

PRESS RELEASE

September 30, 2014

For Immediate Release

35th Annual *Christmas Connection* Celebrates Arts and Crafts in Kingsport the weekend of November 7, 8, and 9th at the Civic Auditorium.

WHEN: (Fri/Sat/Sun) November 7, 8, 9, 2014

WHERE: Kingsport Civic Auditorium 1550 Fort Henry Dr. Kingsport, Tennessee

COST: *Free Admission!* www.EngageKingsport.com (423) 392-8415

Kingsport, TN----- Kingsport's Christmas Connection, an event sponsored by the Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts, is celebrating 35 years of arts and crafts.

This year's arts and crafts show will be **Friday November 7, Saturday, November 8 and Sunday November 9th** at the Civic Auditorium located on Fort Henry Drive next to Dobyns-Bennett High School.



The dates/hours are as follows:

Friday November 7, 2014 12Noon-6pm

Saturday November 8, 2014 10am-6pm

Sunday November 9, 2014 12noon-5pm

Admission to this fun-filled, shopping event is **FREE** and open to the public.

Christmas Connection has been around for 35 years because it is a charming old-fashion festival hosting the region's best arts and crafts vendors. The Civic Auditorium will be filled with Holiday wreaths & floral arrangements, primitive & country crafts, Christmas ornaments, pottery, stained glass, woodcrafts, handmade soaps and lotions, fabric crafts, needlework, doll clothing, true-to-life baby dolls, jewelry, dichroic glass, handmade greeting cards and paper art, leather crafts, baskets, paintings, figurines, candles, baked goods, and much more!





This year, courtesy of Bubba's Book Store, several regional authors will be on hand each day to sign their books – a truly unique item for anyone in your family. Look for them in the Civic's West Room.

Also joining us this year are the artists from Kingsport's Senior Artisan Center. Make sure to stop in the Civic's History Room and check out their beautiful crafts.

Along with the artists and crafters in the Main Hall all rooms on the east side of the facility will be filled to capacity. A bake sale at the entry of the building will feature everything from breads, and cookies to slices of cake and whole cakes and pies and the famous pumpkin rolls. Patrons wishing to purchase any baked goods are urged to come early because these items don't last long, especially the pumpkin rolls. Outside, patrons will find that sweet and salty treat, kettle corn, being made fresh all day. And festive funnel cakes will also be available for purchase at the parking lot entrance. The holiday show is free and open to the public.

The Holidays are fast approaching and this is an excellent opportunity to grab some holiday cheer, support master craftsmen and find unique gifts and treasures. Shoppers can spend the day shopping inside; out of the weather and amongst quality arts and crafts. The Christmas Connection Café has concessions to enjoy, including mouthwatering homemade soups & cornbread, and favorites like chili, hot dogs, and nachos. Shoppers won't have to lose their parking spot to eat elsewhere. Come visit the Christmas Connection. For more information or directions to the Christmas Connection, please call 423-392-8415.



MEDIA CONTACT:

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GET ENGAGED IN THE ARTS!

About the Office of Cultural Arts & Engage Kingsport:

City of Kingsport Mission:

To provide economic, educational and quality of life opportunities that create a safe, vibrant and diverse Community.

The Office of Cultural Arts, part of the City of Kingsport, connects, coordinates and engages the public with a creative community. It operates a public art program, The Engage Kingsport Performing Arts Series, Flying Pig Gallery & Studios, the *Kingsport Carousel Project*, *Christmas Connection*, and the *Carousel Fine Craft Show* and provides a broad range of support to the area's arts & cultural organizations. They work in tandem with Engage Kingsport, Inc., the "Friends of the Cultural Arts" group, a private, volunteer-led 501(c)3 non-profit community organization.

The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport's goals are to collaborate with a variety of arts organizations as well as non-arts organizations, with the aim of increasing opportunities and outlets for artists of all types. As Kingsport becomes a destination for artists and art enthusiasts, new markets and opportunities emerge. The Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport are dedicated to cultivating cultural assets and promoting them as vehicles for economic and community development.

For more information or to purchase tickets to any event contact the City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts at (423) 392-8414 or log on to www.EngageKingsport.com

The arts are transformative to places as well as individuals.

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