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CONTACT:

Jana Novak, 303-349-3078, info@denverartsfestival.com

Amy Norton, 303-204-5183, amy@thecreativeangle.co (.co not .com)

Denver Arts Festival Announces Visionary New Owner

Event is May 23 & 24, 2026, in Central Park Neighborhood

DENVER, CO — The [Denver Arts Festival](#) (DAF), a cornerstone of the regional arts calendar since 1999, is pleased to welcome Jana Novak as its new owner and executive director. Novak is also majority owner and a guide of the [Denver Graffiti Tour](#), as well as a versatile writer, consultant, and creative entrepreneur. She brings a unique blend of business acumen and a deep respect for artists and their process to the festival.

Returning to [MCA Central Park's](#) Conservatory Green on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23–24, 2026, this year's festival will build on its 27-year foundation as a fun community event and premier showcase for predominantly Colorado artists with a select group of national artists, while incorporating a fresh perspective.

Under the leadership of photographer [Jim DeLutes](#), the festival grew to be nationally ranked and highly regarded by artists and art collectors alike. DeLutes remains the owner/operator of the popular [Affordable Arts Festival](#) held annually in Littleton and will continue to bring art to art lovers everywhere at prices within reach. He is also helping Novak transition to her new role: "It was important to find the right person to lead the Denver Arts Festival into its next era. Someone who would understand the logistics of a

large event and also understand its heart—and that’s Jana. I’ve enjoyed working with her during the transition process and am looking forward to watching her build upon the strong foundation I’ve created.”

“Art and artists are critically important. They are vital to community building, which we need now more than ever. In fact, studies show that engaging with visual art improves mental health and psychological well-being,” says Novak. “My goal, especially as the child of a fine art artist and a writer, is to ensure this festival remains a place where all people can connect with artists, be moved by art, and collect original art, as well as one where artists are valued and supported. I am honored to carry forward Jim’s rich legacy and to continue providing a welcoming event for artists and attendees for many years to come.”

Artist applications for 2026 are closed. Participating artists and other details will be announced publicly on the website once the roster has been finalized in late March.

Novak was introduced to this opportunity through her longtime relationship and volunteer work with the [Colorado Pet Pantry](#) and its Executive Director Eileen Lambert, the non-profit partner of DAF. As an animal lover, [dog foster](#), and long-time advocate for food security issues, Novak is thrilled to continue the partnership and to support their mission of keeping Colorado pet families together by helping owners feed their pets in times of financial hardship.

In addition to her involvement in Denver’s art scene, during Novak’s decades as a freelance writer, she concurrently served as an adviser to the [Frisco Historic Park & Museum](#) in Colorado and as chief operating officer for a small business in Washington, DC. She’s also worked for prominent national and

regional politicians as a speechwriter, communications director, and senior advisor in both communications and policy. She co-authored two books and held editorial positions at several national and local magazines. Novak received her Bachelor of Arts degree in political theory from Duke University.

The Denver Arts Festival is an annual fine arts and fine crafts fair dedicated to showcasing unique work by both Colorado artists and a select group of national artists. Visit www.denverartsfestival.com for more information and to sign up as a volunteer.

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