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Contact:

Bernard Lockhart, Event Director, Art in Avondale Park Alliance, Inc.

[info@magiccitysmoothjazz.com](mailto:info@magiccitysmoothjazz.com)

[www.artinavondalepark.org](http://www.artinavondalepark.org)

## COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL SPARKS CHILDREN'S IMAGINATION

Annual event offers something for everyone

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 20 — The 7th Annual Art in Avondale Park community festival will offer something for all senses Saturday, Oct. 31. Located around the lake at Avondale Park, children and adults can SEE more than 70 artists, HEAR local musicians, TASTE food from local vendors, TOUCH hands-on art activities and SMELL ... fall is in the air and that means it's time for Art in Avondale Park.

"Art in Avondale Park is a true community festival that has grown into a regional attraction bringing in new artists every year while staying true to the mission of serving emerging artists and young performers. A longtime feature of the festival is the numerous art and recreational activities for local children," says Mary Allison Haynie, volunteer and community program director at Main Street Birmingham, an event sponsor.

Belly dancers, Irish step dancers, pony rides and sand sculpting with Lonnie Holley are just a few of the activities that make Art in Avondale Park a unique experience.

"Our family enjoys Art in the Park on many levels. We love the low-key atmosphere, local artists, dancers and children's art activities," says Crestwood resident Kristina O'Quinn. "It's great to see our local artists reaching out to the community to share their talents and ignite our imaginations."

New this year is the Wild and Wicked Cruise, a fundraiser being held at Old Car Heaven, 115 35th St. South, on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Partygoers can listen to live music by Ashley Miller with special guest Rick Carter, sample award-winning chili from Bottletree Cafe while viewing an outstanding collection of classic cars and a wonderful selection of silent auction prizes. Tickets are \$10 and include one drink. Tickets are available at Acme Flooring, 4130 3rd. Ave. South, and Lindsey Office Furnishings, 2223 1st Ave. North. Or purchase tickets online at <http://wildrideaiap2009.eventbrite.com>.

Art in Avondale Park Alliance, Inc. is a 501C3 nonprofit group serving the Birmingham art community and residents featuring emerging and well known artists, young performers and a great children's area with hands-on activities in art and design. All events are free to the public and located in the beautiful historic Avondale Park. The park is located at the intersection of 41st Street South and 5th Avenue South. Former home to the Birmingham Zoo, the park will soon be the focus of a \$3 million renovation.

"Avondale Park has served as the heart of the community for many years by bringing people together to enjoy recreational and educational activities including music, theater, dance and visual arts. The annual festival is committed to carrying on the tradition for many years to come," says Haynie.

In case of rain, the festival will be held Sunday, Nov. 1, at the park.

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