

Mesa Arts Festival: Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15, 2019

For immediate release: Nov. 21, 2019

Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center's free annual arts festival will feature original works of art for sale from local, regional and national artists in various mediums, live entertainment, an array of culinary delights, roaming performers, artist demonstrations and more December 14 and 15, 2019. Parking and admission are free and festival hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

The festive event invites people of all ages to get in the holiday spirit and accomplish holiday shopping with unique gifts. Over 80 artist booths will be available featuring one-of-a-kind items, and hands-on activities will be available for all ages.

Food tucks and vendors including Soundbite Food Truck/Short Leash Hot Dogs, Firehouse Kettle Corn, Revolution Creperie, and Mini Donut Trolley will be at the event, and featured brewery Beer Research Institute will offer their beers Urban Art and Cherry Cordial Stout for purchase.

A gift-wrapping station will be available, and artist Kyllan Maney will lead festivalgoers in bowmaking (one per guest), thanks in part to in-kind support from Michaels. Hands-on activities will also include a mini ugly sweater activity where you can make and take the craft to use as an ornament or commemorative décor for the holidays, and live painting will be offered by Nik Ridley and artist team Such & Champ Styles.

Arizona Humane Society will facilitate on-site adoptions through their Waggin' Wheels program (1-4 p.m. each day), and guests can take photos with adoptable pets in the AHS photo booth.

Entertainment options include over 12 live music performances, including Vinyl Station, AustnAmelia, Noemy Esparza, Sonoran Surfers, Michael Land, Ellie Fern, Jackie Lopez and Henry Thompson. Atmospheric performers from Vessel Project will also be performing *Mystic* throughout the event, and roaming performers include Goode Time Carolers and Southwest Shakespeare.

Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's gallery spaces will also be open, as well as The Store, an artist's cooperative gallery, featuring original work by Arizona artists. Artist demonstrations in ceramics, flameworking and glass blowing will take place throughout the festival, and the Art Studios programs of Mesa Arts Center will be included among the artists booths offering one-of-a-kind art items for sale.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa. There is no charge to attend the Mesa Arts Festival, and parking is free. More information can be found at <u>MesaArtsCenter.com</u> or by calling 480-644-6500.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit <u>mesaartscenter.com</u>.