



**For Immediate Release**

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## **26th Annual Cherry Creek Arts Festival Honors First Lady of Denver, Mary Louise Lee as Distinguished Patron during Opening Gala on July 1**

**DENVER (May 10, 2016)** – The 26th annual [Cherry Creek Arts Festival](#) will honor First Lady Mary Louise Lee as the distinguished patron during the [Opening Gala](#) on July 1. The Opening Gala benefits the CherryArts year-round non-profit mission to provide art education and outreach programs in local area schools.

“As a life-long performing artist and a strong advocate for children and youth, I am honored to be this year’s Cherry Creek Arts Festival distinguished patron,” said First Lady Mary Louise Lee. “The Arts Festival’s year-round programming aimed at arts education embodies my mission of helping to steer youth toward making positive life choices through inspirational arts experiences.”

First Lady Lee has been an ambassador to the city’s local arts community since 2011. In 2012 she founded the Bringing Back The Arts Foundation to restore art programs in Denver Public Schools, expand access to the city’s cultural institutions for all residents and spotlight local performing artists.

The Opening Gala will begin at 5 p.m. with a private artist preview and purchase reception on Cherry Creek North’s Clayton Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. Guests will enjoy a private reception featuring hors d’oeuvres, spirited beverages and an opportunity to preview and purchase art from 28 of the 260 juried artists who will be exhibiting at the 2016 Cherry Creek Arts Festival.

The gala dinner takes place at 7 p.m., following the preview, at which time distinguished patron First Lady Mary Louise Lee will be honored.

For information about ticketing and the Opening Gala package benefits, please visit <http://www.CherryArts.org/Gala>. For information about Cherry Creek Arts Festival’s education programs, click [here](#).

### **About The Cherry Creek Arts Festival**

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival is a three-day, world-class and award-winning celebration of the visual, culinary, and performing arts and enjoys an annual attendance of 350,000 visitors. Special exhibits, art

and culinary demonstrations, and interactive family activities on Artivity Avenue complement the Festival experience. The 2016 event will take place on July 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Janus presents the 2016 Cherry Creek Arts Festival officially sponsored by Arrow Electronics and Your Hometown Toyota Stores. Associate sponsors are Blue Moon Brewing Company, Cherry Creek North, Cherry Creek Shopping Center, Frame de Art, Hendrick's Gin, JW Marriott Denver Cherry Creek, Ketel One Vodka, Room & Board, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District and Xfinity. They are joined by Associate Media Sponsors, 9NEWS, Colorado Homes & Lifestyles, Mountain Living, ColoradoBiz Magazine, The Denver Post Community, Alice 105.9, 99.5 The Mountain, Comedy 103.1 and Crusin' 1430 AM. Supporting Sponsors include Finished Basement Company-REthinkREmodel, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Happy Llama Inc., King Soopers, Milagro Tequila, Pepsi and Porter Adventist Hospital. Contributing Sponsors include American Art Collector, Baileys Almande, Blake Communications, Colorado Business Bank, Colorado Lottery, Creative Law Network, Inspirato, the MDC Foundation, Stanley Marketplace & Turner Construction.

Since 1991, the CherryArts 501c3 nonprofit mission provides access to arts experiences and supports art education via the Cherry Creek Arts Festival and statewide education programs. For more information, visit [www.CherryArts.org](http://www.CherryArts.org), or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat (cherryarts) or Periscope (cherryarts). Come Alive with Art using the hashtag #CherryArts.

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