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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Harding Fine Arts Academy Festival "Ignites the Art Spark"**



"Igniting the Spark" is the theme for the Ignite Arts Festival 2016, hosted by Harding Fine Arts Academy (HFAA), an Oklahoma City public charter high school. The festival will be held Saturday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the school located at 3333 N. Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City. The annual Harding Fine Arts Academy Student Talent show will follow immediately after at 6:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

An annual school and community event for the past 10 years, the Ignite Arts Festival is a gathering of HFAA student and professional visual, musical, and performing artists featuring family-friendly works in various media and styles and a food booths. It is held in conjunction with HFAA's Art Spark Youth Art Competition, a contest for students from area elementary and middle schools such as Nichols Hills Elementary School and Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School.

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"The arts festival name, 'Ignite,' came about partly because the event complements our Art Spark Youth Art Contest, but we also want to bring to focus the idea of igniting the love for art at an early age," said Linda Lightner, director of community development at HFAA. "Our school's mission as a whole is to provide a college preparatory education that is enriched by merging the arts with academics to help encourage lifelong arts appreciation." she said.



Art Spark contestants' work will be on display during the Ignite festival. So will HFAA student works, including painting, photography and illustrations, and HFAA students will take part in a martial arts demonstration, as well as instrumental music, dance, piano, vocal music, drama, and speech/debate performances.

"This event is a large community gathering, so any artists will gain exposure by participating," said Bjorn Bauer, HFAA artist teacher and event organizer. "More importantly, adult artists have an opportunity to validate and encourage young up-and-coming artists by exhibiting side by side with them in an arts festival atmosphere."



It's not too late for artists to get in on the festival. Artists wishing to display their work may contact Bauer or Lightner for details, 405-702-4322.

The school will retain a 15 percent commission on sales. Submissions will be considered until Feb. 27.

"We strive to develop and prepare our students for the future by integrating the arts into all of our academics," Lightner said. And apparently, the concept is sound. HFAA was recently named a 2015 Blue Ribbon Award school and is one of a handful of "A+" rated high schools as designated by the Oklahoma Department of Education. Harding Fine Arts Academy has also been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as well as Newsweek magazine.

Proceeds from the event benefit visual and performing arts programs at Harding Fine Arts Academy, an Oklahoma City tuition free, non-selective public charter high school. For more information about the Ignite arts festival, contact Harding Fine Arts Academy, 405-702-4322.

Harding Fine Arts Academy is an Oklahoma City charter school that prepares high school students for college in an academically challenging, arts-integrated environment.

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