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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 2005

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First-Ever Townie Street Party to Kick Off the Art Fairs

Come party with the locals to kick off art fair week at the *Townie Street Party*, on Monday, July 18, 2005, from 5 PM to 9 PM, under the big tents on Washington Street between Thayer and Fletcher, adjacent to the University of Michigan's Ingalls Mall on central campus. It's a family event, and admission is free.

The four Ann Arbor Art Fairs proudly invite members of the community to celebrate the joy of the fair on a smaller scale. As a first-annual event, the *Townie Street Party* promises to be a place to connect with old friends and make new ones. The Chenille Sisters, RFD Boys, and Improv Inferno will take the stage to provide live entertainment between 5:30 PM and 8:30 PM. Street performers, a caricaturist, and face painters will entertain kids and parents alike. Townies will have the chance to preview a hands-on art activity at the new Imagination Station before the fair begins.

An array of local food will also be available for sale from area restaurants, and a fenced-off area will serve beer and wine to those over 21 years of age. Local artists will provide an art preview to the fair. There will be a free raffle for special townie treats. Special souvenirs will be for sale, including cups, beach towels, and t-shirts. "Townies" may park free at bagged meters on Fletcher, State and Liberty Streets, or at paid visitor parking in University of Michigan Thayer Street and Fletcher Street Parking Structures.

The Ann Arbor Art Fairs will run July 20 - 23, 2005 on the streets of downtown Ann Arbor. The four award-winning fairs draw 500,000 attendees from across the nation to the city each summer, showcasing over 1,200 artists, live entertainment, a variety of world food, artist demonstrations, children's activities, and local shopping.

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