

CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA
Office of Economic Development

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For Immediate Release

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~Dan River Art Works to Open Doors for Local Artists~

DANVILLE – On Saturday, June 4 at 12:00pm, City leaders will cut the ribbon to Dan River Art Works (DRAW) located at 531 Main Street in the heart of the Downtown Historic District. DRAW is downtown’s first art gallery and features artists’ studios for rent and classroom space for upcoming art classes.

Once the ribbon is cut, local artists will be able to apply for membership, tour the newly renovated building and map out studio spaces if interested in leasing. Basic membership costs \$25.00 and includes after-hours access to the building, a 20% commission rate to DRAW based on sales rather than a 40% rate for non-members and a listing on the DRAW website.

DRAW is possible because of a partnership between the City of Danville’s Office of Economic Development and local artist Jeffrey Seiden and his brother-in-law and local businessman, Jason Liepe. “An artist, a businessman, and City Hall!” exclaimed Jason Liepe. “It sounded like an odd partnership to me in the beginning; however, once I met with Jeffrey and City officials and I heard firsthand how passionate they all were about downtown Danville, I knew I had to be involved.” Added Seiden, “The City has been a great partner from day one when this was just an

idea in my mind. Without the Office of Economic Development, this project would not have been possible.”

Working with the City of Danville’s Office of Economic Development, DRAW qualified for and received a Downtown Danville Enhancement Grant which gives funds to targeted businesses to locate within the Downtown or Tobacco Warehouse Historic Districts. “I am thrilled that Main Street is now home to its first art gallery,” commented Anne Moore-Sparks, Project Manager for the Office of Economic Development. “This project, in addition to other recent announcements, will certainly be a catalyst for creating more interest and life in the downtown district, especially after 5:00pm.”

About Dan River Art Works - Dan River Art Works (DRAW) will be a gallery where artists and aspiring artists from around the region can come relax, work, learn, and exhibit their artwork. All mediums are welcome. DRAW offers gallery space, studios, and classroom space where art classes are available for children and adults. Artists interested in applying should contact DRAW or visit www.DanRiverArtWorks.com.

Downtown announcements since December, 2010 include: Jake’s on Main, 316 Cibo, Adam’s Shoe Shop, Ferrell Historic Lofts, Amburn and Co. Salon & Spa on Main, the partnership between Averett University and the Danville Regional Foundation, and Spin Bike Shop.