be purchased for \$9.00 (children 12 and under are free). Parking is free courtesy of Summerfair Cincinnati. The fair will be held rain or shine.

For more information, call the Summerfair office at 513-531-0050, visit Summerfair online at www.summerfair.org or email info@summerfair.org.

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About Summerfair Cincinnati:

For 40 years, Summerfair Cincinnati has been supporting and promoting artists and the arts in Greater Cincinnati. The organization's activities include: supports for individual artists including grants and exhibitions; community-based art activities and events; and a nationally recognized annual fine arts fair.

The effectiveness of Summerfair Cincinnati activities have earned the organization regional and national recognition including: Named one of the Top 10 Fine Art Shows in the nation by Sunshine Artist

Magazine, Post-Corbett Award of Excellence, Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau Outstanding Service Award, Southwestern Ohio Art Education Award for Distinguished Organization, American Marketing Association Community Impact Award, and the National Association of Independent Artists Artists' Choice Award.