



For Immediate Release

Art From the Streets Announces 16th Annual Show and Sale

Annual exhibition to display over 2,000 new pieces of original art from Austin's homeless; over 1,500 attendees expected

Austin, Texas – September 8, 2008 – Art From the Streets (AFTS), a volunteer-driven program providing a safe and encouraging environment for Austin's homeless to create art, today announced its 16th Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale to be held on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, from 12:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), 500 East 7th Street at Neches. Original artwork starts at \$35 with all sales proceeds, apart from a nominal mounting fee, going directly to the exhibiting artists. A \$3 suggested admission donation helps defray the cost of supplies and materials. Parking is available on the street.

"Over the years the event has become an annual tradition for both our local community and from around the country and Canada," said Bill Jeffers, volunteer co-director/co-founder, Art From the Streets. "This year we anticipate over 1,500 attendees who will be a mix of our loyal followers and we hope to attract large numbers of first time attendees from all around central Texas as well. The range and style of art is incredible - paintings, jewelry, photography - and when it sells it has a huge, immediate impact on these artists who are working hard to bring honor, dignity, purpose, and comfort to their lives. For 16 years we've been successfully helping provide a positive impact to the homeless community by overcoming socioeconomic barriers and stereotypes. We absolutely couldn't have done it without support from the local community. It's what Art From the Streets is all about."

Art From the Streets was born in 1991 when a handful of Austin artists decided to reach out to Austin's growing homeless population. What began with homemade sandwiches soon grew to a room filled with paper, crayons, markers, pencils, paints and pastels — and ultimately, a supportive, friendly, safe, and fun place to create art. The quality and sheer numbers of works created in the classes each year demanded an outlet. The first Art From the Streets Show and Sale was held in 1992 in response to the hundreds of art works displayed on every available inch of wall space in the meeting room where the classes were held. The Show exhibited pieces by 30 artists, attracted 400 visitors, and raised \$1,600 – all of which went to the artists who created the work.

Since the first show in 1992, approximately 700 homeless people have taken part in the Art From the Streets classes and have displayed their work in the annual shows, earning more than \$600,000 through sales of their art to the 20,000+ Austinites who have attended.

Sponsors of the 16th Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale include Capital Printing, Clampitt Paper, and HEB.

About Art From the Streets

Art From the Streets is a volunteer program established in 1991 that provides a safe and encouraging environment where the positive spirit of homeless people is nurtured through artistic expression. Art From the Streets is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Additional support comes from 3M Austin, Downtown Austin

Alliance, ARCH, LBJ High School Cake Club, and HEB. AFTS is a fund of the Austin Community Foundation and is made possible by the support of Women and their Work. For more information, call (512) 825-9035 or contact info@artfromthestreets.org.

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