



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill Bacon Madden
Event director
Ph: 330-524-0114
Email: jill@houseofinfo.com

University Park Art Fair Graces the City for Third Year

More than 100 regional artists will showcase their fine art and fine crafts at the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Presented by the University Park Development Corporation (UPDC), the art fair will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Grace Park on Perkins Street. University Park is a resurgent neighborhood located in the central part of Akron and anchored by The University of Akron, Summa Health System's Akron City Hospital, The City of Akron, Akron Public Schools and the central business district.

"The University Park Art Fair at Grace Park is an excellent venue for artists to showcase their work, and it offers people a wonderful opportunity to visit and appreciate the beauty of Akron's oldest park and the vibrancy of the University Park district," said UPDC board president Scott T. Read, who added, "the University Park Development Corporation is excited to be bringing this signature event to University Park again this year."

The University Park Development Corporation is a collaboration of people devoted to reviving the University Park area. The mission of both the UPDC and the art fair is to showcase the metropolitan neighborhood, thriving businesses and other offerings University Park provides its visitors.

Admission to the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park is free. The event is expected to be one of the largest art fairs in the city. On-street parking is available in the surrounding neighborhoods, and parking lots are open for use at adjacent businesses.

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The 3rd Annual University Park Art Fair at Grace Park features:

- More than 100 regional artists and their work for purchase;
- Artwork including ceramics, glass, wearable art, furniture, drawings and graphics, fiber, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, watercolor, wood art and more;
- Make & Take project booths with children's art activities hosted by City Art Project and the Akron Art Museum;
- University of Akron Myers School of Art student exhibition area;
- Akron-centric wear from Rubber City Clothing Company;
- Claycrafters and Custom Stitches tent hosted by Weaver Industries/County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities;
- Two large-scale community art projects with renowned artist and UA distinguished professor of art Mark Soppeland - attendees may participate and add their personal touch:
 - **Collage & Drawing for Haunted ArtSpace**
Work on a project that will become part of this October's Haunted ArtSpace. The Halloween ghosts and goblins will be very creative this October thanks to a rather scary group of Akron area artists. Eight top professional artists and four young, emerging artists are putting their devilish talents together to build an eerie art installation called *Haunted ArtSpace*. The event will be held Halloween and All Saints weekends at Summit Artspace in downtown Akron.
 - **Return of the Midnight Sun Family Workshop**
Help create works of art that will become part of a major black light installation for First Night 2009! Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of techniques in the production of art that will be revealed under black light.
- A picnic pavilion operated by **Virtues Restaurant**: Virtues Restaurant is a refined dining establishment nestled in the new Ann and David Brennan Critical Care Center on the campus of Summa's Akron City Hospital. The restaurant boasts a contemporary design with upbeat bistro flair and offers an eclectic mixture of California style cuisine with Italian, French and Asian influences. Conceived by internationally renowned executive chef Frank Zifer, the menu showcases fresh organic ingredients with artistic presentations for a sophisticated approach to wellness-based, holistic dining. Virtues' chefs have created a special menu for the art fair that includes gourmet pizza, hamburgers and chicken. All menu items are priced at \$5 or less.
- A family-friendly atmosphere;
- WAPS/91.3FM The Summit's Jim Chenot will broadcast live from Grace Park from 10AM until Noon, station personalities, giveaways, and the flaming orange El Camino;
- **Wondering What to Do With That Old Trombone? Donate it to Music Alive! We're loading the WAPS/91.3FM El Camino at the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park!**: The University Park Art Fair at Grace Park has teamed with WAPS/91.3FM The Summit, The Akron Public Schools, and Taylor Band & Orchestra to provide a drop site for their *Music Alive* program. *Music Alive* helps young musicians in our local schools realize their dreams and learn the joys of playing an instrument. Through *Music Alive*, instruments are collected and repaired then placed in the hands of kids who will truly appreciate them. If you have an unloved, dusty and forgotten musical instrument in your attic, closet or basement bring it down to Grace Park during the art fair and put it in the back of the bright orange El Camino. There are dozens of kids who'd love the chance to learn to play it...kids whose families simply can't afford the expense of buying their child a musical instrument.
- Entertainment, spotlighting several of the area's best musical acts and performers;
- *Triad Communications Performance Area*:
 - **10 – 11:45AM**: Pete Nischt (acoustic/pop/folk rock)
 - **12 – 1:45PM**: Ira Jazz Project (jazz/funk/blues)
 - **2 – 3:45PM**: Dolson (folk rock/indie/pop)
 - **4 – 6PM**: Nate X Ten (folk rock/acoustic)
- *iMMix Studios Performance Area*:
 - **1-3 PM** Don Volenik & Percussion for All
 - **3-6PM** – TBA

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- And, the City of Akron's Trolley will provide free rides between several events all day long! Park at any one location and take a trip on the trolley to enjoy them all!

1. In the morning (from 10AM-1PM) ride the trolley and enjoy an Akron History Tour guided by Michael Cohill with additional stops at Don Drumm Studios & Gallery, Lock 3! Lives' Home Grown Saturday Morning, and the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park (stop on Prospect Street)

2. In the afternoon (from 1PM – 6PM) ride the **Green University Park Free Shuttle** and reduce your carbon footprint. The Green University Park Shuttle makes three scheduled stops at the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park, Don Drumm Studios & Gallery, and the Northeastern Ohio Green Energy Expo at the Knight Center. Five "drive by" visits to sustainable living points of interest in University Park - including the Andrew Jackson House, Spicer Village and Dale Chihuly's polymer sculpture - are also included. Tour guides will be on board to educate and entertain. The Green University Park Free Shuttle is sponsored by the City of Akron, University Park Alliance and Green Energy Ohio.

SPONSORS: University Park Art Fair at Grace Park is sponsored by the Brennan Family Foundation; Summa Health System; City of Akron; University Park Alliance; Boomerang LLC; Jill's House of Information LLC; iMMiX Studio (web design sponsor); Triad Communications (print design sponsor); WAPS 91.3 (media sponsor); United Way of Summit County; CommonGood Consulting, Inc.; WKSU 89.7FM; Welty Family Foundation; Akron Legacy Real Estate Development LLC; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP; Huntington Bank; Maynard Family Foundation; Patrice Lange; Northeast Ohio Nephrology Associates ; Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority ; OMNOVA Solutions Foundation; Oriana House; Aramark; Cintas; BW Rogers Company Fund; and Greenleaf Family Center.

About the University Park Development Corporation

The University Park Development Corporation (UPDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the renewal and rebirth of the University Park neighborhood and serves the people who live, work and play in the area.

UPDC strives to strengthen the economic, civic and environmental capabilities the University Park district through residential development, rehabilitation of the area and renovation of existing housing stock. For more information about the University Park Art Fair at Grace Park and UPDC visit www.universityparkartfair.org

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