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For media inquiries only,
contact: Tracy Baskerville
Dionne McConkey
410-752-8632



Artscape, America's Largest Free Arts Festival, Returns July 20-22, 2018
Headliners Include TLC, Toots & The Maytals, ZZ Ward, and Garth Fagan Dance

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts** announces the details for the 37th annual **Artscape**, America's largest free arts festival. Artscape returns **Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22, 2018** to Mount Royal Avenue and North Charles Street in Baltimore, MD. Artscape is open from 11am to 9pm on Friday and Saturday and 11am to 7pm on Sunday, with Artscape After Hours taking place Friday and Saturday from 9 to 11pm. In recent years, Artscape organizers have applied an overarching theme, relevant to both the arts and Baltimore City, into the festival's creative thinking. In 2018, Artscape is going back to the basics...ART! For "the year of no theme," Artscape encourages artists and festivalgoers to embrace Artscape for what it is: a fully accessible, free world-class arts festival in the heart of Baltimore City. The 2018 festival is headlined by legendary girl group **TLC** on Friday, July 20 at 7:30pm, reggae group **Toots & The Maytals** Saturday, July 21 at 7:30pm and blues rock sensation **ZZ Ward** on Sunday, July 22 at 5:30pm. A full schedule of events can be found on www.artscape.org.

New to Artscape this year is Youth Day, taking place on the festival's opening day, Friday, July 20. On Youth Day, Artscape features a variety of performances and visual art by Baltimore youth artists, makers and performers at indoor and outdoor venues. A performance by the Cardinal Sheehan Choir takes place for Youth Day on the MICA Main Stage at 4:30pm. Also new, festivalgoers can have a dance party via their own set of headphones at Artscape's new **Silent Disco** featuring some of Baltimore's best DJ talent. For the first time ever, Artscape is pleased to offer **FREE Pedicab** rides to festivalgoers who wish to see the Artscape they're missing by bicycle. Artscape is pleased to welcome **Squonk** who brings their show *Pneumatica* to festival for three days of performances. In this show, the "Squonkers" pump up the volume with live original music that permeates the air, while inflatables pump up and immerse the audience. Other new Artscape components include **Teenscape**, a section dedicated to teen

programming presented by BOPA's Youth Arts Council and a new **Kidscape performance space**.

Artscape features 11 large-scale interactive artwork projects for festivalgoers to explore, interact with and admire throughout the festival footprint. Among these projects are ***Trashscape***, by the Department of Beauty Maintenance and Thick Air Studios, which is an evolving street performance surrounding a sculpture of recyclable material in the shape of a mandala. Also along Charles Street is ***Choose Your Own Adventure*** by Becky Borlan & Graham Coriel Allen, which transforms an intersection of Charles Street into a colorful and safe pedestrian playscape of creative crosswalks and an immersive environment of floating beach balls. Some projects have a very specific tie to Baltimore like ***Screen Station***, where festivalgoers will be able to try their hand at screen printing and print their own messages related to youth advocacy and justice. Another art installation worth exploring is ***Headspace*** by Magdalena Sudnik, which is a giant wooden head people can walk through and engage with others from the inside.

More artwork is on view at the **Artist-Run Art Fair**, which transforms the parking garage at 1714 North Charles Street into a showcase of contemporary artwork from artist-run galleries from across the country. Two additional visual art exhibitions, ***How-to*** and ***Open During Construction***, are on display indoors at MICA's Dolphin Gallery (100 Dolphin Street) and MICA's Pinkard Gallery (1401 West Mount Royal Avenue). Festivalgoers are also encouraged to view the work of the **Sondheim Artscape Prize Semifinalists** at the exhibition at MICA's Decker and Meyerhoff galleries (1301 Mount Royal Avenue). For those looking to purchase art, the **Artists' Market** along Mount Royal Avenue features handcrafted items from more than 100 visual artists, artisans and crafters from the Baltimore region and beyond.

Returning to Artscape this year is **Dance Camp**, presented by Guardian Dance Company, with a schedule packed full of dance competitions, social dances and workshops all weekend. **Dance at Artscape** also returns to the Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric with **Garth Fagan Dance** from Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagen. Along with dance, Artscape features a full schedule of street theater performances throughout the weekend including belly dancers, dance troupes, storytellers and puppeteers. Stilt walkers, the BSO OrchKids and other performers will also be popping up throughout the weekend. Scheduled **theater, jazz and opera** performances take place indoors at the Theatre Project (45 West Preston Street) and The Brown Center (1301 West Mount Royal Avenue), as well as **classical music and organ concerts** at Corpus Christi Church (110 West Lafayette Avenue).

The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** (BSO) presents the BSO Academy Music Festival @ Artscape, where adult musicians will join the BSO for three days of performances.

Artscape continues to serve up **innovative and creative fare** from more than 30 Maryland food vendors such Rouge Fine Catering, CREPE., The Local Oyster, Black Dirt Farm, Ekiben, Connie's Chicken & Waffles and more. Artscape features local brews from The Brewer's Art and Monument City Brewing Company, plus Natty Boh and its new Crab Shack Shandy. Sustainability continues to be an important value to Artscape as recycling efforts increase, Styrofoam materials continue to be banned and paper straws are available upon request. All proceeds from the festival's beverage stands directly benefit the festival, helping ensure that Artscape stays free and open to the public.

Artscape wouldn't be complete without music. In addition to the talent performing at the **Artscape Main Stage**, the **Johns Hopkins University Station North Stage** and the **Morgan State University Festival Stage** showcase local, regional and national talent such as The Crowdaddies, Super City, Ursula Ricks, Eze Jackson, ellen cherry and more. Also performing are the winners of **Sound Off Live!**, an annual competition where up-and-coming bands from the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia region compete for a performance slot at either Artscape, Light City or the Baltimore Book Festival.

The University of Baltimore Presents Gamescape returns to the H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons (1415 Maryland Avenue) where visitors can browse and play video games from local and national video game developers.

After Artscape closes, the fun continues at **Artscape After Hours**, open Friday and Saturday night from 9 to 11pm. Artscape After Hours includes live music and DJ performances on the Johns Hopkins University Station North Stage, dance parties at Dance Camp, films inside the Parkway Theater, pop-up performances, street theater and art installations on Charles Street from Preston Street to North Avenue. Included in Artscape After Hours is **LOL@Artscape**, Artscape's pop-up comedy club with local comedians. New for 2018, **Baltimore Improv Group** hosts free improv workshops during the day on Saturday and Sunday, and free improv shows at 7 and 8pm Friday and Saturday nights.

To see the full schedule of events, visit www.artscape.org. Stay connected by following Artscape on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and using the hashtag #Artscape.

Artscape is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and made possible through the generous support of Sustaining partner the City of Baltimore, leadership sponsors MICA and Maryland State Arts Council; major sponsors ATAPCO, Horseshoe Casino, Johns

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The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, film office, and events agency. By producing large-scale events such as Light City, Artscape and the Baltimore Book Festival, and providing funding and support to artists, arts programs and organizations across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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