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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 1,000 Artists Apply to Exhibit in Top-Rated Long's Park Art & Craft Festival Labor Day Weekend.

LANCASTER, PA -- Over 1,000 artists from across the country vied to a part of the 31st annual Long's Park Art & Craft Festival Labor Day weekend. From this jurying process 200 of the best of the best were invited to exhibit. Recognized by national rating organizations as one of the leading fine art and craft shows in the country, the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival will be held rain or shine Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7, 2009.

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Show hours Friday through Sunday are 10 am to 6 pm. Monday's hours are 10 am through 5 pm. Stevens & Lee and Griffin Financial Group are Festival sponsors.

Applications were received from 47 states, the District of Columbia and 3 foreign countries. From this large pool of viable candidates, a panel of eight national jurors chose the best in each arts category. A quarter of the 2009 exhibitors will be making their first appearances at the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival.

This year's exhibitors will bring to Lancaster an array of stunning jewelry, trendsetting apparel and leather, magnificent artwork and photography and exceptionally crafted glass, ceramics and sculpture. Festival guests will find something for almost every taste and pocketbook, ranging from affordable gift-giving to heirloom investments.

The festival's fine art and crafts will be complemented by four days of soothing music and outdoor bistro dining. Featured in the *Susquehanna Style* Bistro at Long's Park will be free musical performances by area musicians and delicious fare from some of the region's finest restaurants and caterers. The appetizing selection of salads, pastas, sandwiches, seafood and desserts will be complemented by a selection of Iron Hill Brewery's craft beers will also be available, along with fine wines.

Admission to the show opens doors to other inspiring experiences. A part of the four-day show will be opportunities throughout the weekend to see several exhibitors at

their creative work. Exhibitors are always eager and open to talking to guests about their inspiration and creative process.

In addition, different, special presentations at 2 pm each day will showcase a nationally known author and an internationally acclaimed floral decorator, as well as offer a culinary experience and a fashion show of clothing and jewelry of Long's Park exhibitors. More details on these special events will be available online at www.longspark.org/artinfo.html.

The Long's Park Art & Craft Festival will cater to aspiring young artists, too. The Pennsylvania College of Art & Design is cosponsoring a special "make and take" Creative Kid's Corner where children can unleash their "inner artist" and create personal works of art.

Long's Park treats exhibitors and guests to a most relaxing, accessible setting. Located just off the Route 30 bypass on the northwest edge of historic Lancaster City, Long's Park is a beautiful, 80-acre city park, canopied with stately elms and lined with shaded walkways circling a picturesque, 2-acre lake.

Volunteering to provide vision to the 2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival is Festival director will Lancaster County business executive, Amy L. Marberger. Marberger is an executive at Martin Insurance Agency in Millersville, PA.

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Approximately 20,000 guests from across the Mid-Atlantic region are expected to attend the 2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival. The event has become a Labor Day weekend tradition since its founding in 1979 to help underwrite the free, 13-week Long's Park Summer Music Series. The Long's Park Art & Craft Festival is produced and sponsored annually by the Long's Park Amphitheater Foundation. This year's summer entertainers include double Grammy winner *Kathy Mattea*, four-time Grammy nominee *Buckwheat Zydeco* and the Celtic super trio of *Fraser & Haas with Bruce Molsky*.

Discounted tickets to the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival may be purchased online through September 1, 2009, at www.longspark.org. One-day passes are \$8 apiece, multi-day passes \$10 each. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets are also available onsite at the festival for \$10 (one-day) and \$12 (multi-day).

Free parking is provided within the park, including special areas for guests who are physically challenged. Pets are not welcome inside the fenced show area.

Long's Park is located at 1441 Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, off Route 30 at the Harrisburg Pike/Park City Center exit.