

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** JUNE 19, 2008

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## **2008 Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Original**

**Ann Arbor, MI** – The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is the Original of the four art fairs that comprise the award-winning Ann Arbor Art Fairs. Collectively, the fairs draw more than half a million visitors each year. The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Ann Arbor Street Art Fair takes place on North University Avenue and the University of Michigan's grassy Ingalls Mall and Diag. This year's Fair opens on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and continues through Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The hours of the Fair are 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM Wednesday through Friday and 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Saturday.

As a small non-profit community arts organization, the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Original's purpose is to connect artists and their art with an appreciative audience. In addition to the 175 artists showcased at the Fair, the Street Art Fair offers music and dance performances, ArtZone workshops and community art projects, as well as booth-side artist demonstrations to create a comfortable, engaging and holistic art experience.

## **Going Green: Moving Towards a Sustainable Future**

For the 49<sup>th</sup> Fair, The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is adopting new environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in partnership with The Ecology Center, Recycle Ann Arbor, the Washtenaw Land Trust, and additional support from the City of Ann Arbor Solid Waste and Recycling Department.

To start things off, the **4<sup>th</sup> Ever Townie Street Party**, the kick-off party to the Ann Arbor Art Fairs brought to you by the Street Art Fair, will be a zero-waste event. The Townie Street Party is our pilot zero-waste event as we look towards making our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fair in 2009 a zero-waste event. In addition, the Townie Street Party will house **Where We Live: The Ecology of Place**, a collaborative community eco-art project that both honors and raises awareness about Washtenaw County's extraordinary ecosystems. In a unique partnership between the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, Washtenaw Land Trust, and local environmental artist Leslie Sobel, satellite images and maps of Washtenaw County will be collaged with photos, drawings and stories about the land contributed by the public. Anyone and everyone are encouraged to help breathe life into this exciting project. Please visit [www.artfair.org](http://www.artfair.org) for more information.

As part of our two year move towards making the Street Art Fair a zero-waste event, we are implementing a much-improved recycling program. 50 recycling stations will be present on-site

with receptacles for paper, glass and plastic, which will be staffed by volunteers to help with proper recycling, and to offer information about recycling and sustainability.

In addition, our **ArtZone** activities and workshops raise environmental awareness through interactive visual art projects, most led by young and forward thinking local artists. First, the ***Imagination Station***, will present free art activities for younger children and their families that incorporate recycled materials and encourage interaction with the natural environment. Projects include recycled tube rain sticks, milk carton birdhouses, recycled paper bag hats, and bottle cap necklaces.

Second, the **ArtZone** area also features free art workshops done by local community groups and artists for a more in-depth, hands-on experience. 2008 Visual Art Workshops cover a wide variety of techniques and media from reusing old barn windows to create beautiful dried flower displays, to cutting up and customizing old T-shirts, to making DIY art canvases out of natural and sustainable materials.

We are also happy to announce that our generators provided by JRW Generations for both the Townie Street Party and the Street Art Fair will be run on bio-diesel.

For more information, please visit [www.artfair.org](http://www.artfair.org)

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