



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Lester

214-490-3480 (cell)

Richardson's Cottonwood Art Festival Creates Art Experiences for Kids

***ArtStop brings the world of art to life for children and families
May 6-7, 2017 in Cottonwood Park***

RICHARDSON, TX—April 14, 2017 – Museum-quality art displays and mud don't have much in common. Unless you are at the **City of Richardson's Cottonwood Art Festival**, to be held May 6-7, 2017, where festival organizers encourage imaginations to run wild for children and families.

At ArtStop, the festival's colorful and interactive children's area, kids are encouraged to get their hands dirty and explore their creative side! Staffed by more than 100 volunteers, ArtStop brings the world of art to life with gigantic paint brushes, chalkboard easels, pottery wheels and more. Most activities charge a modest fee and will include:

- **Crazy Cool Caps**- Kids can create their own colorful, over-the-top hat using ribbons, glitter, feathers, pompoms, foam shapes and more.
- **Throwin' Mud** - It's OK for children to play in the mud at this activity station guided by ArtStop's own master potters as kids learn to throw a pot or form a vase on an electric potter's wheel.
- **Canvas Classics** – Kids are welcome to paint on a real canvas propped on an easel guided by an art instructor.
- **Clay Play**- A new activity will teach children how to form polymer clay into colorful "straws" that they will cut and roll into beads and other shapes that they can string into a necklace, keychain or whatever else they can imagine.
- **Petite Pottery** - Just in time for Mother's or Father's day, children can paint their own hand-thrown vase. It's the perfect vessel for some hand-picked flowers for mom or dad.
- **Wee Weavers** –For the second year in a row, ArtStop will include tutorials on yarn art. With fallen twigs gathered from the park, kids will build a base to create their own unique weaving from colorful yarns and strings. Children can add a feather or a few beads to personalize their creations. Donations of leftover yarn were collected from City employees to create this upcycled art project.



- **Rollin' and Recyclin'**- The "Green Team" is back with more ideas and ways kids and families can recycle or be creative with the stuff we use to throw in the trash and their "Art from the Park" activity is free.

For pint-sized Picassos, ArtStop will feature chalkboard easels, large blocks of plaster to chip and sculpt and objects on large magnetic boards so that masterpieces can be created at any age.

In addition to ArtStop activities, attendees can check out local bands performing a variety of musical genres including rock, country, jazz, blues, swing and folk. Food and spirits are also available for purchase in the Lakeside Courtyard. Admission and parking is free and open to the public.

Event dates and location:

- Dates: Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Location: Cottonwood Park
1321 W. Belt Line Rd. Richardson, TX

About Cottonwood Art Festival

Now in its 48th year, the semi-annual Cottonwood Art Festival is a juried show. Jurors have selected more than 240 artists to exhibit their museum-quality work at the festival. The artists compete in 14 categories: 2D mixed media, 3D mixed media, ceramics, digital, drawings/pastels, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, metalwork, painting, photography, sculpture and wood. The artists' works are available for purchase, as are food and beverages.

Whether shopping for art, listening to music, enjoying the outdoors, or making art of your own – Cottonwood has something for everyone. For more information, go to:

- www.CottonwoodArtFestival.com
- Facebook – www.facebook.com/CottonwoodArtFestival
- Twitter www.twitter.com/CAFRichardson

###