The annual North Charleston Arts Fest will take place throughout North Charleston, SC, through May 7, 2016. Now entering its 34th year, the nine day event has matured into one of the most comprehensive arts festivals in the state, drawing thousands of residents and visitors to experience the talents of national, regional, and local artists and performers in the areas of Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Crafts, Photography, Media Arts, and Literature. More than 100 festival offerings are scheduled to take place in a variety of venues throughout North Charleston and the surrounding area, including libraries, community centers, schools, civic auditoriums, and parks.

Recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as a Top 20 Event, the North Charleston Arts Fest offers something for everyone. The City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department organizes and presents the event each year, striving to maintain the spirit of a public celebration at Park Circle, the festival has developed into one of our most anticipated annual City events, allowing residents and visitors from throughout the Southeast to be exposed, engaged, and inspired by the arts.

The Arts Fest Premiere Weekend, held on Saturday, Apr. 30, and Sunday, May 1, at the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex, offers free admission and parking to a variety of performances on four stages. Other features include judged fine art and photography exhibits; the 15th annual South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibit; youth art and photography from Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester county students; the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society show; children’s activities at Box City and Creation Stations; art & craft vendors, a food court, and much more. Stand-alone events take place throughout the nine days of the festival at various locations. An exciting array of free and ticketed offerings include concerts; a street dance; theatre presentations; film screenings; art lectures, workshops, and demonstrations; an art walk; children’s activities; and the Grand Finale at the beautiful North Charleston Riverfront Park. Visual art exhibitions on view during the festival include the 11th annual National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition; the 30th Annual African American Fiber Arts Exhibition; A Piece of Peace; paintings by Boca Raton, FL, based artist Andrew Brower; an installation of mixed media works by Statesboro, GA, artist Kimberly Riner; and more. This year’s Grand Finale on May 7 features the 3rd annual Tri-County School Steel Drum Festival, a slam poetry show, children’s activities, a food truck rodeo, and an evening concert by The Secrets Band. The event concludes with a fantastic fireworks display over the Cooper River.

The City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Lisa Shimko

The City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce, Charleston, SC, artist Lisa Shimko, as the winner of the 2016 North Charleston Arts Fest Design Competition. As the winner of the statewide contest, Shimko’s acrylic painting, titled Air and Water, will be used to promote the 2016 North Charleston Arts Fest, taking place April 29-May 7, 2016. T-shirts and posters featuring the winning design will be available for sale. In addition, the artist received a $500 purchase award and the piece will become part of the City’s Public Art Collection.

Shimko’s work, including the winning piece, Air and Water, will be on display at the North Charleston City Gallery through May 31, 2016. The gallery is located within the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex at 501 Coliseum Drive in North Charleston.