



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kentuck Art Center to Host 52nd Kentuck Festival of the Arts
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: 52nd Kentuck Festival is October 14-15, 2023

NORTHPORT, AL – Kentuck Art Center is excited to host the Kentuck Festival of the Arts October 14-15, 2023 at Kentuck Park in Northport, Alabama. The two-day festival has its roots in folk art and features 270+ artists, live music, spoken word, activities for children, folk and contemporary craft demonstrations, food trucks, and local craft brews.

The Kentuck Festival has been recognized by the Alabama Department of Tourism as one of the top-ten events to attend in Alabama, named "Best of Bama 2022" by Alabama Magazine, and has been named a "Local Legacy" By The United States Library of Congress. Kentuck has also been featured in Smithsonian Magazine, Southern Living, American Style Magazine, and National Geographic Traveler.

"Kentuck Art Center is incredibly excited to host this event that brings 20,000 people to the Northport and Tuscaloosa areas, and I think this year is going to be extra special," said Amy Echols, Executive Director of Kentuck Art Center.

"In addition to the wonderful selection of more than 270+ artists and a 2-day lineup of music and spoken word, there's going to be a solar eclipse on Saturday the 14th," Echols said. "With all the extra work that's gone on at Kentuck Park this year to prepare for this event, it feels like Heaven and Earth have moved to make this event happen. The 52nd Kentuck Festival is not going to be one to miss!"

Event Summary (FAQ):

Festival Basics:

What: The 52nd Kentuck Festival of the Arts

Dates: October 14-15, 2023

Times: October 14: 9am-5pm, October 15: 9am-4pm

Where: Kentuck Park, [3501 5th Street Northport, Alabama 35476](#)

The Kentuck Festival of the Arts is a rain or shine event! Hope for good weather, but don't let a little rain stop you from having a great time.

Tickets:

Tickets are \$15 for a single day, or \$25 for the weekend. Children 12 & under get in free. Purchase tickets online until October 12 at 9am CST or at the front gate when you arrive. [Click here to get tickets.](#)

Parking and Construction:

This year, there is a section of Kentuck Park that is closed due to City of Northport construction. This construction does not affect the layout of the Kentuck Festival of the Arts, but it does alter parking plans.

The parking lot directly next to Festival Grounds is for people with disabilities, exhibiting artists, benefactors, and sponsors only. Only individuals with applicable parking permits are allowed to park in the paved lot at Kentuck Park. Due to the construction, there is no public parking at Kentuck Park this year, and the public is encouraged to take advantage of the expanded parking lot options and shuttle services that run throughout the Main Avenue and Harper Road areas. [Click here for a parking map.](#)

Public Parking and Shuttles:

Parking and shuttle services for the Kentuck Festival of the Arts is free. Shuttles run from 9:30am-5:30pm Saturday, October 14 and 10:00am-4:30pm Sunday, October 15. This year, there are more continuously running shuttles than ever: 4 shuttles that stop at all four stops on Main Avenue, and 2 shuttles that go to the Northport Public Works lot at 1781 Harper Road. There will be traffic control and guides to assist with parking, thanks to Northport Police Department and Kentuck volunteers. Thank you to the Tuscaloosa County Schools bus drivers, the Northport Police Department, and parking volunteers who make this possible.

Downtown Parking Areas:

There are many places to park throughout the Main Avenue area, including but not limited to: Northport Baptist Church, City Cafe Gravel Lot, Sealy Lot, and Bridge lot. There are four shuttle stops along Main Avenue in front of Northport Baptist Church, Shirley Place, City Cafe, and the Sealy Lot (across from First and Main). For a parking map, [please click here.](#)

Additional Parking Areas:

Northport Public Works, 1781 Harper Road (**NEW shuttle stop here**)
County Building, 3500 5th Street
Select lots near Northport Wastewater Treatment on 30th Avenue

Service Animals:

Pets are not allowed at the Kentuck Festival of the Arts. Only service animals are allowed on park grounds during the festival.

