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**THE DOÑA ANA ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE
5TH ANNUAL LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR**

MARCH 13, 14 & 15 AT THE LAS CRUCES CONVENTION CENTER

The 5th Annual Las Cruces Arts Fair opens on Friday, March 13 at 5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The Las Cruces Arts Fair is a juried fine art show that features original work in a variety of media by eighty artists from around the United States, Canada, and Mexico. “The event has grown over the years to become a truly international art fair,” says Scott Breckner, President of the Doña Ana Arts Council.

Opening night festivities begin at 5 p.m. and include live music by Euterpe Flamenco Instrumental of Chihuahua, Mexico. While enjoying the unique guitar and percussion sounds of Euterpe, patrons may visit the Cantina and bar, browse the silent auction tables or visit artists’ booths. The Las Cruces Arts Fair continues on Saturday, March 14, 10am to 5pm and Sunday, March 15, 10am to 4pm. Artists participating in the fair will provide continuous demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday, giving those who need to take a break from shopping a chance to learn more about the creative process. A schedule of artist demonstrations, a complete list of artists and a digital gallery of participating artists’ work may be found at www.DAarts.org click on “Art Festivals” and “Las Cruces Arts Fair”.

Many participating artists are returning to the Las Cruces Arts Fair while others are new on the southern New Mexico arts scene. The chairs of this year’s event are Diane and Robin Fovargue. “With such outstanding artists, the Las Cruces Arts Fair has become a signature fine arts event in the Southwest. The artists love the fine reception and support that they receive in Las Cruces.” Proceeds from the Las Cruces Arts Fair benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council’s numerous arts education and community programs.

Artists from a variety of traditional and contemporary disciplines will be represented. Fiber artists who create intricately patterned hand-woven clothing, hand-painted silks, and stunning leather accessories will be at the event. There will be a fabulous selection of jewelry created by artists who work with glass, gold, silver, gemstones, and exotic woods. In the world of painting, drawing, printmaking, and photography, one will discover breathtaking landscapes, portraiture, wildlife art, and abstract fine art. The mixed-media division will offer unique compositions created from paper, wood, leather, metal and other materials. Glass and ceramic artists, who use both traditional and contemporary techniques, also will be on display. Patrons who journey through the Las Cruces Arts Fair will want to visit the various sculptors who work in clay, paper mache, bronze, and steel. Exquisite hand-crafted furniture, yard art, and decorative accent pieces will be available.

Presented by the Doña Ana Arts Council at the Las Cruces Convention Center, admission to the Las Cruces Arts Fair is \$6 per person. Children age 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Tickets may be purchased online at www.RioGrandeTheatre.com or by calling (575) 523-6403. Tickets purchased for opening night Friday March 13th may be exchanged upon leaving the event on Friday for one additional ticket for either Saturday March 14th or Sunday March 15th.

Fair hours are Friday, March 13, 5pm-8pm; Saturday, March 14, 10am-5pm; and Sunday, March 15, 10am-4pm. The Las Cruces Convention Center is located at 680 E. University Avenue in Las Cruces, NM. For more information about the Las Cruces Arts Fair and other Doña Ana Arts Council programs call 575-523-6403 or visit www.DAArts.org.