



For Immediate Release

**Art From the Streets Raises More Than \$90K
For Participating Homeless Artists; Sets Attendance Record**

*16th Annual Show & Sale results in an incredible 30% sales increase, 70% attendee increase
from previous year*

Austin, Texas – November 24, 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 it raised more than \$90,000, a thirty percent increase from last year, through art and calendar sales and admission donations at its 16th Annual Art from the Streets Show & Sale, making this year’s event the second most successful in the program’s history. Money raised by art sales directly assists participating artists, while donation money defrays the cost of art supplies and materials for the Art From the Streets program.

The Show & Sale, which drew more than 1,900 people to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) on November 15 and 16, officially set an all time record attendance. Approximately 2,000 pieces of artwork from more than 80 participating homeless and formerly homeless artists were featured. The two-day event gave the artists the opportunity to exhibit their creations, interact with the public, and earn money by selling their artwork. Proceeds enable them to pay for necessities such as food, clothing, medical care, and housing.

“This year’s event overwhelmingly exceeded our expectations,” said Bill Jeffers, volunteer co-director, Art From the Streets. “Our artists sold the second highest total in our program’s 16-year history, a remarkable accomplishment given the economic climate. We couldn’t be more pleased and more thankful to not only our local community, but those who traveled from out-of-state to support our cause. By drawing attention to the Austin homeless community’s creativity and hard work, we’re helping them improve their quality of life, self-esteem, and motivation to get off the street. It just moves our community one step closer towards overcoming socioeconomic barriers and stereotypes of Austin’s homeless.”

The annual Show & Sale, held in early November, has attracted a loyal audience of art lovers, collectors, and people of social conscience. 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, Motorblade Posterworks, Prographix, 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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