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New Year's celebration of the arts seeks entries for fifth anniversary celebration

H-E-B Presents First Night Austin 2010, the City's premiere celebration of Austin art, imagination and creativity has issued a Call to Artists. Individual artists, cultural organizations, community groups and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to be part of *H-E-B Presents First Night Austin's Fifth Anniversary Celebration*; "Illumination: Celebrating Austin's Best."

First Night Austin staff will be holding public information meetings to answer questions about the application, review the event's footprint and discuss this year's theme.

April 21 @ City Hall – News Conference Room, 6-7 p.m.

May 2 @ 701 Tillery, Suite 8A, (East Austin), 1-2 p.m.

May 9 @ City Hall – Boards and Commissions Room, 1-2 p.m.

Deadline for artists to submit application is May 15.

Commissioned First Night Artists are paid for their work and have the chance to use downtown Austin as their canvas. Proposals from artists of all types – theatre performers, storytellers, musicians, filmmakers, visual and large installations artists, performance artists, dancers, digital media artists and spoken-word performers – are sought to wow and inspire more than 100,000 First Night Austin fifth anniversary festival goers. Artists are encouraged to be adventurous, try new forms and further their own creative processes.

To apply now, or for more information, artists are invited to visit the First Night Austin Web site at www.firstnightaustin.org. For questions about proposals or submissions please contact Beatrice Thomas, City of Austin, First Night Coordinator, at (512) 974-9316, or Beatrice.Thomas@ci.austin.tx.us

First Night Austin is a public celebration of the arts that revives the ancient tradition of marking the passage of time with art, ritual and festivity. It is an annual free, family-friendly, inter-generationally programmed, non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration in Downtown Austin.

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