

1961



1969

# Ann Arbor Street Art Fair Celebrating 50 Years of Originality

## “SNOWBALLING INTO A MUSHROOM”

By 1963 the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair had expanded from three days to four and presented 363 artists. Applications outnumbered available space. Booths acquired plastic roofing and lighting. They crept, like a colorful caterpillar down South University Avenue and around the corner on to East University. A children's art fair joined the celebration. Only four years old, the fair had grown so large, the committee decided to limit the number of artists to 350; a jury system was put into place. At age six, the fair grew to three blocks, and Ann Arbor's sister city, Tubingen, Germany, sent a display. There was art plus carnival rides, animal acts, music and five prototype Civil Defense shelters. In 1967, the Fair dates were moved to July 19-22 to avoid conflict with the University of Michigan's sesquicentennial celebrations. The State Street Art Fair launched in 1968 presenting local artists on East Liberty Street.



Esther Rainville, speaking of the growth of the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, said, "Now we don't contact 1,000 artists, 1,500 of them contact us!"

**Quote:** In 1961 Esther Rainville stated proudly in the Ann Arbor News, "Some [university art] students made enough sales to pay their tuition for the fall term."



First Class Mail  
Ann Arbor, Mich.  
509 W. Kearsch  
Mrs. Verity Jones  
STREET ART FAIR

ANN ARBOR'S  
6<sup>th</sup> annual  
STREET ART FAIR

JULY  
28 ■ 29 ■ 30 ■ 31  
● NINE A.M. TO TEN P.M. DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY NINE TO SIX P.M. ●●●

**Bumps in the Road.....**  
Ann Arbor's newest and tallest (17 stories) apartment building was under construction on South University in the midst of the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. The Forest Avenue parking structure offered FREE parking even though it was still under construction.....

**Weather Report:**  
The report in 1966 said, "Wednesday saw early morning rain then grey skies and black umbrellas." In 1969 there was a heat wave, showers and high humidity. Friday had a tornado warning with 1.17 inches of rain and high winds damaging artists' booths.

STREET ART FAIR  
In conjunction with Bargain Days  
July 26-27-28  
Thursday-Friday-Saturday 9am-10pm  
1A 19A STREET SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
FROM EAST UNIVERSITY TO PURDUE

Original Paintings  
Drawings  
Prints  
Ceramics  
Jewelry  
Other Crafts

street art fair - July 17 to 20  
ON SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
in Ann Arbor  
Original Art Works  
an  
Outdoor Sale  
of Arts & Crafts!  
in conjunction with  
Bargain Days

Sponsors - South University Businessmen's Assoc. Chamber of Commerce University of Michigan Ann Arbor Art Assoc.

street art fair  
648 hampstead lane  
ann arbor, michigan

sponsored by  
south university business mens assoc.  
ann arbor art association  
414ms cecll north  
648 hampstead lane  
ann arbor, michigan

ann arbor's 4th annual  
street art fair  
JULY 17-18-19-20

Artists and Craftsmen!  
- 1968 double & cut your work.  
- Bring ORIGINAL work - your BEST!  
- \$10 will be responsible for working & setting your art works.  
- Registration fee - \$3.00  
- Display & parking areas furnished.  
- DETAILED INFORMATION will be sent to you about late 1971... IF YOU FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS CARD.

name \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_  
city \_\_\_\_\_  
state \_\_\_\_\_  
zip \_\_\_\_\_  
others interested: