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“Big Bang Quick Draw” Outdoor Art Event in Downtown Hollywood – March 21

HOLLYWOOD, FL – March 9, 2009 – Visitors to the Historic Downtown Hollywood arts and entertainment district can watch artists at work and then bid on their creations as part of the first-ever Big Bang Quick Draw on Harrison Street beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

More than 50 artists are expected to participate in the three-hour timed challenge, which will take place outdoors along Harrison Street west of Young Circle. An awards presentation will be held at 7 p.m. at Comfort Zone Studio & Spa, 2028 Harrison Street, followed by an 8 p.m. auction of all art created during the afternoon.

Fifty percent of the proceeds from the auction, which will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine, will benefit the Hollywood Art Guild and Broward Art Guild.

The Big Bang Quick Draw festivities will coincide with Downtown Hollywood's monthly ArtWalk, a showcase of local artists' works at galleries, shops and restaurants from 7 to 10 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month. The popular event presented by the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District features free refreshments at participating businesses and live entertainment along Hollywood Boulevard and Harrison Street, between Young Circle and Dixie Highway.

The Big Bang Quick Draw competition is open to artists of all ages and levels, including students and children. Cash prizes and gifts certificates to local businesses will be awarded in competitive and amateur categories.

Comfort Zone Studio & Spa owner Luz Marina Fernandez said the event will create greater art awareness and offer patrons good deals on original art.

“The goal is to auction every piece of art,” Fernandez said. “And it's helping out the art guilds, which is a great thing, because they're really struggling, like everyone else in these times.”

Some local restaurants also will be offering “starving artist” specials throughout the day and evening.

The artist entry fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the event. Check-in is at 1 p.m. at Comfort Zone Studio & Spa. All styles and media are welcome, but artists must get their inspiration from the environment according to their assigned spot on Harrison Street.

Artists will create their works from 2 to 5 p.m. and then have one hour for framing or otherwise displaying their piece for the auction. Judging will begin at 6:30 p.m. Cash prizes for first through third place are \$100, \$75 and \$50 in the competitive category, and \$75, \$50 and \$25 in the amateur category, plus award ribbons. The grand-prize award is a one-man show at the Comfort Zone Studio & Spa gallery.

The Big Bang Quick Draw on Harrison Street is co-sponsored by the Downtown CRA, Comfort Zone Studio & Spa and artist Larry Joe Miller, who is producing the event. Lola's on Harrison is donating the hors d'oeuvres for the art auction.

Big Bang Quick Draw on Harrison Street

Call Luz Marina Fernandez at 954-923-2030 for more information, or visit www.LarryJoeMiller.com for competition details.

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.

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