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## **The Contemporary Dayton Celebrates Success of the Dayton Art Fair Weekend**

DAYTON, OH (February 27, 2025) – The Contemporary Dayton (The Co) is proud to announce the resounding success of the inaugural Dayton Art Fair Weekend, February 14, 15 & 16 which brought together artists, collectors, and the community for a vibrant celebration of creativity and connection.

The weekend kicked off with the inaugural **Dayton Art Champions Reception**, honoring individuals and organizations that have made a significant impact on the local arts scene. The 2024 champions were Dr. Robert L. Brandt, Jr., Sandy Gudorf, Five Rivers Health Center, Linda Lombard & Paul Marshall, and Meredith Moss, and were selected by The Co's 2024 Artist Advisory Committee. Over 250 audience members were treated to a special performance from Te'Jal Cartwright, a rising voice in contemporary poetry and a proud Dayton native, who performed an original poem, written in honor of this year's awardees, celebrating their unwavering commitment to art and culture.

Next up, was **Prelude**, The Co's traditional auction fundraiser, reimagined as a lively and affordable Valentine's event, featuring the VIP Lovers Lounge, silent and live auctions, grazing stations, music, and a festive atmosphere. The energy carried into the weekend-long **Dayton Art Fair**, where 36 artists, galleries and community organizations showcased and sold their work directly to over 2,500 fair-goers, reinforcing Dayton's commitment to supporting and celebrating its creative community. Additionally, The Co partnered with Dayton RTA to provide a free Dayton Art Loop, ensuring accessibility for all and encouraging exploration of the city's thriving arts spaces.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming response to the Dayton Art Fair," said The Co's Executive Director, Eva Buttacavoli. "This weekend was a testament to Dayton's deep love for the arts, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the years to come."

Extending the event's impact beyond the weekend, select artworks from the fair were purchased by audience members that will be generously donated to the new Ronald McDonald House, bringing inspiration and comfort to families in need.

For more information on The Co's upcoming events and initiatives, visit [www.codayton.org](http://www.codayton.org).

### **More About The Dayton Art Fair - A New Vision for Artist Empowerment and Community Unity**

Building on the 30-year legacy of supporting artists, The Co's Dayton Art Fair marks a new beginning, uniting Dayton's creative community in a powerful statement of hope, resilience, and progress. This

bold new platform elevates artists by offering them a space to showcase and sell their work directly, while fostering a deeper connection between artists and art enthusiasts in Dayton and beyond. At the heart of the Dayton Art Fair is a vision to empower artists and inspire the community. Gone are the days of depending solely on artist donations for auction items; this innovative fair allows artists to maintain full ownership of their works while benefiting from enhanced visibility and financial support. By creating a platform for artists to engage directly with buyers and supporters, The Co is ensuring that their talents are recognized, valued, and rewarded.

The Dayton Art Fair is more than an event – it is a testament to the belief that art has the power to unify and uplift. As the leading community arts organization known for fostering collaboration and innovation, The Co is partnering with local galleries, artist collectives, and businesses for the Dayton Art Fair to create a unique platform that celebrates and amplifies local talent. Their commitment to uniting Dayton’s creative community drives meaningful cultural growth and strengthens the region’s vibrant arts scene. Through the fair’s open and inclusive environment, The Co seeks to break down barriers between artists and the public, making contemporary art more accessible and approachable. This shift in focus comes as The Co continues its mission to support emerging and established artists while fostering a vibrant and diverse arts community in Dayton.

### **Community Partners**

The community partners involved in weekend’s events make this event truly unique by representing a rich cross-section of Dayton’s creative spirit and cultural heritage. Each partner brings a distinctive voice, fostering an environment where innovation and change thrive:

- **Black Palette Art Gallery** - Fine Art Exhibitions, Sales, Commissions, Education, Consulting, & Events in the Wright Dunbar District
- **Dayton Printmakers Cooperative** – A collaborative space dedicated to the art of printmaking, offering resources and community to artists at all levels.
- **Dayton Society of Artists** – A historic nonprofit organization supporting local artists through exhibitions, workshops, and education programs.
- **Edward A. Dixon Gallery** – A contemporary gallery showcasing cutting-edge art and fostering emerging talent in Dayton’s vibrant art scene.
- **6888 Kitchen Incubator** – A creative hub for food entrepreneurs, offering resources and support to grow innovative projects.
- **Sugarcreek Photography Gallery** – A dedicated space for fine art photography, featuring regional and national artists.

These partnerships not only showcase the diversity and talent within the Dayton community but also work together to drive meaningful change, creating an inspiring event where collaboration, creativity, and innovation come together to shape the future of Dayton’s artistic landscape. Through these partners, The Co continues to serve as a space where artists and the community at large are empowered to push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and celebrate new ways of thinking.

### **Events with Purpose**

More than just a fundraising event, the weekend’s events represent The Co’s unwavering commitment to the city of Dayton and its artistic community. By placing artists at the forefront of the event, The Co is

creating a platform that celebrates creativity and contributes to the economic empowerment of local and regional artists. The proceeds generated from the event will go directly to supporting The Co's ongoing exhibitions, educational programs, and artist development initiatives, ensuring that the arts remain a vital part of Dayton's cultural landscape.

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**ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON**

Advancing art for the community and a community for artists since 1991.

The Contemporary Dayton (The Co) is the region's contemporary art center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Co produces and presents ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTIST TALKS, and PUBLIC ART by local, national, and global creatives and makers; and is ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL. As a non-collecting art center, The Co is one of 45 non-collecting art centers and museums across North America that specialize in presenting modern and contemporary art.

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