



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 25, 2009**

## **Art Beat 2009 – Becomes an All Day Event to Celebrate the Arts in Michiana**

**SOUTH BEND, INDIANA**— Downtown South Bend will play host to Art Beat 2009 on a Saturday for the first time since the event's premier seven years ago. This year Art Beat will take place on Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come experience this unique one day event where the streets and sidewalks of downtown South Bend become a living gallery as artists, dancers, musicians, actors, poets and culinary artists all display their talents. Art Beat offers a special and unique opportunity for regional artists and the community to meet in an atmosphere of celebration and camaraderie. There is no admission cost and the event is open to the public.

Art Beat 2009 will host over 125 visual and culinary artist's booths along with acoustic musicians in the heart of downtown along the streets of Michigan, Washington and Colfax. More than 50 live performances will be featured at six performance "scenes" where Art Beat visitors can experience the art of dance, theatre, music and poetry: **#1** Jon Hunt Plaza at the Morris Performing Arts Center, **#2** Colfax Ave. and Sycamore St., **#3** East Bank Village/ Hill St. & Colfax Ave., **#4** College Football Hall of Fame, **#5** South Bend Museum of Art and **#6** Key Bank Plaza/Michigan and Jefferson streets. All are located within walking distance of one another, and will hold continuous performances from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

New for 2009 is a special concert by the Goldmine Pickers at 4:00 p.m. at the new Hill & Colfax scene. This four-piece band weaves together their roots and inspiration in bluegrass, jazz, folk and Irish traditions. Other new additions to this year's event are: The Century Center's Beer Garden, located on the College Football Hall of Fame's Gridiron, will feature micro-brew beer tastings from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. Fashion shows, hosted by Inspire Me clothing boutique and Circa Arts Gallery will be taking place in the LaSalle Hotel lobby, corner of LaSalle and St. Joseph Streets. Fashion show times are: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Also taking place on the 26<sup>th</sup> is the official unveiling of *Innovation: George Rickey Kinetic Sculpture* exhibition. These one of a kind works designed by the late George Rickey, a South Bend native, have been described by Andrew S. Hughes as, "sleek stainless steel pieces that move with the wind". Five large Rickey sculptures have been installed in a trail along Michigan Street in downtown South Bend along with five garden-scale sculptures outside Century Center. These pieces will be on display through September 2010.

Downtown galleries, organizations and businesses working in and or supporting the cultural arts will also be showcased throughout the day. Make sure to visit; The South Bend Museum of Art, Circa Arts, Fire Arts, Piser Designs and Artpost for special presentations, exhibits and grand openings. More information on these galleries and their locations is available at:

[www.downtownsouthbend.com](http://www.downtownsouthbend.com)

"Last year more than 5,000 people attended Art Beat to experience the tastes, sights and sounds of our region," said Art Beat chairman Jitin Kain. "The purpose of Art Beat is to showcase the variety of performing, visual and culinary artists in South Bend and our surrounding community. It also creates awareness of the role downtown organizations and businesses play in the artisans' promotion and success," explained Kain.

For the best art in the heart of South Bend, be sure to visit the streets of downtown South Bend on Saturday September 26. There will be free all day parking on downtown streets as well as in the Main-Colfax Parking Garage and Leighton Parking Garage located on the corner of Michigan and Jefferson streets. Paid parking will be available in the Century Center parking lot. For more information visit [www.artbeatsouthbend.org](http://www.artbeatsouthbend.org) to find out more about how Art Beat is bringing the cultural arts into the heart of downtown South Bend.

Art Beat 2009 is presented by Downtown South Bend Inc., the City of South Bend and by scene sponsors Barnes & Thornburg LLP and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County.

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**PHOTO ENCLOSED**

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