

Saturday, May 6th, 11:00am to 6:00pm
Sunday, May 7th, 11:00am to 5:00pm
Little Sugar Creek Greenway, Charlotte, NC

7th Annual Kings Drive Art Walk returns this spring along the banks of the Little Sugar Creek.

Festival in the Park, Charlotte's ever popular event that transforms Freedom Park into a visceral arts, crafts, food, and entertainment festival every September since 1964, is continuing its springtime sibling event, the Kings Drive Art Walk (KDAW).

The seventh annual Kings Drive Art Walk will be held at the Little Sugar Creek Greenway along Kings Drive near Metropolitan in Midtown. The KDAW will again feature fine arts for sale in numerous media, including paint and drawing; sculpture; pottery; and metal, stone, wood and glass works. To complement the art, an expanded array of Strolling Musicians is scheduled up and down the greenway. This talented group adds a unique ambience for our art-seeking patrons.

This year's event will welcome the return of the JazzArts Initiative Music Stage. It's located on the Pearl Park Street Bridge, adjacent to the Concessions Colony. Also returning, is Caroline Calouche's Cirque Stage, showcasing dance on Aerial Silks, Sling, Trapeze and Lyra. As always, admission is free and open to the public.

"We are delighted to bring the Kings Drive Art Walk back for a seventh edition," said Mark Boone, the new President of the Festival in the Park's Board of Directors. "The previous six events successfully confirmed our desire for creating a new, unique, and exciting venture for our stalwart Festival in the Park brand. It has proven the demand for a regional outdoor fine arts festival. We continue to expand our pool of applicants of fine artists whom we choose to exhibit. For a third year, we will close Pearl Park Way Bridge and host the JazzArts Initiative Stage. We will also return the Concessions Colony on the bridge, connecting it with Midtown Park as an additional artists' venue. In future years, we intend to create a themed venue for special attractions".

Message from the President

Painting

The Kings Drive Art Walk Origins – The Branding of Festival in the Park

The seed was planted on March 26th, 2007 when Tony Zeiss, the President of CPCC, contacted the Festival Board to explore options for Festival in the Park to engage with Little Sugar Creek Greenway's



redevelopment. Now ten years later, the Greenway is a reality, and the seventh annual Kings Drive Art Walk is here. Over 90 pre-qualified and juried artists, some nationally recognized and some emerging new artists will come together lining the beautiful greenway for an amazing two days of fun and culture. We hope you will join us on a beautiful spring weekend for fine art, budding talent, music and friendship.

Mark Boone
Festival in the Park
President

Artists

In our seventh year, we continue to increase the pool of art exhibit applicants. Each are pre-qualified, or juried. It is our intention for this fine arts festival to evolve into the region's finest. [Click here to locate your favorite artists.](#)

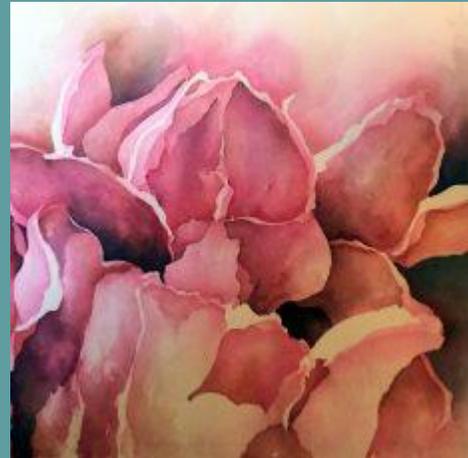
Location

It's located along the Little Sugar Creek Greenway on Kings Drive between East Morehead Street and Midtown Park adjacent to Metropolitan. You are invited to stroll along the Art Walk, meet and visit these talented individuals, and just possibly find an original piece for home or office! Keep in mind that we will close Pearl Park Way Bridge so we can relocate the JazzArts Initiative Stage and Concessions Colony there. [Click here for Google map.](#)

Parking

Multiple surface parking lots and street parking around Sugar Creek are available. Please refrain from parking at retail parking lots/decks and any of the parking decks near Carolinas Medical Center. We all need to make sure we keep the streets around CMC open to ensure easy passage of Emergency Vehicles.

Food



Photography



Jewelry



Stroll along the Sugar Creek Greenway during the day while concessionaires tempt you with traditional fare and a few unexpected delights! A half dozen concessions have been invited to join the Concessions Colony on the Pearl Park Way Bridge, each aspiring to provide an eclectic menu for patrons. [For a full list of Concessions and their menus, click here.](#)

Plan to stay into the evening and dine at one of the many fine restaurants or eateries along Kings Drive. Also, visit the multiple retail stores along Kings Drive. Kings Drive Restaurants/ Eateries include: Arby's, Dressler's, Dunkin Donuts/Baskin & Robbins, Great Harvest Bread Company, Hickory Tavern, Maharani, Mama Ricottas, Pisces, Original Pancake House, Subway, The Melting Pot, Vivace, Wendy's, Zoe's, and more.

