



## 26TH ANNUAL DEEP ELLUM ARTS FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHTS TOP TALENT

*The annual free-to-attend festival returns with new stages and attractions, and a spotlight on original creations*

**(DALLAS, January 2020; source: CultureHype)** - For 26 years, the **Deep Ellum Arts Festival** has invited Dallas-Fort Worth locals and visitors from surrounding areas to a free event celebrating art and the creatives who make it. In 2020, this free community visual and performing arts festival returns for its 26th and best year ever. From **Friday, April 3** through **Sunday, April 5**, Festival attendees will enjoy the sights, sounds and soul of Dallas' most innovative and creative neighborhood in an event that stretches seven city blocks and over half a mile from **Malcolm X Blvd.**, with the Festival extending past **Exposition Ave.**

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 original entertainment from over 100 bands, singer/songwriters, and musical artists representing 15 separate genres, including a focus on classical music this year. These entertainers will be jury selected to perform their live original compositions on four separate outdoor concert stages and within two special performance spaces. At this unique festival, it's more important to be original than famous. The Deep Ellum Arts Festival is where you will discover the newest up-and-coming names in the music industry, from local acts to national performers along with cutting edge visual and fine arts.

Read on to discover what's new at this year's fest.

### **Axiom Music:**

Stephen Millard, President of MEI Events and Founder and Executive Producer of the Festival, is pleased to announce that local entertainment booking and management company Axiom Music has been selected to program this year's three main concert stages.

As with the festival, Axiom's vision is to curate and showcase bands and singer-songwriters with the best "original music". The team is passionate about highlighting the local and national talent that deserves a stage and an audience that appreciates live music that spans genres.

### **The Sings and Strings Stage:**

Located at Trunk St. and Main, this stage will be hosting Open Classical every day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., then again from 4 to 7 p.m. In between their operettas, classical quartets, trios, and other professional classical musicians, they will be hosting their staple event Open Classical, a scheduled open mic for classically oriented musicians of varying skill levels. Aside from this great representation of classical music, there will also be top-notch singer-songwriters, poetry and more.

### **Art Battle:**

Art Battle is coming back to Dallas, and this year they will be hosting their live art tournament at the festival. In this competitive painting contest, artists compete live, transforming blank canvas to finished works, as audiences experience the spectacle and individual creations. The audience decides the winners each round, with votes cast for their chosen artist. For the festival, the competition will be bringing back the best from Season 1 and Season 2, as well as opening a few spots for new artists who haven't battled before.

### **The Dallas Songwriters Association:**

This year, The Dallas Songwriters Association will be programming select songwriters from their organization on the Sings and Strings Stage from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evening.

**The Deep Ellum Artists Village:**

The Deep Ellum Artists Village will be located across Main Street from the Sons of Hermann Hall and will feature visual artists from the Dallas area. This space will be solely devoted to local artists creating live masterpieces and showing local artwork.

**Dedicated Performance Areas:**

In addition to the four open-air stages at the Festival, there will be two dedicated performance areas, one located at Walton St. and another at Murray St. Street music and busking performances will take place at both areas throughout the Festival weekend with a few performers bringing entertainment throughout the Festival on foot.

**The Texas Fantastic Stage:**

This stage will be moving across Exposition Ave. and placed right next to Cold Beer Company,. The additional area created by the move surrounding this major stage will be a flurry of activity, including performances from the live art tournament, Art Battle, chalk artists creating live throughout the weekend, and of course, a food court with great food and beverages for you to enjoy!

**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, art galleries and shops in the area.

**Location:**

Deep Ellum Entertainment District in downtown Dallas: 2900 - 3700 block of Main St., between Malcolm X Blvd., and Exposition Ave. and between Elm & Commerce St. The festival covers a half mile of Main St. with music, art, food and more. Comfortable walking shoes are encouraged.

**Dates:**

April 3 - 5, 2020. Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. | Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Admission:**

Free (thanks to the generosity of the festival's sponsors, exhibitors and concessionaires). This year's local Presenting Sponsors include the Deep Ellum Brewing Company, Michelob Ultra, Graphics Group and DART. Detailed festival information can be found online at [www.DeepEllumArtsFestival.com](http://www.DeepEllumArtsFestival.com), or by following the festival on social media. During the Festival, a quick reference program can be found at [www.DEFest.guide](http://www.DEFest.guide) and complementary high speed internet is provided by Ellum Net during the festival

**Social Media:**

Instagram: @deepellumartsfestival

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/deepellumarts/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DeepEllumArts>

**Parking:**

DART and ride sharing services are strongly encouraged during the Festival, as parking can be challenging to find around Deep Ellum. Take the DART Rail Green Line to the Baylor University Medical Center station for the closest stop just two blocks away. The Deep Ellum Dart Station will drop you off six blocks West of the Festival entrance which is at Malcolm X and Main St. Fares are available from the GoPass Mobile Ticketing App, at any DART Rail Station from a Ticket Vending Machine or from a bus operator. A \$5 Local Day Pass is good for round-trip service.

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