



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Serri Ayers
972-744-4582
serri.ayers@cor.gov

There's an ART to having fun!

**Cottonwood Art Festival
May 1-2, 2010
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Cottonwood Park – Richardson, TX**

RICHARDSON, TEXAS- On May 1-2, 2010, the finest artists in the country will set up shop in Cottonwood Park, transforming it into an open-air gallery during the 41st Cottonwood Art Festival. Each of the artists is there in person to discuss their work, or to talk for a while on a spring afternoon. Meeting the artists and learning about their work are two important things that make Cottonwood a truly special event. Two hundred, forty of the finest artists will be featuring one-of-a-kind, limited edition works in paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, fine glass, woodwork, mixed media, and photography. Award-winning Cottonwood Art Festival, currently rated 5th best art festival in the country, is North Texas' premier fine arts event. Centrally located in the Metroplex at 1321 W. Belt Line Road in Richardson (just one block east of Coit Road), Cottonwood Art Festival has something for everyone and is the perfect way to celebrate a beautiful spring weekend!

In addition to the spectacular fine art, Cottonwood also offers delicious cuisine, live musical entertainment, a "funtastic" children's area, and a beautifully landscaped courtyard/café that borders Cottonwood Lake, the perfect mid-day stop to sit and relax while you enjoy food, spirits, and live music and take in the scenes all around. The lakeside stage will be home for a variety of local and regional bands. Acts this year include: Chris Watson Band, John Gaar and the Hopeful Souls, John Adams Group, Andrew Tinker, Blue Condition, Statesboro Revue, Shoot Low Sheriff, Victor Andrada, and Jimmy and Steve Barcus.

The fun doesn't stop with the adult art aficionados!! It continues for the "pint-size Picasso's" in the crowd across the bridge at **ArtStop** - the festival's hands-on, interactive children's area. Over 100 volunteers, life size paint brushes, and activities no child can resist welcome you to a world of art! Ever painted on a GI'NORMOUS Monster Mural? Well now you can!! You've seen the signature Cottonwood Cool Caps! Stop by and make one..... all you need is a ton of imagination! How about throwing some mud...onto a pottery wheel that is! We have our very own "Masta Potta" on-site to help keep the mud on the wheel! Design your very own Cottonwood drawstring bag...it's your masterpiece forever! Other activities include CastAway, Tile Painiting, Chalk Board Easels, Chisel Away and Magnetic Personalities. This is an experience you can only get at Cottonwood Art Festival...be sure to make that **ArtStop**!

The celebration of art continues as the dream of being an artist becomes a reality for a select group of students through the Emerging Artist Program, proudly sponsored by Opportunity Bank. Cottonwood Art Festival has expanded its community outreach to now educate youth on becoming an artist as a way of life. Designed to mentor art students in high school, this innovative program is moving to the next level as the selected young artists' exhibit at the festival. Local high school students have an opportunity to show and sell their work not only at the Cottonwood, but also to exhibit at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the month of April. It's not only a great opportunity for the students to meet and learn from professional artists, but a great way for you to catch a glimpse of the up-and-coming talent in Richardson.

Visiting Artists is another outreach program designed to bring the talents of our artists and the opportunities of our festival to students in the Richardson Independent School District. Several of our participating artists will visit area schools to demonstrate their work, and provide an insight to students as to how the visual art industry can be a viable alternative for a career. Best of all, they get inspiration and encouragement from some of the best artists in the country. For a young student who "loves to draw," it may be just what he or she needs to set them on a career path in art. The Cottonwood Visiting Artists Program will reach and inspire over 750 students this spring with classroom visits, demonstrations, and presentations.

For more festival information including a complete artist listing by medium, band performance schedules, concessionaire menus, and children's activities, visit www.cottonwoodartfestival.com or call

972.744.4580. Festival hours are: Saturday, May 1st, 9 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, May 2nd, 9 am to 6 pm. Admission and parking are free.

Cottonwood Art Festival has it all...there really is an ART to having fun!!

Media Note: for more information please contact Serri Ayers, Festival Director, Cottonwood Art Festival, City of Richardson, 972.744.4580 or serri.ayers@cor.gov.

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