



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2016

### Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest Announces Schedule For June 18-19 *Cello Fury, Storytelling Added to Programming*

**Wheeling, WV** –The Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest – a combination of the Wheeling Arts Fest and the YWCA Multicultural Fest – will be held Saturday, June 18, 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 19, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., at Wheeling Heritage Port. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

In January, the City of Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission voted to partner with the YWCA Wheeling to merge the organizations' separate events into a two-day summer festival. Hosting the event at Heritage Port allows for expansion, including a larger Artist Market where attendees can view and purchase the works of 25 local and regional artists, more cultural activities, and more performances.

**Artist Market featured artists:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/activities/artists/>

Throughout the weekend, a variety of arts and cultural programs will be offered, including live music, visual arts, dance, literature, culinary demonstrations, hands-on classes for kids and adults, and much more. The YWCA will continue its Around-the-World Carnival and offer name translation and family crest information. Additional features include "seed bomb" making, meter mural illustrating for submission in the next phase of parking meter painting, the Oglebay Institute hot glass road show, screen printing, ice sculpting, walk-up art, and more.

On Saturday, festival coordinators will present the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Harshman Distinguished Arts Award, which recognizes an individual who has excelled in the arts and contributed to furthering the arts in Ohio County.

One of the highlights for this year's Arts & Culture Fest is the new Squonk Opera show, "Cycle Sonic." Squonk's new stage show celebrates sustainable civic engagement by combining elements of circus parades, bike formations, and marching bands. Squonk Opera is scheduled for the following performances and workshops on Saturday:

- Shows at 12:45, 3:00, and 6:00 p.m.
- Steam demos at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

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This week, the event committee announced the return of Cello Fury – a favorite from the 2014 Wheeling Arts Fest – for performances on Sunday at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Storyteller and author Rich Knoblich has been added to the Spoken Word tent for Saturday and Sunday readings.

The following programs, as well as the festival as a whole, are made possible with the support of the Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest sponsors:

**Performing Arts:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/performing-arts-2/>

Including performances by:

- Squonk Opera
- Bill Bill Dupre and the Musical Mercenaries
- Tarabraqs
- Steppaz
- Gallowglass
- The Movement Presents Home Grown Hip Hop
- Cello Fury

**Literary, Historical, and Cultural Arts:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/activities/literary-historical-cultural-arts/>

Including:

- Local books available for purchase.
- Improvisational poetry led by David Thomas and Sarah Finchem
- Storytelling by Rich Knoblich

**Kids Activities:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/activities/kids-activities/>

Including Bizzie Lizzie's Kidz Art:

### **Saturday**

- 12:00 pm – Jess Zeigler- Scribblebots
- 1:00 pm – Rick Morgan: Pottery
- 2:00 pm – Rachel Shipley: Screenprinting
- 3:00 pm – Cam Arbaugh: Sculpey Finger Puppets
- 4:00 pm – Squonk Opera Interactive STEAM program
- 5:00 pm – Squonk Opera Interactive STEAM program
- 6:00 pm – Carri Perani-Welsh: Friendship Bracelets

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**Sunday**

- 11:00 am – Erica Peterson: Electric Painting
- 12:00 pm – Jes Reger: Gelatin Leaf Prints
- 1:00 pm – Brad Fritz: 3-legged stools
- 2:00 pm – Jes Reger: Printmaking with Nature
- 3:00 pm – Lauren Cuff: Storytelling/Collage

**Art Classes for Adults:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/activities/art-classes-for-adults/>

Schedule:

**Saturday**

- 1:00 pm – Carri Perani-Welsh: Steampunk Jewelry
- 3:00 pm – Bianca Benson: Altered Books
- 5:00 pm – Rachel Shipley: Screenprinting

**Sunday**

- 11:00 am – Brad Fritz: Spoon Carving
- 1:00 pm – Dana Bell: Upcycled Jewelry from Photographs
- 3:00 pm – Sandi Ziolkowski: Hammered Copper Bracelets

**Culinary Arts:** <http://wheelingartsfest.com/activities/culinary-arts/>

Schedule:

**Saturday**

- Ice Sculpting: 12:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- Fruit Carving: 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

- Fruit Carving: 12:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- Ice Sculpting: 2:00 p.m.

Detailed festival information, including the full schedule, is available via [wheelingartsfest.com](http://wheelingartsfest.com) and [facebook.com/WheelingArtsFest](https://www.facebook.com/WheelingArtsFest).

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The Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest is proud to recognize WesBanco Inc. as a presenting sponsor. Additional sponsors of this event include the City of Wheeling, Schenk Foundation, Wheeling/Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ohio County Commission, WALS Foundation, Wheeling National Heritage Area Foundation, United Electric, and Wheeling Human Rights Commission, among others.

For more information or to set up an interview, contact Erika Donaghy, Commission Chair, at 304-280-2616.

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**About the City of Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission:** The mission of the Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission is to promote and develop artistic and cultural activities and initiatives that stimulate economic development and advance the quality of life and vibrancy of the greater Wheeling area. The City of Wheeling is a West Virginia Certified Arts Community.

**About the YWCA Wheeling:** *YWCA Wheeling seeks to positively impact the local community and the region, while eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA Wheeling offers a Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach program that helps the community celebrate our cultural diversity.*