

Capital A'fair marks 40 years

By MADI WRAY | Bismarck Tribune Jul 25, 2014



People at a previous Capital A'Fair on the mall of the state Capitol in Bismarck stroll by dozens of art exhibitors while enjoying the outdoors. The festive event is sponsored by the Bismarck Art & Galleries Association.

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BISMARCK, N.D. — Live entertainment, 130 vendors and more than 25 food sites will come together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Capital A'Fair next weekend.

Capital A'Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 2 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 3 at the state Capitol grounds, 600 E. Boulevard Ave.

What started as a small fair on the lawn of the State Library and Sertoma Park has now blossomed into a two-day fair filled with vendors from all over the country and more than 10,000 people each year.

"Ever since that first year it's just been growing and growing, and every year we always have something new and exciting for everyone to see," said Linda Christman, executive director of the Bismarck Art & Galleries Association.

Grape Vine Design, a business in Grand Forks, will be returning to Capital A'Fair for the seventh time this year.

"It's just a really unique show with it being on the Capitol grounds and we really enjoy going there," owner Darren Horter said.

GrapeVine Design is welded metal art that consists of lawn ornaments, drink holders and campfire tools. Horter spends all of his spare time welding for the business. He spends nearly three hours a night welding in his shop, he said.

Capital A'Fair will be holding a sidewalk chalk art contest throughout Aug. 2-3.

Artists who enter the contest will have two days to work on their projects. The projects will be judged on Aug. 3 and the winner will receive a cash prize. To enter the contest, contact baga@midconetwork.com.

Various types of entertainment will be performed throughout the day, including the Larsen Brothers and the Cross Stick Percussion Ensemble on Aug. 2 and Heaven's Harmony and Bob Tekippe on Aug. 3.

Demonstrations in front of the State Library will include pine needle baskets, Flickertail Woodcarvers, Dakota Woodturners, Ukrainian egg painting and North Dakota Spinners.

"It's so much fun. It's just one of those things that there's something that everyone in the family can enjoy, and it's a good day for everyone," Christman said.

For more information on Capital A'Fair, visit www.bismarck-art.org or call 701-223-5986.