Entertainment

JazzArts Initiative Music Stage

The KDAW is excited to relocate the JazzArts Initiative Music Stage to Pearl Park Way Bridge, adjacent to the new Concessions Colony. This new location will be at the center of KDAW and enable more patrons to enjoy the incredible sounds coming from prominent jazz musicians. [Click here for a Schedule of Performers.](#) Please keep in mind, schedule is subject to change.

Returning this year: Strolling Performing Artists along the Sugar Creek Greenway Promenade

Come to this year's Kings Drive Art Walk to immerse the senses in the sights and sounds of visual and performing arts. As you scope out the many new offerings from a wonderful selection of juried visual artists this year, be summoned by the playful notes in the spring breeze of some of Charlotte's finest musicians. [Click here to see the schedule for our strollers.](#) We choose not to restrict our strolling musicians to a designated location or specific time. Instead, we hope this freedom will spark their creative juices and bring an element of surprise to our patrons as they stroll along the Artwalk!

Relocating to Clock Tower, Caroline Calouche & Co.'s Cirque Stage: Charlotte's only aerial and dance company, will be performing aerial dance on their outdoor rig. Patrons will see great performances from their professional and youth ensemble dancers throughout the weekend on Aerial Silks, Sling,

Clay



Glass



Painting

Trapeze and Lyra. They will be performing on Saturday from 1:00pm - 2:00pm and from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. On Sunday, they will continue from Noon - 1:00pm and from 2:00pm - 3:00pm.

Security

As with any venue, security is a priority. Round the clock security is provided to ensure the safety of our patrons and participants. In addition, we have first aid available near the KDAW Information Booth.

Our Neighbors

We appreciate the support of the surrounding neighborhoods and welcome our neighbors-participation and input. Residents of Cherry, Dilworth, Eastover, Elizabeth, Freedom Park, Myers Park, North Davidson, Plaza/Midwood, and Uptown have helped to ensure the success of the KDAW. Festival organizers are excited by the number of new apartment towers surrounding the Greenway. In the years to come, it wouldn't be surprising to see many of KDAW's future patrons strolling in from these recently opened Apartment towers. Talk about an environmentally friendly venue!

Stakeholder Sponsors

Our sponsors share our dream of continued success for the KDAW. For the seventh year, Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department is our Host. Our Cultural Arts Sponsor is the Arts &



Science Council of Charlotte/ Mecklenburg, our Corporate Sponsor is Metropolitan; our 2017 Green Sponsor is Piedmont Natural Gas; our Media Sponsor is WFAE and the JazzArts Initiative is our Entertainment Sponsor. In addition, we have various retail sponsors along the Kings Drive corridor who provide in-kind assistance.

KDAW's Host: Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation

Mecklenburg County's Park and Recreation Mission Statement states "To enrich the lives of its citizens through the stewardship of the County's natural resources and the efficient and responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities, experiences, and partnerships." Its Vision Statement believes "People who recreate in Mecklenburg County will have a



Wood



Mixed Media



system of parks, greenways, and open space located throughout the County that will provide more parkland per capita than the national average, will connect neighborhoods, satisfies public recreation needs, and will protect environmentally sensitive areas." The investments in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway support both statements. Without this investment KDAW could not and would not exist. Let's thank and support our Parks and Recreation leadership and staff for their perseverance and dedication to fulfilling the reality of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

About KDAW's Cultural Partner: Arts & Science Council (ASC)

The Arts & Science Council (ASC) is the community's chief advocate for arts, science, history and heritage. It is a gatherer and steward of public and private community resources. It invests its resources in the cultural sector and community. It also serves as a strategic planner for the community's cultural sector. By being a long-time supporter of Festival in the Park, it underscores its mission as building appreciation, participation and support for the arts in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. It shares a vision with the Festival brand as "shaping a vibrant cultural life for all."

About KDAW's Corporate Sponsor: Metropolitan: In the Middle of Everywhere

Metropolitan, located adjacent to uptown Charlotte, is the redevelopment of the site that once was Charlotte's oldest enclosed mall, Midtown Square (formerly Charlottetown Mall). Metropolitan offers retail, residential, dining and entertainment in a pedestrian-friendly, urban mixed-use environment.

Metropolitan appeals to those wanting location and convenience as well as access to the new Greenway along Little Sugar Creek and Pearl Street Park. Metropolitan serves the nearby communities of Dilworth, Myers Park, Elizabeth and Cherry neighborhoods as a convenience center. Metropolitan's collaboration with the KDAW broadens the reach and cultural possibilities for this and future editions of the Festival in the Park brand.

