



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ARTISPHERE RANKED A TOP TEN FESTIVAL IN THE COUNTRY**

[Greenville, SC] *Artisphere*, Greenville's Arts Weekend, recently received a Top Ten ranking in *Greg Lawler's Art Fair Sourcebook* for the 2009 Festival. In the Fine Art category, *Artisphere* placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 600 shows, up from 46<sup>th</sup> in 2008. In the Contemporary Craft category, *Artisphere* was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of 600, up from 59<sup>th</sup> in 2008.

The *Sourcebook* annually ranks 600 of the top-selling fine arts and crafts festivals across the country based on the net average revenue generated by exhibitors. In 2009, average artist sales at *Artisphere* were \$5,445, while average artist sales at the number one ranking festival in the country, *Art in the Square*, Belleville, IL, were \$7,103.

The 2009 rankings are the highest *Artisphere* has received in its five-year history. Other top ranking festivals include: *Saint Louis Art Fair*, St. Louis, MO (2<sup>nd</sup>), *Long's Park Art & Craft Festival*, Lancaster, PA (3<sup>rd</sup>), *Sausalito Art Festival*, Sausalito, CA (4<sup>th</sup>) and *Main Street Ft. Worth Arts Festival*, Ft. Worth, TX (5<sup>th</sup>).

Praise from *Artisphere's* 2009 participating artists resulted in a record high 682 applications for the 2010 Festival, which will be held May 7-9. Additionally, the Southeast Tourism Society recognized *Artisphere* as an event not to be missed in 2010 honoring the event with a "Top Twenty Event in the Southeast" designation.

"The Greenville community is due a lot of credit for this top ten ranking because it is about more than just *Artisphere*," said 2009 *Artisphere Board Chairman*, Brad Campbell. "It is about our community and our citizens. The arts make a tremendous contribution to our quality of life here. It is a tribute to our community that we supported our Arts Weekend during difficult economic times. While things like artist hospitality and festival organization make an impact, the bottom line is that we have to thank our patrons."

"*Artisphere* would not be possible without the initial vision and leadership of our board and tremendous support from our sponsors and donors, the local arts community, and our volunteers and patrons," stated *Henry Horowitz, Founding Artisphere Board Chairman*. "Further, the initial and ongoing support by the city, county and state agencies has been invaluable for us to successfully execute this initiative. For *Artisphere* to be named one of the top ten arts festivals in the country over the course of only 5 years is an amazing accomplishment for Greenville and the entire Upstate community."

*Artisphere* is presented by Carolina First. For more information visit [www.artisphere.us](http://www.artisphere.us)

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