

PRESS RELEASE

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.jpg photos avail upon request

FESTIVAL FOCUS ON ARTS - BIGGER & BETTER ATLANTA DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL RETURNS MAY 19 & 20 WITH JURIED VISUAL ARTS MARKETS, MORE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN

ATLANTA- The Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association (ADNA) will again present the annual Atlanta Downtown Festival and Tour, a showcase of downtown life on May 19 and 20, 2006 in the Fairlie Poplar and Centennial Park districts of downtown Atlanta. The Association produces the arts festival and tour of downtown dwellings annually, after having launched the Festival in 2002 and taken responsibility for the tour started by Central Atlanta Progress in the mid 90's. This year's Festival takes a substantial step forward by initiating a juried artist market aimed at drawing some of the finest visual artists and crafts people in the Southeast. Market participation will be determined by a team of judges to ensure the quality of the offerings available to the public during the festival weekend. Cash prizes will be awarded in a number of categories.

The Downtown Festival and Tour is a resident led event held on Walton, Broad and Poplar Streets in the heart of Fairlie Poplar and includes the artist's market, live music on two stages, a children's activity area, as well as the well-established tour of downtown homes. For eight years, CAP hosted one of the region's most popular home tours, The Downtown Tour of Lofts and Lifestyles. In 2002 the Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association launched a festival on the streets of the historic Fairlie Poplar district on the same weekend as the loft tour. In 2004, the two organizations banded together to produce the combined event, and in 2005, Central Atlanta Progress turned over the reins of the event to the neighborhood association.

This year's tour will feature 15 to 20 lofts, condos and other unique living spaces on a walking tour in and around Fairlie Poplar and Centennial Olympic Park. The festival site in the heart of the district will include live entertainment on two stages beginning at noon each day, an artist market with more than 100 booths, a beer garden and other activities designed to showcase the vibrancy of downtown living. Some of the Southeast's finest visual artists will display their work at the Artists' Market. The children's area will let young artists create their own masterpieces and enjoy a series of artist-led hands-on activities and storytelling.

Applications for artists, vendors and entertainers wishing to participate in the festival are available at the ADNA website www.atlantadna.org.

Sponsors for the Festival include ING, AMC America's Mart, The Georgia Council for the Arts, Sweetwater Brewing Co., Yellobee, Novare.
For more information or the latest updates, log onto www.atlantadowntown.com

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