



**ARTISPHERE**  
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### **Artisphere presented by TD Bank Cancelled for 2020**

#### ***Greenville's Premier Celebration of the Arts Cites Safety Concerns for Hard Decision***

**June 26, 2020 // Greenville, SC.** The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Artisphere presented by TD Bank rescheduled from May to August 21-23 has been cancelled for 2020. Festival organizers cite concerns about the health and safety of artists and patrons for the decision and look to virtual platforms to present this year's event.

In March, with the rise of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., the CDC strongly recommended cancelling mass gatherings through May 10 (the original date of this year's festival) prompting Artisphere and many other events to cancel or reschedule. With 90% of its original programming remaining intact for the new dates the Artisphere board was optimistic, until recently, that a 3-month delay would be sufficient.

"After months of careful deliberation, we feel that cancelling the event is the right thing to do for our artists and patrons," stated Linda Hannon, President, Artisphere Board of Directors. "Asking artists to travel from across the country to Greenville isn't prudent at this time and the social distancing protocols we would want to put in place to keep patrons safe would restrict festival attendance by 80%. It would not be the experience Greenville residents and visitors have come to expect from Artisphere. We are confident this is the right decision for our organization."

Artisphere received 999 applications for 135 spaces on GE Artist Row for 2020 making it one of the most competitive fine art shows in the country. Selected artists represent 27 different states and over 40% would be exhibiting at the show for the first time.

As many festivals across the country have opted to present virtual versions of their annual events so too will Artisphere offer a virtual festival that will include artist galleries, live chats and demonstrations, at home DIY activities and more. "The virtual event will spotlight artists and their work plus offer engaging activities to simulate the festival experience," explained Artisphere Executive Director, Kerry Murphy.

"We will miss seeing Main Street filled with artists, performers and patrons; however, the safety and health of our community must take precedent," said David Lominack, SC Market President for TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank. "At TD Bank, we look forward to continuing our partnership with Artisphere in a virtual format in our ongoing effort to support our vibrant arts community."

Plans for a virtual Artisphere experience are underway. Details will be available on [www.artisphere.org](http://www.artisphere.org) and Artisphere social media channels.

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## **About Artisphere**

*Artisphere* is a highlight of Greenville's cultural calendar and a Top 10 Fine Arts festival in the country. The event features a juried Visual Artist Row; Artists of the Upstate, a juried exhibition of local artists; Outdoor Stages with performances by local and national artists; hands-on Kidsphere children's art activities; the Culinary Arts Café that highlights local restaurants; and Special Festival Art Projects that enliven the streets of Greenville with street musicians, acrobats, sidewalk artists, and more. Artisphere is attended by approximately 90,000 patrons annually and has an estimated economic impact of \$6.4 million on the Greenville community. *Artisphere* is a 501(c) (3) not for profit organization. For information visit [www.artisphere.org](http://www.artisphere.org).

*Artisphere* is presented by TD Bank.

Artist Row sponsor: GE, Artist Demonstration Row sponsors: Michelin and BMW Manufacturing, STEAM Exhibit sponsor: Clemson University, Artists of the Upstate Juried Exhibition sponsors: Prisma Health and The Greenville Journal, Performing Arts Stage: Furman University, Local Performing Arts Showcase sponsor: The Fred Collins Foundation, Community Sculpture sponsor: Metromont, Art Lab sponsor: atHome Magazine, Main Stage sponsor: WYFF-4, Pop-Up Stage sponsors: Bank of America, Bank of America Private Bank and Merrill Lynch, Kidsphere Arts & Crafts sponsor: Spinx, Kidsphere Music sponsor: Legacy Early College, Culinary Arts Café sponsor: Wells Fargo Bank, Arts & Draights sponsor: Truist Bank, VIP Hospitality sponsor: The Capital Corporation, Opening Night Gala sponsors: Benefits in a Card, Coldwell Banker Caine and Sealevel, Charging Station sponsor: Duke Energy; Mayor's Choice Award sponsor: Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, 2020 "Sneak Peek" Commemorative Poster Unveiling Reception sponsors: TALK Magazine and ZWO, 3D Street Mural sponsor: Duke Energy

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