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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival to Feature Special Events Daily.

LANCASTER, PA -- On Labor Day weekend the 2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival will showcase the amazing, one-of-a-kind work of 200 fine artists and craftspeople from across the country. In addition, guests will be treated to special events each day featuring other arts. Friday will shine the spotlight on the art of writing. Saturday will look at the art of floral design. Sunday will be highlight wearable arts and jewelry. Monday will turn to the culinary arts.

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Admission to all four sessions will be free for all paid guests to the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival. The hour-long events will take place at 2 pm daily Friday, September 4 through Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009, in the Hilltop pavilion atop the amphitheater hill.

Friday, September 4, will open with "Art with Words" with Mary Beth Keane, author of *The Walking People*. Called "sometimes heart-wrenching, sometimes joyous and tender," by *Kirkus Reviews*, Keane's premier novel is "one of those stories that lingers in the reader's memory as a lived experience." At Long's Park, Keane will discuss the creativity behind her written art. The Philadelphia resident was awarded the *Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Prize in 2004 and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2005.

This event is cosponsored by the Lancaster Literary Guild.

Saturday, September 5 will feature "The Art of Floral Design" with internationally renown floral designer Nancy Gingrich Shenk. Using ceramics, glass and other vessels created by Long's Park exhibitors, she will entertain and educate her audience as she creates floral designs before their eyes.

An instructor and innovator at the prestigious Longwood Gardens, Shenk is a graduate of Rittner's Floral School in Boston and the Dutch Masters' Design School in Holland.

She also holds a Praktijkdiploma from Stoas College in Holland. She has been part of the floral design teams for two presidential inaugurations and owned her own floral design studio in Lancaster for more than 25 years.

Sunday, September 6 will feature the Festival's second annual "Art on the Runway" fashion show, showcasing works by wearable fiber and leather artists and jewelers exhibiting in the show. In an intimate tea room setting, guests will have an opportunity to see unique, handmade designs brought to life by more than a dozen local models.

Experienced wearable retailer Susie Kelley and Tammy Jacobs of Class Act Entertainment will be producing the fashion show. Fine wine will be available for purchase during this event.

Guests will eat up Monday, September 7's special event. The "Culinary Art Fresh Tasting Experience" event will feature executive chef Eric Howton of Downtown Lancaster's Effie Ophelia. Located on Gallery Row, Effie Ophelia is an upscale bistro featuring intimate dining in an open kitchen format. Howton will bring his world of fine dining to Long's Park as he demonstrates and discusses his art with Festival guests. Guests will also have the opportunity to sample his delectable culinary creations made with fresh and local ingredients.

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The 2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival will be open from 10 am to 6 pm daily, closing at 5 pm on Labor Day. Discounted tickets will be available online at www.longspark.org through September 1. One-day advance tickets are \$8, multi-day advance tickets are \$10. Tickets will also be available at the show for \$10 (one-day) and \$12 (multi-day). Free parking is available in the park.

Stevens & Lee is sponsoring the 2009 Long's Park Art & Craft Festival.

The Long's Park Art & Craft Festival is produced and underwritten by the Long's Park Amphitheater Foundation. Proceeds from the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival underwrite the Long's Park Summer Music Series. The 2009 Summer Music Series concluded with gritty blues guitarist *Jimmy Thackery & the Drivers* on August 30, 2009.

Long's Park is conveniently located at 1441 Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster, just off Route 30 across from Park City Center. The Long's Park Art & Craft Festival and the featured events will be held rain or shine.

Pets are not allowed at the Festival.

Additional information is available at www.longspark.org or on Facebook.