



Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blues Concert Kicks Off Downtown Festival & Art Show

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – The Downtown Festival & Art Show will start rocking Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza with a Downtown Blues Concert presented by the North Central Florida Blues Society. Performances by the Florida Tazers, 6th Street Rhythm and Blues and Janiva Magness will provide an evening of music under the stars.

The Florida Tazers will get the crowd moving with its blend of blues, classic rock and acoustic music. Although these Sunshine State locals enjoy playing poolside, the group has also performed at fundraising concerts and shows in Gainesville and Lake City.

Regional band 6th Street Rhythm and Blues offers an energetic remix of 1940s and 1950s blues. Dante Lima of the Gainesville Sun described the band as Gainesville's "oral and aural historians" with upbeat tones that make the past come alive. The band consists of seven skilled Gainesville musicians and will compete in the International Blues Challenge Finals in Memphis.

California singer Janiva Magness will captivate crowds with a voice that blends jazz, blues and soul. The Winner of the 2009 B.B. King Blues Entertainer of the Year award and the 2009 Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year award, Magness has been mesmerized by blues since she was a teenager. Now a grandmother, Magness continues to astonish blues fans with a voice that Singer Magazine describes as "sultry, smoky and strong."

Celebrating its 28th anniversary in 2009, the Downtown Festival & Art Show, proudly presented by the City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, is one of the nation's premier outdoor fine arts festivals. The historic, tree-lined streets of downtown Gainesville, from City Hall to the Hippodrome State Theatre, will be transformed into a celebration of art and creativity on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. One of North Florida's most beloved traditions, the arts festival offers visitors the opportunity to meet the exhibiting artists, sample fine cuisine and enjoy live, continuous entertainment.

The City of Gainesville looks forward to celebrating another successful year and welcomes the community to join in this special event. Gainesville's premier fall Festival is a celebration of art and culture that you won't want to miss. Find unique gifts for your holiday shopping or purchase artwork for your own collection. Festivities are free and open to the public all weekend. For more information, visit www.gvlculturalaffairs.org or call 352-334-ARTS.