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Ann Duckett, media and community relations specialist at the World of Energy Center, adjusts one of the pieces of artwork that will be displayed at the Heritage Art and Music festival.

Art and music festival celebrates heritage Saturday

BY MONICA KREBER
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On Aug. 8, local artists stopped by Duke Energy's World of Energy Center in Seneca to drop off artwork. The artwork consists of all mediums – anything that pertains to art, music and Native American heritage.

The fifth annual Heritage Art and Music Festival takes place Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and based on the turnout for last year, a big crowd is expected.

The World of Energy Center collaborates with the Blue Ridge Arts Center to assemble the event each year. Lisa Kiser, executive director at the Arts Center, said this year's festival theme is Native American heritage, and viewers should expect to find artifacts, moccasins, story-telling sessions, photography, jewelry and other demos with the theme.

The artwork comes from roughly 10 artists, and each has about four pieces of artwork.

"We have quite a few pieces in the show," Kiser said. "So it's small, but it is a nice group of artists."

The theme changes from year to year. Last year's theme was based on local, historical heritage. Kiser said one year they did a photography show. Another time the festival was more "intimate" and focused just on the actual artwork. However, each theme relates to art, music and appreciating heritage in some way.

"It's been a lot of different things, but it's still about the arts and the heritage," Kiser said.

While the actual festival takes place on Saturday, the exhibit inside of World of Energy will remain displayed for viewers during normal hours (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) until Nov. 1.

"It (the festival) was started as an off-site venue for local artists to show their artwork," Kiser said. "They're famous in the area, so people will recognize their names."

Kiser said she looks forward to the collaborative work with World of Energy each year.

"They are very active with our organization," she said. "Not only are we getting an intimate art exhibit, but you're experiencing the energy building at their location."

Kiser also said she loves the children. The festival will include a Make-and-Take It session for children to participate in a hands-on activity.

"The Make-and-Take It is always a big hit," she said.

Ann Duckett, media and community relations specialist at the World of Energy, said this year will be the first time she participates in the festival.

Among the things Kiser listed, Duckett said there will also be a band playing from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a variety of demonstrations including primitive weapons, a bow and arrow demonstration, and a moccasin-making demonstration.

"I understand that I will see the Atlatl demonstration – (which is) a primitive weapon demonstration," Duckett said. "I think this will be a very educational experience, at least for me."

Duckett also said there will be an artifact and identification display.

"So if you have something that might be a great artifact, you can bring it," she said.

Duckett added she plans on bringing her two children, ages 11 and 14, to the festival.

Admission to the festival is free. Subway will be providing food for purchase.

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