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2018 COTTON DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL!

STARKVILLE, MS -

Starkville Area Arts Council's annual Cotton District Arts Festival hits Starkville's historic Cotton District on Super Bulldog Weekend this April 21, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDAF is an award-winning Starkville classic that allows artists to compete, showcase, and sell their work. It began in 1986 as a platform for local artists and has since expanded to reach hundreds of artists and vendors and thousands of buyers.

Included in the CDAF are Artisan's Village, Taste of Starkville, Songwriting Competition, Juried Arts Show, a Student Art Competition, along with several other opportunities. Individuals or groups wishing to participate in the events are welcome to submit online applications at either www.cdafestival.com or www.starkvillearts.org. The Student Art Competition and Pet Parade are still accepting manual paper applications forms, available on the CDAF website. Sponsorship Information and Volunteer Sign Up is found at www.cdafestival.com/sponsors--volunteers.html.

SAAC continues to keep the CDAF family-friendly and accessible, despite challenges with this year's logistics resulting from the date change of Super Bulldog Weekend as well as construction in the District. Although onsite Festival office tents are moving, the most of the Artisan Village will be located along the same streets as in previous years. The Student Art Competition will be displayed in the lobby of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership on April 10-12, with a reception on April 12 at 5 p.m.

The Juried Arts Show is juried by Elizabeth Abston, the Curator of the Collection from Mississippi Museum of Art. Due to changes in scheduling associated with Super Bulldog Weekend, this year's show will be in a new venue, at 203 Maxwell St, just outside one of the South Gates. This competitive show offers prizes for the top winning artists: \$750 for Best In Show; \$500 for 1st place and \$250 for second place in each category.

This year, SAAC contacted Mississippi State students for helping with the CDAF poster design. Marianna Myrick, graduate of the Department of Art this past December, designed the image for the CDAF poster and T-shirt, using bright colors to represent the playful and lively atmosphere of the festival. Abbey Ridgon, senior graphic design major, designed the new logo, inspired by the road mural in the center of the Cotton District to give a dynamic and site-specific story.



Sponsorships and volunteers are extremely critical to keep the event admission free for the public and booth fees among the lowest in the state. This year's CDAF is funded in part by a grant from Visit Mississippi. Further information on sponsorships, as well as volunteer sign up, can be found at www.cdafestival.com/sponsors--volunteers.html.

About SAAC

Now commencing its third decade, the Starkville Area Arts Council sponsors the Cotton District Arts Festival, runs various outreach programs, and awards almost \$30,000 each year in grants and scholarships throughout Starkville and Oktibbeha County in its mission to build a strong, creative, connected community through the arts. The Starkville Area Arts Council (SAAC) appreciates the support of the City of Starkville and the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Development Authority, Del Rendon Foundation, 4-County Electric Foundation, and various local businesses and individuals. Additional information about SAAC can be found at www.starkvillearts.org.