



## DEEP ELLUM ARTS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH MOST INTERACTIVE EVENT YET

*The newly-rebranded Texas Fantastic Stage and a mini-film festival are just two of the new additions*

**(DALLAS, March 2019; source: CultureHype)** - 25 years ago, Dallas residents enjoyed the first ever **Deep Ellum Arts Festival**. The debut event was a one block street party that showcased the finest music Deep Ellum had to offer. A tradition was born, and the Deep Ellum Arts Festival continues to enthrall fans a quarter century later.

The 2019 festival celebrates 25 with an event that honors its storied traditions and enhances the fest for a new generation of Dallas denizens. From Friday, April 5 through Sunday, April 7, festival attendees will enjoy the sights, sounds and soul of Dallas' most innovative and creative neighborhood in an event that stretches six city blocks from Malcolm X Boulevard to Exposition Avenue. Thanks to the revamped **Texas Fantastic Stage**, fans will be able to join in on the action and the art for the first time.

This stage will bring audiences a bevy of high quality local and national acts, with an emphasis on diversity and cultural performances. Local creative **Iris Candelaria** and local arts org/publishing company **Wavelength Magazine** have teamed up to bring a program of live art, poetry, dance, and interactive art activities. Artists will be creating live art throughout the day, including Emmy Award-winning artist **Ponchiaveli** along with artists such as **Antolin Pineda**, **Ximena Barrante**, **Jody Pham**, **Monica Moody**, and **Ofelia Faz-Garza**. The stage and its interactive activities is a continuation of the festival's mission, and founder Stephen Millard is excited to continue the event's storied history.

"I am very proud of the success this major arts festival has achieved for the past 25 years and for the rare opportunity to showcase thousands of musical and visual artists performing and displaying original works of art in an event that is free to the public," Millard says. "Our creative festival is a true labor of love."

The Festival features over 200 juried Fine Artists from throughout the nation displaying and selling their original works. The exquisite collections showcased will include paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry, woodworking, ceramics, mixed media, leatherworks, fashion and other unique works of art and fine crafts. The festival also features entertainment from over 100 performers from all over the metroplex, the country and the world. All artists will perform original music or material, and will represent a variety of genres on four outdoor concert stages, several street corners and two indoor performance spaces in the iconic Sons of Hermann Hall. While sculptors, body painters, graffiti artists and live musicians create vibrant works, dozens of concessionaires and restaurateurs will whip up dishes displaying the best of Dallas eats.

The festival consistently earns well-deserved plaudits and praise inside Dallas and far beyond, and thanks to a few key additions, the event's 25th year may prove to be its finest. Read on to discover what's new at this year's fest.

**Deep Ellum Artists' Village:**

Situated at the main entrance to the Festival, the Deep Ellum Artists' Village puts local arts and music front and center. While Deep Ellum's distinguished musical acts mesmerize audiences from the concert stage, this space will be solely devoted to local artists creating live masterpieces and showing local artwork.

**The Dallas Film Society Mini-Film Festival:**

The Dallas International Film Festival (DIFF) makes its triumphant return to Deep Ellum with a showcase of the best shorts of the last 10 years. The mini-fest takes place inside the iconic Sons of Hermann Hall on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6.

**Expression Wall:**

The extremely popular Expression Wall will return again for the second year at Hall and Main Street. All attendees are invited to use colorful dry-erase markers to create art and positive messages throughout the festival weekend.

**Artist Court Stage:**

This year, the music on the Artist Court Stage at Trunk Street is being programmed by local favorite Deep Ellum Radio. Together with the Deep Ellum Artists' Village Stage, this musical mainstay will bring a roster of heavy hitters from the local music scene. By bringing a score of new events and artists to the masses, Deep Ellum Arts Festival honors the past and opens a new chapter of its storied history.

**Artists in Motion Walk:**

The Artists in Motion Walk sponsored by The Case Building and Deep Ellum Lofts will kick off on Sunday at 12:00 pm, starting at The Deep Ellum Artists' Village Stage at Main Street and Malcolm X Boulevard and concluding 6 festival blocks later at the Texas Fantastic Stage at Main Street and Exposition Ave. Local Deep Ellum groups and fans of the hood including will be spreading good vibes and positive energy, inspiring smiles and high-five's as they stroll down the festival site. All are welcome to join, and we encourage the wearing of fun, colorful "artistic" costumes. There will be marching music, colorful characters and of course, plenty of delightful surprises along the way. Well-trained, socialized pets and their owners are welcome to join the Artists in Motion Walk and art related costumes are encouraged for both. We encourage pet owners to bring out their well-trained and socialized pets on Sunday only. For pet owners with pets participating in the Artists in Motion Walk, we encourage you to stop by one of the booths located at Hall Street and Main Street to pick up a goody bag for your furry friend(s)! We are better prepared for the additional needs of pets on Sunday, and the adjacent Deep Ellum Dog Park will be open.

**Art Battle!**

Art Battle® International is a live competitive painting tournament event series, where local painters create the best work they can in a 20-minute timed round. As they work, the audience moves around the easels, allowing them an up close view of the creative process. The only medium used is acrylic paint and the tools allowed are brushes, palette knives or any other non-mechanical implements. Art Battle Dallas will have a 2 day onsite live art experience. On Friday April 5th - the winners of Season 1 will entertain the crowd with a live painting competition where festival attendees vote on the best work winning work gets a chance to Battle again this season, a perfect lead-in to the event at the Deep Ellum Art Co. on Saturday! Then Sunday, April 7th - audiences will not only meet the artist that competed in the season 2 event but meet and see the winning artist from Saturday's event, watch them paint live. One lucky festival goer will win the finished painting!

**About the Deep Ellum Arts Festival:**

Created in 1994 by Dallas based Main Events International (MEI) the Celebration Engineers®, The Deep Ellum Arts Festival® is the signature event for Deep Ellum, in Dallas Texas and has remained free to attend thanks to the generosity and support of past and present sponsors. Beneficiaries of the Deep Ellum Arts Festival include The Deep Ellum Community Association and The Deep Ellum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. The weekend of the Festival is one of the biggest days of the year for most of the restaurants, bars and shops in the area.

**Location:**

Deep Ellum Entertainment District in downtown Dallas: 2900 - 3400 block of Main Street, between Malcolm X Blvd., and Exposition Ave. and between Elm & Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75226.

**Dates:**

April 5 - 7, 2019. Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. | Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Admission:**

Free (thanks to the generosity of the festival's sponsors, exhibitors and concessionaires). Detailed festival information can be found online at [www.DeepEllumArtsFestival.com](http://www.DeepEllumArtsFestival.com) or by bookmarking the Festival guide directly at [www.defest.guide](http://www.defest.guide).

**Parking & Ride Sharing:**

Ride-sharing services are strongly encouraged as parking can be always be challenging to find around Deep Ellum and will be especially so during the festival. Special Festival drop off areas have been created at the intersections of Hall and Main Street (3200 Hall St) and Hall and Elm Street (3100 Elm St). These are also good areas for bike or scooter parking. DART Rail in downtown Dallas has been temporarily discontinued Saturday and Sunday beginning March 30, to allow track replacement between Pearl/Arts District Station and West End Station. Six separate DART bus routes will be operating during the weekend closures to serve the festival and affected downtown stations. Check the [DART web site](#) for schedules.

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