

# Artisphere to spotlight 35 new artists

14th annual festival will take place May 11-13

**Donna Isbell Walker**

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After a record-breaking 2017 festival, Artisphere, presented by TD Bank, is making plans for its 2018 festival.

Those plans include 35 new artists in GE Artist Row, out of a total of 135, with 15 local artists spotlighted, Artisphere officials announced Tuesday.

The artists were chosen from an applicant pool of 1,163, the largest ever and a 400 percent increase since the first festival, Ed Zeigler, vice president of the Artisphere Board of Directors, said Tuesday.

In addition to Artist Row, the 14th annual festival, which goes on May 11-13, will feature street painter Nate Baranowski, who will create a 3D chalk mural on River Walk. Illustrator David Zinn, a popular draw last year, will return in 2018 to "turn Main Street into his own personal canvas," said Artisphere executive director Kerry Murphy.

Another popular performer, Brian Olsen, will return for the 14th year to create his Art in Action portraits of famous musicians and athletes, with 13 shows throughout the weekend.

The music lineup includes 20 bands over the three days of the festival, including Chapel Hill folk and bluegrass

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And again this year, TD Bank and the Jean T. and Heyward G. Pelham Foundation will cover booth fees for all local artists at Artisphere, said Cal Hurst, regional vice president of TD Bank.

The 2017 festival had an economic impact of \$6.5 million, and generated an average of \$9,150 in sales for participating artists, Zeigler said.

For more information about the festival, go to [artisphere.org](http://artisphere.org).

Artisphere executive director Kerry Murphy talks about the 2018 festival at a news conference on Tuesday.

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band mandolin Orange headlining on May 11, and New York-based blues and funk band Sister Sparrow playing the May 12 headline show.

There will be a new interactive children's area, Kidsphere South, featuring DRUM Percussion Studio and Logos Theatre. The original Kidsphere location at Main and Broad Streets will return with hands-on arts and crafts.

Two local Emerging Festival Artists, painter Michelle Jardines and jewelry maker Erin Stuart, will receive free booth space, mentoring and more.

