

December 17, 2014

For Immediate Release

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Santa to visit the Flying Pig on Saturday Dec 20, 2014 from 10 am - Noon

WHEN: Saturday December 20, 2014 **COST:** FREE

WHERE: Flying Pig Gallery & Studios, Corner of Broad & Center Streets in Downtown Kingsport



Kingsport, TN----- Santa Claus will be making a special visit to Flying Pig Gallery & Studios this Saturday December 20, 2014. The public is invited to visit with Santa from 10 am to Noon and take selfies and traditional photos at no charge. A do-it-yourself Carousel ornament table will be set up for people to build their own special keepsake Carousel ornament from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be hot cider and refreshments at no charge. This is a perfect opportunity to see all the Carousel carvings and paintings, and get updates on the project and have a talk with Saint Nick.

Flying Pig is an exciting new Arts Space located in two adjacent buildings located on the corner of Broad and Center streets in Downtown Kingsport, TN. Flying Pig Gallery and Studios is open Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am–7 pm. The spirit of the Flying Pig is community. This is a space for creative people to be a vital part of the new Downtown Kingsport. Where dreams can come true and you can make a lot of good friends on the way.

The incredible revitalization of the neighborhood has been due to many creative and enthusiastic people. The arts play an integral role in economic and community development. We want to recognize all the incredible talent there is in the entire Southern Appalachian region and also right here in the City of Kingsport. We have a wealth of cultural assets and want to showcase visual and performing art, fine craft, traditional craft, and fine art.

The gallery side features Fine Art and Fine Craft by several nationally-acclaimed artists & craftspeople. There are paintings, jewelry, pottery, textiles, photography and more. All artwork is for sale. There will be a series of art classes for children and adults offered to the public over the next few months. There will also be professional artist studios located in the space where the public will be able to see the actual production of art work as well as interact with the artists. Spaces are still available.

The studio side features the Kingsport Carousel animals that have been hand-carved from wood, and then hand-painted. The Carousel animals have been located in businesses throughout Kingsport over the past several months so that the public could see the animals that will go on to the Carousel when it is completed in early 2015. Now, all of the animals have been collected in one location open for the public to visit. In addition to the Carousel animals, the Rounding Boards, Bird Paintings, and other Carousel components are also on exhibit. Carvers and painters will

be on hand to talk about the process of creating these beautiful animals, and to discuss the story behind each animal and how each component of the Carousel is tied to the Kingsport Community. There is a Kingsport Carousel store (future gift shop) located within the studios with beautiful t-shirts, notecards, posters, and much more for sale.



KINGSPORT Office of
cultural arts



GET ENGAGED IN THE ARTS!

About the Office of Cultural Arts & Engage Kingsport:

City of Kingsport Mission: *To provide economic, educational and quality of life opportunities that create a safe, vibrant and diverse Community.*

The Office of Cultural Arts, part of the City of Kingsport, connects, coordinates and engages the public with a creative community. Programs & partnerships include: Flying Pig Gallery & Studios, Public Art Kingsport, The Engage Kingsport Performing Arts Series, the Kingsport Carousel Project, the Carousel Fine Craft Show and they provide a broad range of support to the area's arts organizations. They also serve as coordinator for special events in the city. They work in tandem with Engage Kingsport, Inc., the "Friends of the Cultural Arts" group, a private, volunteer-led 501(c)3 non-profit community organization.

The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport's goals are to collaborate with a variety of arts organizations as well as non-arts organizations, with the aim of increasing opportunities and outlets for artists of all types. As Kingsport becomes a destination for artists and art enthusiasts, new markets and opportunities emerge. The Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport are dedicated to cultivating cultural assets and promoting them as vehicles for economic and community development.

**For more information or to purchase tickets to any event contact the
City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts at (423) 392-8414
or log on to www.EngageKingsport.com**

The arts are transformative to places as well as individuals.

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