Artists:

The Kentuck Festival of the Arts hosts more than 270 exhibiting artists from all over the United States. There are many artists demonstrating their craft—from iron pours with Sloss Metal Arts to mud painting, painting, pottery, basket making, printmaking, and quilting. For a complete list of artists, [click here.](#)

Kentuck for Kids:

Kentuck for Kids is the children's activity section of the festival. Children (and adults!) can participate in these activities for free: tie dye (bandanas), paper marbling, Chinese calligraphy, clay, face painting, book arts, and a Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo, and birdhouse

making with the Woodworkers Association of West Alabama. If you would like to tie dye a t-shirt instead of a bandana, there is a \$5 charge.

Brother Ben Music Stage:

Kentuck hosts a full two day lineup of music at the Brother Ben Music Stage. Performers include Thad and Company, Gary Nichols, and former Drive by Trucker Mike Cooley. For more information about the musicians, please [click here](#).

Saturday, October 14

- 9:30-10:30am – Druid Ukes
- 11:00am-12:00pm – Diablo Sandwich and the Dr. Peppers
- 12:30-1:45pm – Caleb Elliot
- 2:15-3:30pm – Thad and Company
- 3:45-5:00pm – Mike Cooley

Sunday, October 15

- 10:00-11:00am – Max-Planck Gymnasium Big Band
- 11:30am-12:30pm – Patrick O’Sullivan
- 1:00-2:15pm – Kaydee Mulvehill
- 2:30-4:00pm – Gary Nichols

Kathryn Tucker Windham Spoken Word Stage:

Kentuck hosts a full two day lineup of spoken word at the Kathryn Tucker Windham Spoken Word Stage. Performers include author Mark Childress and Alabama Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones. For more information about each of the performers, please [click here](#).

Saturday, October 14

- 9:30am – University of Alabama Undergraduate Creative Writing Students
- 11:30am – Pure Products
- 12:30pm – Charlie "Tin Man" Lucas, stories about Kathryn Tucker Windham
- 1:30pm – Sandy Barnidge
- 3:00pm – Brooke Champagne

Sunday, October 15

- 10:30am – University of Alabama Undergraduate Creative Writing Students
- 12:00pm – Kathryn Tucker Windham Tales
- 1:30pm – Ashley M. Jones, Alabama Poet Laureate
- 2:30pm – Trudier Harris, recent Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Inductee

What impact does the Kentuck Festival have on the community?

The Kentuck Festival of the Arts makes a \$6 million economic impact on the surrounding Tuscaloosa/Northport communities in only two days. It is the largest non-sporting event in Tuscaloosa county, welcoming 15,000-20,000 guests from all over the country every year. Not only is it important to the local economy, it's vital to the exhibiting artists who make their living selling their artwork.

Revenue from the Kentuck Festival of the Arts helps support the funding of next year’s Festival and the year-round programming of Kentuck Art Center

(a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization) in Northport's historic downtown district, where resident artists' studios, exhibition spaces, a community clay studio, and gallery shop are situated around a courtyard and sculpture garden. Kentuck Art Center presents regular exhibitions, showcasing southern folk artists as well as traditional and contemporary American craft by both established and emerging artists.

[Get Tickets](#)[FAQ](#)

Need photos or social media copy? Click here to get to the [Press Room](#).



THE 52ND KENTUCKY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
OCTOBER 14-15, 2023
NORTHPORT, AL

270+ ARTISTS, LIVE MUSIC,
SPOKEN WORD, FOOD TRUCKS,
KIDS ACTIVITIES, & MORE!

GET TICKETS NOW
[KENTUCK.ORG/THE-FESTIVAL](https://kentuck.org/the-festival)

Kentuck Art Center and Festival was established in 1971. Kentuck's mission is to perpetuate the arts, engage the community, and empower the artist. The Kentucky Festival of the Arts is nationally recognized for its quality, diversity, and celebration of artistic style ranging from folk to contemporary arts and traditional crafts. The 52nd Kentucky Festival of the Arts is October 14-15, 2023 at Kentuck Park in Northport, Alabama.

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Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

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