



For Immediate Release

**Art From the Streets Announces Dates for
17th Annual Show and Sale**

Austin, Texas – June 3, 2009 – Art From the Streets (AFTS), a volunteer-driven program providing a safe and encouraging environment for Austin’s homeless to create art, today announced the dates for its 17th Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale exhibition. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15, from 12:00 p.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 participating artists. A \$3 suggested admission donation helps defray the cost of program supplies and materials. Parking is available on the street.

Last year’s Art From the Streets Show and Sale event raised over \$90,000, a 30 percent sales increase from the previous year, and broke attendance records by drawing in more than 1,900 people, making it the second most successful event in the program’s history. Approximately 2,000 pieces of artwork from more than 80 participating homeless and formerly homeless artists were featured, giving the artists the opportunity to exhibit their creations, interact with the public, and earn money by selling their artwork. In addition, a portion of proceeds were raised by a sold-out screening of the Art From the Streets documentary at Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. Proceeds enable artists to pay for necessities such as food, clothing, medical care, and housing.

"We anticipate this year’s event will have a special energy because of current economic conditions and its affect on everyone," said Bill Jeffers, volunteer co-director/co-founder, Art From the Streets. "We’ve been successful in attracting new attendees each year who, along with our loyal followers, appreciate not only original artwork, but artwork that gives back to those less fortunate. Despite the economy, we feel this year will be another success. The range and style of art is incredible – paintings, caricature drawings, 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. Our mission is to provide a positive impact to the homeless community by overcoming socioeconomic barriers and stereotypes, and we’ve been quite successful in relaying this message. The community has been gracious in supporting our organization, and we look forward to what this year will bring."

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 \$700,000 through sales of their art to the 30,000+ supporters who have attended.

Art From the Streets 2009 calendars featuring original artwork from last year's event are currently available for \$20. Please visit www.artfromthestreets.org to purchase.

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, 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, contact info@artfromthestreets.org.

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