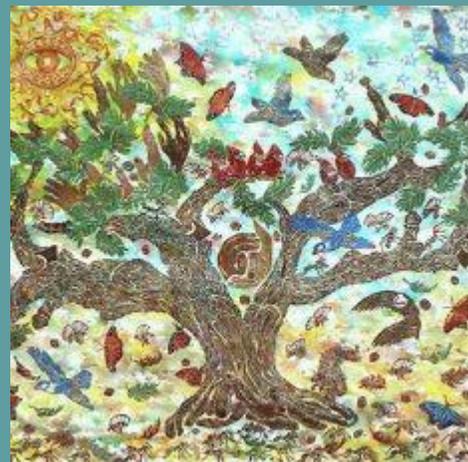
WFAE

WFAE 90.7 FM is proud to be a community partner with the Kings Drive Art Walk. The airwaves are filled with stories of the artistry and uniqueness that makes the Charlotte area special. WFAE is Charlotte's trusted, in-depth NPR news source.

Pottery



Drawing & Graphics



Wood

JazzArts Initiative:

The Jazz Arts Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of cultural arts patrons, professional musicians, educators, and individuals committed to the continued development of Charlotte's arts heritage. The organization promotes quality jazz education, performance, and musician support.

Please visit the Jazz Arts Initiative website at www.TheJazzArts.org for more information on the JazzArts Initiative Music Stage and other program activities offered by this organization.

KDAW and Social Networking

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/festivalintheparkcharlotte>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KDArtWalk>

Our website: <http://festivalinthepark.org/kings-drive-art-walk/> This will help you stay on top of the latest on the artists, changes, dates and times, sponsors, stage schedules, social feed and contact.

Friends of the Kings Drive Art Walk

As with any endeavor, financial assistance is required to offer a successful venue. As with the fall event, Festival in the Park, the KDAW is committed to maximize the value of each donor's gift. We hope you will become a loyal friend of the KDAW. [For more information, click here to reach out to us.](#)

Purchased Art Awards

The Kings Drive Art Walk intends to be recognized as a premier Fine Arts / Emerging Artists event. In order to succeed, the KDAW must attract the best and most promising artists. In order to attract these artists, we need Patrons of the Arts to support these artists by making a commitment to purchase art prior to the event. Please contact David Dalton at festival@festivalinthepark.org if you are interested in learning more about this incredible partnership.

Volunteers

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Festival Board Members and Committee Members choose to volunteer to ensure that they have a chance to engage and interact with participants and patrons. This being the seventh year, they want to determine what works and what could be improved.



Jewelry



Photography



They want the quality of the event to improve every year. Let us know if you would like to join our team. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Going Green at KDAW with Piedmont Natural Gas

The KDAW is very mindful of a healthy environment. One doesn't have to look far to see the improvements along the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. In doing its part, the organizers are supportive of Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation's recycling efforts. Festival organizers are thrilled to announce that Piedmont Natural Gas (PNG) is the 2017 Green Sponsor. PNG is focused on green initiatives within their own organization, making this a perfect partnership. With their support, recycling bins will be available for festival-goers to discard their recyclable waste. The Festival also requires all concessionaires to be mindful of items they sell and to ensure drinks and food items are served in recyclable items. In addition, the festival limits the amount of 'handouts' it offers to festival-goers.

53 Golden Years of Bringing the Entire Community Together

In 1964, John Belk and Grant Whitney began a tradition that has fostered the talents, joy and romance of multi-generations. Their inspiration was to "create an event that shares our love for the arts with all Charlotteans; no matter their race, gender, creed or station in life. We want it to be free for all to attend." All in all, their inspiration then is as it is now! Remarkable in the face of time and change!



As we reflect on a long-tenured chronology, we remember the days when the budget was 100% in-kind contributions; artists weren't allowed to sell their art, only demonstrate until the Oil Embargo of the early 70's; the Festival was the only outdoor festival in town; the local newspaper counted down

Kings Drive Art Walk created by:



each day as the Festival approached its start in late September; opening day was Tuesday evening and conclusion was on Sunday afternoon; the Island Bandshell didn't exist during the first decade; the Carolina Clowns have performed in all 52 years; the once long-running Clogging Stage disappeared; the Puppet Stage faded from sight; the memorable Boy Scout Bridge and Fireworks Show was disallowed; the German Organ finally gave out; Hugo literally blew through on a Wednesday night; the Freedom Park Ball-fields were upgraded and on-site parking disappeared; we saw the merger of City and County Parks & Recreation; we read a book titled Festival in the Park written by a Queens College Professor; we saw Shuttle Services come and go; we saw romances form between two Board Members as they spread straw to soak up a drenching rain that curtailed art purchases; we've been amazed by the magician's craft and the talent of the Spongetones; Loonis McGohon, Maurice Williams, the Symphony and the Armed Force Band performed; we saw the creation of the Emerging Artists Colony; we tinkered with Karaoke and saw the birth of the Youth Performing Arts Stage; we've welcomed Roving Minstrels, including an elderly man who played the saw. What fond memories we have of the festival! [Please recount some of your fondest memories and record them at our Facebook page.](#)



Culture For All.



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation
*The Natural Place
To Be...*



