



## **45<sup>th</sup> annual Octagon Art Festival expected to attract thousands to downtown Ames**

As many as 14,000 people are expected to visit downtown Ames for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Octagon Art Festival on Sunday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. A variety of free entertainment acts including live bands and performing arts will be presented throughout the day. A wide selection of cuisine to cater anyone's appetite will be available at the festival. Children's art activities will be available in front of the Octagon Center for the Arts along the 400 block of Douglas for youngsters wanting to create

their own works of art. Approximately 100 juried artists from 12 states will fill the Main Street Cultural District with a sea of artistic creations. A wide variety of functional, wearable and decorative artwork is available within any budget. The Octagon art festival is the perfect place to get an early start on shopping for holiday gifts. Come find a set of cozy mugs, a perfect pair of earrings, a painting to fill the blank wall –there's something for everyone at the Octagon Art Festival! Bring your family and friends to the Main Street Cultural District in downtown Ames on Sunday, September 27, from 10 am –5 pm to experience the many wonders of art at the Octagon Art Festival. This event is FREE and open to the public.

Are you interested in being a part of this great event by volunteering an hour or two at the Octagon Art Festival? 200 volunteers help make the Octagon Art Festival a wonderful experience for the artists and festival visitors. Some volunteer activities include assisting artists unpack and pack booths, assisting with the children's craft area, barricade monitors and booth sitters for artists. Anyone interested in volunteering to fill 2 hour shifts during the festival, please call 232.5331 or email [membership@octagonarts.org](mailto:membership@octagonarts.org) for more info.

For more information regarding the Octagon Art Festival including a festival map and list of participating artists, visit [www.octagonarts.org](http://www.octagonarts.org).

The Octagon Art Festival is organized by the Octagon Center the Arts, a non-profit community art organization located in downtown Ames Main Street Cultural District. The Octagon has been a cornerstone of the cultural scene in Ames since 1966. The Octagon serves more than 30,000 people annually through education classes and outreach programs, rotating exhibits, retail gallery shop, and special events such as the annual Octagon Art Festival. Come experience the arts at the Octagon located at 427 Douglas Avenue in downtown Ames.

Special thanks to the festival sponsors and community supporters who make this event possible: Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program; Ames Commission on the Arts; Ames Tribune; Cross Wealth Management; First National Bank; Haila Architecture, Structure and Planning; Iowa Arts Council; Iowa Public Radio; Mediacom and Octagon Center for the Arts.