

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: Art.Downtown.

Where: Heartside/Downtown

When: Friday, April 11, 2014 6pm-11pm

Who: Local artists, galleries, shops, and restaurants

Innovative Shows Engage Visitors in Art.Downtown. 2014

Exhibition spaces are creating shows that integrate the public and the artwork

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.- Art.Downtown. celebrates it's five year anniversary on Friday, April 11, 2014 from 6pm-11pm. This one night event features over 450 local artists in 35 downtown locations. Interactive shows will engage visitors in new sites both indoor and outdoor. Visitors will become active participants when they visit shows like 2nd Annual Big Block Party, Yours Truly : An Evening of Greetings and Letters, and SiTE:LAB's Blacktop. Trolleys, maps, and volunteers will help you navigate the event and make the most of everything Art.Downtown. has to offer.

Collective Pressure, a group of printmakers from Kendall College of Art and Design, is hosting their event, the 2nd Annual Big Block Party. This event is taking place at 17 Fountain in the atrium of the Kendall College building. The collective is throwing a block party that features 4' x 8' woodcuts of their favorite foods. They also encourage visitors of all ages to participate in an interactive printmaking station. This event will also have a photo booth and live music throughout the night. Art.Downtown. guests will be able to experience artists creating artwork live at the event and even make their own artwork.

Marlee Grace is curating a show that takes the form of a card making workshop. She is the owner of Have Company, which is a shop that sells handmade goods made by local artists located at 136 S Division. For Art.Downtown. 2014 she invites visitors to be a part of the art of greeting for her event, yours truly : and evening of greetings and letters. Participants are invited to join letter writers & card makers Emilie Tromp, Codi Ann Thomsen, & Marlee Grace for an evening of making, swapping, and selling greeting cards.

SiTE:LAB shows are always unique and innovative because their events take place in non-traditional exhibition spaces. Their site specific art projects are aimed at facilitating collaborations between different cultural communities in Grand Rapids. For Art.Downtown. this year, they have a lot planned. The show, Blacktop, will be closing down LaGrave Ave SE, between Fulton and Weston in front of the Cottage Bar, for a one-night-only project. The event will include a pop-up, temporary skate park, outside building projections, and t-shirt screen printing from Citizenshirt. This event also includes the DJ's Grand Rapids Soul Club and Fresh Koko with dance performances by DITA.

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<https://www.facebook.com/GRSoulClub>

<http://soundcloud.com/ajpaschka>
<https://www.facebook.com/danceintheannex>
[http://www.citizenshirt.com/
avenueforthearts.com](http://www.citizenshirt.com/avenueforthearts.com)
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<http://blackeaglepress.bigcartel.com/>
<http://have-company.com/>

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