



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Sarah Neumann • Downtown Denver Partnership
(303) 571-8214 • Sneumann@DowntownDenver.com
Kimberly Greene • A Taste of Colorado
(303) 295-6330 • Kim@ATasteofColorado.com

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Add Shopping to Your List of Things to Do at A Taste of Colorado

DENVER – Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to browse the works of regional artisans and enjoy a variety of exhibits, products, and services to enhance their home and life in the **Arts & Crafts Marketplace presented by KKHI 101.9 FM and Home & Lifestyles area** at A Taste of Colorado. The 26th annual four-day, free admission, food, music, and entertainment Festival will take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 through 7, in Downtown Denver's Civic Center Park.

The Arts & Crafts Marketplace presented by KKHI 101.9 FM is an open-air urban shopping experience, featuring more than 250 booths of talented artists, unique crafters, and merchants of imports from around the world, offering something for everyone. Exhibitors will be offering home accessories, gift items, clothing, jewelry, children's toys, face painting, and caricatures.

New to the Festival this year is Denver's own **BlueAspen Photography**. Stencil and pop art enthusiasts should be sure to stop by **Weird Chief Pictures**. **Nelson's Pottery** specializes in hand-thrown crystalline porcelain. Unique items for the home can be found at **Switch Art**, which specializes in custom switch and outlet plates. **Backwoods Art** will feature picture frames made from hand-selected wood gathered in the forests of Colorado. **Straight Up Chess** will bring the world's first vertical wall-mounted chess boards to the Festival. **Exquisite Knits**, **K.D. Spring Clothing**, and **Zavella** are new merchants specializing in the latest apparel for the whole family. Customized, distinctive belt buckles can be found at **Obscure Belts**. Handmade and hand-painted artistic leather shoes and sandals will be offered by **The Shoemakers**, while **Berkshire Bags** will sell couture-influenced handcrafted handbags and accessories.

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If outdoor winter sports are your passion, stop by **Loki Outerwear**, designers and manufacturers of innovative outerwear and other accessories. Pick up a cute, functional pillow for your little ones at **Laura’s Pillow Pets**, or have their name painted at the **Chinese Folk Art Studio**. Stock up on high-quality and practical pet supplies at **Your Pet Store**. If you’re feeling sore or tense, treat yourself at **Right Touch Massage Chair** or **Gingerlight Gardens Therapeutic Massage**. Soothing beauty products, handmade in Colorado, will be offered by **Melt Bath & Skin Care**. The Marketplace will also feature gourmet edibles, including dips, seasonings, salsas, and jerky, plus naturally-sweet treats by **BTS Chocolate Honey** and **Bee Chama Honey**.

Returning favorites including **Rose-Lanoue Art Studio**, bringing highly-textured and colorful paintings, as well as mixed media handcast paper collages. The **Andy Marquez Gallery** specializes in fine art photography, and **Reflections in Metal** will deliver a wide variety of metal wall art and furniture. **Hasenfratz-Anton** will offer a selection of prints and mixed media, while **Bel Cappelli Hat Company** brings hats from around the globe, including the Australian Outback.

The Home & Lifestyles area features a variety of exhibitors specializing in everything from home improvement to health and beauty to kitchen accessories. Home improvement specialists include **Dun-Rite Kitchens & Baths**, offering information on complete kitchen and bath renovations, and **K&H Home Solutions**, trained professionals doing window installations, siding and gutter projects, bathtub and shower liner transformations, and home insulation. **FieldTurf Colorado** specializes in residential and commercial applications of synthetic turf, which is pet-, kid-, and eco-friendly. For healthy solutions, look to **Carmichael Chiropractic Wellness Centers**. **Heart of America Sales** with **Royal Prestige Cookware** will offer kitchen products that provide a controlled method of cooking at low temperatures with even heat distribution. **Big Sky Montana Beef** will feature jerky and summer sausage, in addition to taking orders for assorted cuts of beef.

Returning home professionals include **SolarTEK Energy of Denver**, providing renewable energy and energy efficient solutions, and **A-Shed USA**, builders of standard and custom sheds, garages, playhouses, and more. **CUTCO Cutlery** delivers high-carbon, stain-resistant steel kitchen accessories that are ergonomically-designed. Stop by the **En Masse Marketing Corp.** booth, selling painted European gourmet ceramic garlic graters. **The Hollywood Body Laser Center** will be offering information on laser hair removal, skin rejuvenation, liposuction, and many other services.

In addition to the Main Stage, four other stages located throughout the Festival will serve up a continuous menu of entertainment, featuring rock, country, jazz, blues, and ethnic music and dance groups.

More than 50 of Colorado's favorite food establishments will be selling a wide variety of small portions to full meals, ensuring that there will be something for every palate. The Fine Dining area, sponsored by Sub-Zero and Wolf, will host some of Denver's finest restaurants. The Culinary Showcase features local and nationally-renowned chef demonstrations creating simple, yet elegant meals.

There will be plenty of music, magic, clowns, and puppets on the KidzStage, and the KidZone features play equipment and hands-on craft activities. Kids and adults can also enjoy carnival rides and games Saturday through Monday.

In the Festival of Mountain and Plain area, families can learn about the state's pioneer past, nature, and the environment. Featured artisans will demonstrate Navajo weaving and culture, spinning, rug braiding, lace crocheting, felting, instrument-making, and quilting, along with the popular blacksmith demonstration. At the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program exhibit, children can learn about birds and their environment, along with their interactions with humans. Free gold panning and educational materials about dinosaurs, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, and energy production and conservation are available at the Colorado Mining Exhibit.

Sponsors of this year's Festival are: 9NEWS, Aggreko, All Copy Products, American Medical Response, American Satellite – An Authorized DIRECTV Dealer, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Blue Moon, Cascadian Farm, Cold Front Distribution, Coors Light, Corona, *The Denver Post*, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Eldorado Natural Spring Water, Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, Grand Lodge On Peak 7, Killian's, LÄRABAR, LBA Realty, Less Stress Powersports, Levinson Eye Clinic, Microtech-Tel, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Molson, Muir Glen, New Belgium Brewery, The Other White Meat Tour, PEPSI, PlayStation, Residence Inn Denver City Center, SOYJOY, Sturgeon Electric, Sub-Zero & Wolf, T-Mobile® Limited Operated by On The Go Wireless, Travelers Insurance, and Xingtea.

Festival hours are Friday, Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Monday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Festival of Mountain and Plain ... A Taste of Colorado is a community celebration that is produced by and benefits Downtown Denver Events, Inc., the Downtown Denver Partnership family's community events non-profit organization. The Festival is an opportunity for people throughout the region to come together to experience and appreciate our diverse cultural traditions, and to learn more about our state's Western heritage. The Festival highlights visual and performing arts in addition to featuring educational programs and culinary demonstrations.

Visit www.ATasteofColorado.com, www.facebook.com/ATasteofColorado, www.twitter.com/ATasteofCo, www.myspace.com/ATasteofColorado, or call (303) 295-6330 for more information.

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