



ArtsInStark



The County Arts Council

900 Cleveland Ave. NW
PO Box 21190
Canton, OH 44701-1190
(330) 453-1075

www.ArtsInStark.com

**Downtown Canton
Special Improvement District**

222 Market Ave. North
Canton, OH 44702

www.CantonDevelopmentPartnership.com

CONTACT: Sarah Shumaker – ArtsinStark, office 330-453-1075 ext. 207, cell 330-934-0997
Laurie Fife Harbert – Special Improvement District, office 330-458-2091 office, cell 330-575-4452

Chocolate Dreams!

In the wise words of Charlie Brown's friend, Lucy -- "*All I really need is love; but a little chocolate, now and then, doesn't hurt*" – the theme, ***Chocolate Dreams***, drips with delicious delights for Canton's First Friday celebration, February 5 from 6-10 p.m.

Of course, chocolate coats the evening, inviting folks to take a nibble and hopefully a treat home to their honey in time for V-day. Emily Vigil (Bliss Studio) will be taking orders for boxes of goodies personalized with your photo; Sheri's Sweets will feature a Chocolate Dreamland; 2nd April Galerie will be selling hand-painted chocolates; and A Studio will be serving Kristina's Kreations' chocolate malt cupcakes. Other vendors include Milk & Honey chocolates at the Canton Club; Davis Candies at Carpe Diem and Anastasiades Exclusives Chocolates at Pete's Grille. Gasser Jewelers will have a chocolate fountain for decadent dipping.

Chocolate carver, Chef Alford will be at the Joseph Saxton Gallery from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. amid the opening of the internationally-acclaimed Steve McCurry exhibit, "The Unguarded Moment." Canton Symphony Orchestra guest soloist DaXun Zhang on double bass joins in the celebration at 6 p.m. Other exhibits include the Fibernation Invitational Fibers Exhibit at 2nd April; and the Hearts of Hope Domestic Violence Project Art Exhibit at Anderson Creative Gallery. Mosaic glass artist Tara Weiderman will be at Carpe Diem; a pet portrait demo will be taking place at Sue Steiner's White Horse Studio, while BZTAT's Art Adventure Studios will exhibit progress on the latest public art project for the Canton Arts District.

Downtown restaurants sweeten the evening by offering chocolate specials like Arcadia's decadent chocolate dessert; Bender's chocolate martini; Canton Club's chocolate fondue; Pete's Grille's mini buckeye sundae; Iris's mocha pot de crème; Desert Inn's baklava with chocolate sauce; Picciano's specialty chocolate drinks; and a complimentary Snuggie (to drink) at Julz, for chocolate lovers over 21.

For the younger chocolate aficionado, Aultman's Wellness on Wheels will be doing edible chocolate crafts at The Rotary Club, while the Canton Palace Theatre *freely* features the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" at 7:30 p.m.

But where's the love? Music by Cathy Friddle will be blooming in AGoG Teen Gallery; Jeff Poulos will be at Anderson Creative; Ashley Brooke Toussant will follow Jam City at 2nd April; Narada and Friends, a kirtan style jam band performs at the Joseph Saxton Gallery, and violinist Gary Gerber will be strolling through town. Plus many more of your favorites including belly dancer Mariah at the Renkert Bldg. and live jazz *all evening* at the Blue Olive Jazz Club.

Dancers will get into the Valentine swing with The Madison Crawl at the Metropolitan Centre Ballroom and writers will enjoy *Power of the Pen* poetry reading, followed by the Poetry Showcase and Contest at the Kathleen Howland Theatre as well as the Greater Canton Writers' Guild Workshop on memoir writing at Anderson Creative. And, not to be missed is the Art of Having Fun Cornhole Tournament (register at www.lyndatuttle.com) at Lynda Tuttle's Art Center.

Begin your evening "uptown" at the Canton Museum of Art, as they host *Something from Nothing – Recycled Sculpture from America's Rustbelt*, amid a 5:30 p.m. reception with *About* magazine, and a life drawing demo will be taking place by the Canton Artists' League. Also at The Cultural Center, Players Guild Theatre has an 8:00 p.m. performance of "Cat on A Hot Tin Roof," offering free chocolates at intermission.

Download more information and a map for Chocolate Dreams at www.cantonfirstfriday.com. First Friday is sponsored by the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District in cooperation with ArtsinStark, the County Arts Council. *