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GREATER AUGUSTA ARTS COUNCIL EXPANDS AND IMPROVES ARTS IN THE HEART OF AUGUSTA

08-13-09 – AUGUSTA, GA – Arts in the Heart of Augusta the Greater Augusta Arts Council's Annual Arts and Cultural Festival will take place September 18th to September 20th in Downtown Augusta. The festival will include a fine arts and crafts market, four stages with over 40 performances, a Southern Beer Garden, ethnic cuisine from 35 different countries, and much more.

Arts in the Heart will feature a "Green" theme this year and will focus on being environmentally friendly. The festival has expanded this year with its artists market doubling in size and also includes the addition of two new cultural groups: Brazil and Uganda. New this year is a special Saturday night concert featuring Shawn Mullins and Augusta native Patrick Blanchard. The concert will be held Saturday September 19th from 9pm-11pm, and admittance is included in the price of an Arts in the Heart weekend badge.

The children's area has also expanded with 13 booths this year, each providing hands on arts and craft activities. Activities range from Japanese origami to Peruvian-inspired paper scarf weaving. New this year is the special "green" exhibit, featuring arts and crafts made from recycled or found products.

Weekend Badges for Arts in the Heart are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate, children under 10 are free. Badges can be bought at SRP Federal Credit Union or online at <http://www.augustaarts.com>. For more information call 706-826-4702 or go to <http://www.artsintheheart.com>.

The Greater Augusta Arts Council is located at 1301 Greene St. in Augusta, GA. Its mission is to advance the arts and thus, enrich the quality of life in Augusta and the Central Savannah River Area.

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