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For more information:
Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

MEDIA ALERT – 2009 Taste for Douglasville Arts Awards Announced

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce that the following restaurants have received awards for their outstanding contributions during the 2009 Taste for Douglasville Arts:

Most sold – Iron Horse
Best Presentation – Gumbeaux's
Best New Restaurant – Texas Roadhouse

Last year the CAC's Taste for Douglasville Arts festival broke records with attendance of more than 8,000 people participating, and this year we broke another record – for the first time in 15 years our outdoor festival was rained out. Just before 1 p.m. on Saturday, Douglasville Police Captain Chris Womack told festival organizers that severe thunderstorms were expected and that in the interest of public safety the event had to be closed down. Everything was perfect except the weather. We had the most and best vendors ever, more than 20 outstanding restaurants offering delectable dishes, two stages of wonderful local talent, more activities for children than ever before, more community services groups participating, a great array of sponsors filling O'Neal Plaza to capacity, and more than 200 volunteers who were involved in 2009.

“We are so grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make this Taste for Douglasville Arts a great success,” stated CAC Board President Allen Culpepper. “Their generosity and support means a great deal to the Cultural Arts Council. Mayor Thompson offered a rain date, but restaging an event of this size is impossible at this point – and our restaurants just cannot afford to do this again this year. This was a huge loss for our organization during a year when public support has already been cutback by the county and additional cuts are being considered by the city and the state, all major supporters of the cultural services we provide.”

“While restaging the whole event is not financially or logistically feasible, the Cultural Arts Council is planning to offer an opportunity for our vendors and sponsors to present themselves to the public later this summer,” stated Laura Lieberman, CAC's Executive Director.

She continued, “We are also developing a promotional program for our restaurants which were as heartbroken as we were that the weather got the best of us. We are looking at a passport program for our participating restaurants where if patrons eat at a restaurant they get their passport stamped, and after visiting at least half of the restaurants they will receive an original print by Danny Alexander, one of Douglas County's most popular artist from the Cultural Arts Council. The print of Sweetwater Creek has a value of more than \$250, and the original painting for it was commissioned in 2000 when Alexander for the Georgia Artist of the Year and is in the Governor of Georgia's permanent art collection.

First established in 1995 as a fundraising event for the Cultural Arts Council by Rhonda Case, now the director of Douglas County's Woodie Fite Senior Center, the Taste for Douglasville Arts festival was the result of thousands of hours of work on the part of hundreds of people in our community every year. This year more than 600 volunteers were involved, including: members of the Junior League of Douglas County which hosted our first festival kick off with Taste of the Grape on Friday, May 15th, at the Chamber of Commerce, which was a lovely party with great jazz performed by the Daniel Padrone Trio,

incredible edibles catered by Sam and Rosco's and outstanding fine wines for sampling; all of the talented individuals who planned to perform on the O'Neal Plaza stage under Bob Smith's direction and on the Second Stage with Henry Mitchell as Master of Ceremonies, and especially our event chair, Allison Williams and honorary co-chairs, Janice Thompson and Linda Worthan. Iteeah Pounds deserves special mention for organizing the Kids Korner activities this year, and Dave and Zana Gray (CAC's Board Treasurer) for their dedicated organization of ticket counting and pickup in 2009. Kevin Livingston and the 4-H group volunteers which had hoped to raise money for their activities with our new second drink stand by the Second Stage.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among residents of and visitors to Douglasville and Douglas County. Our goals are to provide an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broaden the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and foster individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups.

The Cultural Arts Council's ongoing activities and events are generously supported by our sponsors and membership, the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the General Assembly, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art. The Cultural Arts Council is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in downtown Douglasville, Georgia (exit 36 off I-20 about 20 miles west of Atlanta). Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. Contact the Cultural Arts Council for further information, 770-949-2787 or visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org.