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## **MEDIA ALERT – 2011 Taste of Douglasville Award Winners 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 2011 Taste for Douglasville Arts:

Most sold – Gumbeaux’s  
Best Presentation – Gabe’s Downtown Louisiana Cafe  
Best New Restaurant – Landmark Cafe

The 2011 Sidewalk Chalk Competition was won by three very gifted young ladies – second grader Autumn Cannon, and sisters Emily Kelley (another second grader) and Mady Kelley, aged 3. About 20 children competed with beautiful original designs this year, so our judges – CAC Board members Diane Daniel, June Keen and Suveess Ricks -- faced some difficult decisions in making these awards. Each winner will receive a special prize of art materials from the Cultural Arts Council.

This year the clouds gave way to the sunshine in historic downtown Douglasville, and CAC’s 18<sup>th</sup> Taste of Douglasville broke all previous attendance records with more than 12,000 people enjoying the festival throughout the day, according to police estimates. Although fewer restaurants participated than in recent years, more arts and crafts vendors participated than ever before. There were two stages of local talent, great activities for children, a diverse selection of community services groups, a wonderful array of sponsors’ booths filling O’Neal Plaza to capacity, and once again Captain Herb of Cox Communications’ WSB-750 AM offering a live feed from the festival site.

“We were especially delighted this year to have presented major new activities for teenagers and children through two new national partnerships – “Above the Influence” offered terrific interactive fun in their national kickoff of this anti-drug campaign targeting 13 to 16 year olds, an initiative brought to our community by Amanda Bryant of C.O.R.E., and the U.S. Tennis Association’s “quickstart,” which set up a kid-sized tennis court and gave children ten and under free tennis lessons introducing them to this great healthy sport. Both of our national partners have enthusiastically asked to come back for Taste next year. We are so pleased,” commented CAC director Laura Lieberman. “Our sponsors this year also went far beyond previous years in helping the Art Council with increased promotion and marketing – WSB promoted Taste on its web site and with more radio advertising than we have ever had as well as the popular “Cash Cube” activity offered in partnership with Ever Dry (another long-time Taste sponsor), ComCast produced and presented a wonderful commercial for us again this year and added lots of social media promotion of the 2011 festival and special prizes through Xfinity’s Red Apron project, Douglas County produced and cablecast a great feature previewing Taste, and the City of Douglasville promoted our event in many effective ways; the Chamber also helped us promote both Taste of Douglasville and our new kickoff, the Picnic on the Plaza. I am sure this all helped make the 2011 event our biggest and most popular ever.”

First established as a fundraising event for the Cultural Arts Council by Rhonda Case, now the director of the Woodie Fite Senior Center, the Taste of Douglasville 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 300 volunteers were involved including: members of the Douglas County chapter of the American Business Women’s Association, which hosted our new festival kick off with Picnic on the Plaza, Friday,

May 13<sup>th</sup>, a lovely (and lucky) party with great jazz and other performances from T.A. Production's Raise the Praise and incredible picnic fare catered by Atlanta's Finest; all of the talented individuals who performed on the O'Neal Plaza stage under CAC's Programming Committee Chair Bob Smith's direction and on the Second Stage coordinated by Iteeah Pounds with County Commissioner Henry Mitchell as Master of Ceremonies and City Councilman Samuel Davis contributing technical production; and especially our 2011 event co-chairs, Omar Daniel and CAC Board member Renee Kell, and our honorary co-chairs, Janice Thompson and Linda Worthan. Kevin Livingston and his 4-H group volunteers raised money for their activities with our new second drink stand by the Second Stage where many of them also showcased their talents throughout the afternoon, while the Douglasville Bulls, a college level summer baseball team, sold drinks donated by Coca Cola Enterprises, on O'Neal Plaza.

"We are so grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make this Taste of Douglasville a great success," stated CAC Board President Robby Pope. "Their generosity means a great deal to the Cultural Arts Council and to the community we serve. The funds raised support cultural programming and arts activities throughout the year."

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](http://www.artsdouglas.org).