



Immediate Release

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Arts Campaign Breaks Million Dollar Mark: 4 Weeks Left.

“Breaking the million dollar mark is great news and we’re just going to keep going,” says 2010 Annual Arts Campaign chair Linda DeHoff. In the first eight weeks of its yearly 12-week campaign, ArtsinStark has raised **\$1,044,000** or 72% of its **\$1,450,000** goal. “Only four weeks left and we’ve got a shot at going all the way,” adds ArtsinStark board chair Bob Timken, “and that’s exciting.” Current predictions are that ArtsinStark will go into the final week just **\$45,000** short of goal. “We’ve been in this position before,” says ArtsinStark CEO Robb Hankins. “It’s like the fourth quarter of a big game --- we’ve just got to stay focused and stay strong.” The \$1,450,000 being raised will used next year to give out \$1.2 million in grants to non-profits and artists, manage the Cultural Center for the Arts, and host community events like “First Friday” which offers up its **34th** consecutive celebration this week. For more information on First Friday or on supporting the Annual Arts Campaign (which ends on May 26), go to www.ArtsinStark.com or call 330-453-1075.

The Annual Arts Campaign raises dollars from corporations, foundations, and individuals. Here’s the breakdown of how much has been raised to date in each of those categories:

End Week #8	Dollar	Dollars	%
Divisions	Goal	ToDate	ToDate
Corporations	\$474,000	\$299,000	63%
Foundations	\$350,000	\$300,000	86%
Individuals>\$250	\$526,000	\$380,000	72%
Individuals<\$250	\$100,000	\$65,000	65%
	\$1,450,000	\$1,044,000	72%

First Friday began in July of 2007 when the (SID) Special Improvement District at Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and ArtsinStark had been implementing a strategy of live music, public art, and artist studios/galleries to revitalize downtown for about a year. “We wanted folks to know that the arts were helping to bring this downtown back,” say Mike Gill who heads up SID, “and we thought a monthly celebration would help spread the word.” Nearly three years later *First Friday*

feels like it has become a household word and each month 1,000 to 3,000 people show up to party in the Canton Arts District.

Every single *First Friday* has a theme. And whether your thoughts are clouded by dreams of baseball or barbecues, baccalaureates or bikinis --- there's no better way to skip into the season than by attending May's *First Friday* with its "**Spring Fever!**" theme. The party runs from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in the Canton Arts District which is centered around 4th and Cleveland N.W.

Here are just some of the highlights. The Ryan Humbert Band will take the stage on the roof of Primo's Italian Ristorante at 8:00 p.m. Blue Moon Band will be performing outside the galleries on 4th street NW. In the Motter & Meadows lot on Market Avenue and 6th --- Canton Idol, Brandon Talbert and Line of Defense will perform And street musicians including Dan Flauding, Lisa Spicer, Gary Gerber, Bryn Swallen, Tim Griffiths, Matt Basso and Thom Ebersole will be singing (and playing) in the streets all over the Arts District.

Work from visual artists will be featured across the Arts District including creations from Clare Murray Adams at Anderson Creative; Nancy Stewart Matin at Gasser Jewelers; Michelle Cimprich at Julz, Sassyfrass at The Red Ribbon Connection; and the Turning Point Exhibit featuring wood expert Marty Chapman and 40 other artists at 2nd April Galerie. Clyde Butcher will be at the Joseph Saxton Gallery of Photography, signing his new book and opening his exhibit *Wilderness Visions*. This gallery is also the place to view the submissions for the Tie1On/Scarf1Up competition which is hosted by Community Services of Stark County.

Families will enjoy a post-Cinco de Mayo celebration at Centro San Jose (701 Walnut Ave NE) complete with food, music and art. Freddie LaFever hand puppets will be the make-n-take project from Aultman's Wellness on Wheels at 4th Street and Court Avenue. Illuminarts will host a spring craft project, face painting and cotton candy will be available at the Red Cross and spring-themed henna tattoos will be making an appearance at Community One Credit Union. And at 7:30 p.m. the *Street Arts Parade*, featuring the Canton Arts Academy at Summit School Band, will start from the *Fish* sculpture by Patrick Buckohr at 6th and Court Avenue NW and everyone is invited to march along.

Early in the evening, My 101.7 radio personality Gary Rivers will broadcast from The Palace Theatre, preceding an evening featuring the Canton Symphony's tribute to Mozart, followed by a free showing of the movie *Amadeus*. Uptown, at the Cultural Center, the Players Guild Theatre will be announcing their 2011 season at 6:00 p.m., right down the hall from the ABOUT magazine reception

and Canton Ceramics Artists Guild pottery sale at the Canton Museum of Art (part of *First Stop First Friday*).

“When we started the Canton Arts District there was only one art gallery and not a single artist studio,” says Susie Steiner, ArtsinStark Board vice chair, “Today there are four art galleries and 22 artist studios.” Indeed, the best way to experience *First Friday* is to visit as many of the four art galleries as possible --- and you’ll discover everything else in the process. The galleries are: 1) 2nd April Galerie (324 Cleveland NW), 2) ACME Artists (332 4th Street NW), 3) Anderson Creative (331 Cleveland Ave. NW), and 4) the Joseph Saxton Gallery of Photography (520 Cleveland Ave NW). In total, over **100,000 square feet** of vacant space has or is being transformed to new uses because of the arts, and more is planned for the future. “This is all happening through public/private partnerships as part of a team effort,” says Robb Hankins, “and the Annual Arts Campaign is the little engine that keeps it all going.”

Background: ArtinStark began 41 years ago in 1968 with the dream of building a Cultural Center for the Arts along side the Canton Civic Center which is owned by the City of Canton. In 1972 that dream came true. Today ArtsinStark is a non profit organization that gives out grants, manages the Cultural Center, and runs the Annual Arts Campaign. Its annual budget is \$2.6 million --- and 99% of it comes from the private sector. What isn’t earned is raised from individuals, companies, and foundations. Every spring ArtsinStark conducts the Annual Arts Campaign. In the last 4 years giving to the arts has increased by 50%. Last May 2009, in the middle of a recession, it raised the largest amount in 41 years: \$1,450,000. Because of the challenging times, the goal has been kept the same for 2010. Out of every dollar raised --- 91 cents goes directly to support programs that are part of ArtsinStark’s mission: “to create smarter kids, new jobs, and healthier communities.”