First Friday is designed to showcase the downtown art and retail scene. Downtown retailers and restaurants have joined forces with DSP to stay open, feature artists, and musicians and offer special promotions. On the first Friday of each month.

On behalf of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District (BID), we invite you to participate in First Friday, a promotional program designed to showcase the downtown arts, retail, and restaurant scene.

The Downtown Spokane First Friday series launched in November of 2003 in conjunction with the Spokane Arts Commission. First Friday always occurs on the first Friday of the month with the exception of February and October, when First Friday and the Visual Arts Tour merge to become a city-wide arts tour presented by Spokane Arts.

Your commitment of a special activity in your gallery, store, tasting room, restaurant or business entitles you to promote your business in a variety of ways.

Promotion
- firstfridayspokane.org lists all participants and artist details on the interactive map. Also includes Downtown Spokane social media platforms.
- Monthly Inlander AD
- Bi-monthly AD in Art Chowder Magazine
- Downtown Spokane radio advertisements featuring First Friday.
- Venue guide – delivered to the Visitor’s Center in Riverfront Park, River Park Square Concierge, and all major downtown hotels – listing participants with details and map.

To be included in promotions, register your First Friday information at firstfridayspokane.org.

First Friday promotions are paid for by the Ratepayers of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District (BID). Venues located outside of the BID within the greater downtown area may participate in First Friday promotions by paying an annual fee of $40. Renewing participants will be billed annually in January, and on a prorated basis based on first participation date.

Your First Friday will be its most successful when you offer a variety of activities.
- Connect with a local artist or artists and have them display their work in your business for First Friday. Feature artists of all types.
- Invite youth or a local school to create art for display.
- Create a theme
- Use spoken word, readings, poetry or theater
- Live music
- Feature a store or menu item
- Special First Friday shopping discounts
- Art and book signings
- Door prizes
- Hands-on activity for kids and adults to express their artistic side
- Mail or email information to your mailing lists to keep customers informed
- Extend your event to the sidewalk. Place banners or signs on the sidewalk during First Friday to visually indicate your participation. Create a pop-up sidewalk studio or patio.
- Be neighborly. Coordinate with neighboring businesses to create a density of activity for patrons.

When coordinating with artists:
- Find an artist at spokanearts.org/artists.
- Ask them if you need to screen their work.
- Check with them for the size of art you are looking for or how many square feet of space you have for art. Be sure to also let the artist know specifics on what type of art you are looking for, such as direct mail postcards, and if you charge any other promotion you will be doing, such as discount shopping. Be sure to also let the artist know specifics on what type of art you are looking for, such as direct mail postcards, and if you charge any other promotion you will be doing, such as discount shopping.
- Be sure to let the artist know how much art you are looking for, or how much running square feet of space you have for exhibition.
- If you are interested in having a local musician perform in your business on First Friday, contact the musician’s referral service of the Professional Musicians AFM Local 105. Visit their website: www.nwmusicians.org.

2020 DATES

January 4
Info due Wednesday, December 18

March 6
Info due Wednesday, February 26

April 3
Info due Wednesday, March 25

May 1
Info due Wednesday, April 22

June 5
Info due Wednesday, May 27

July 3
Info due Wednesday, June 24

August 7
Info due Wednesday, July 29

September 4
Info due Wednesday, August 26

November 6
Info due Wednesday, October 28

December 4
Info due Monday, November 25

Featured Poster Artist

Each month the work of a local artist has been selected to be featured as the official First Friday poster artist. Pick up a collectible poster inside River Park Square.

April | Featured Poster Artist

June | Featured Poster Artist

SPOKANE’S OFFICIAL FIRST FRIDAY
PRESENTED BY DOWNTOWN SPOKANE

YOUR FIRST FRIDAY WILL BE ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN YOU OFFER A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES.
- CONNECT WITH A LOCAL ARTIST OR ARTISTS AND HAVE THEM DISPLAY THEIR WORK IN YOUR BUSINESS FOR FIRST FRIDAY. FEATURE ARTISTS OF ALL TYPES.
- INVITE YOUTH OR A LOCAL SCHOOL TO CREATE ART FOR DISPLAY.
- CREATE A THEME
- USE SPOKEN WORD, READINGS, POETRY OR THEATER
- LIVE MUSIC
- FEATURE A STORE OR MENU ITEM
- SPECIAL FIRST FRIDAY SHOPPING DISCOUNTS
- ART AND BOOK SIGNINGS
- DOOR PRIZES
- HANDS-ON ACTIVITY FOR KIDS AND ADULTS TO EXPRESS THEIR ARTISTIC SIDE
- MAIL OR EMAIL INFORMATION TO YOUR MAILING LISTS TO KEEP CUSTOMERS INFORMED
- EXTEND YOUR EVENT TO THE SIDEWALK. PLACE BANNERS OR SIGNS ON THE SIDEWALK DURING FIRST FRIDAY TO VISUALLY INDICATE YOUR PARTICIPATION. CREATE A POP-UP SIDEWALK STUDIO OR PATIO.
- BE NEIGHBORLY. COORDINATE WITH NEIGHBORING BUSINESSES TO CREATE A DENSITY OF ACTIVITY FOR PATRONS.

WHEN COORDINATING WITH ARTISTS:
- FIND AN ARTIST AT SPOKANEARTS.ORG/ARTISTS.
- BE SURE TO ALSO LET THE ARTIST KNOW SPECIFICS OF WHAT TYPE OF ART YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, ANY OTHER PROMOTION YOU WILL BE DOING, SUCH AS DIRECT MAIL POSTCARDS, AND IF YOU CHARGE ANY OTHER PROMOTION YOU WILL BE DOING, SUCH AS DISCOUNT SHOPPING.
- BE SURE TO LET THE ARTIST KNOW HOW MUCH ART YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, OR HOW MANY RUNNING SQUARE FEET OF SPACE YOU HAVE FOR EXHIBITION.
- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING A LOCAL MUSICIAN PERFORM IN YOUR BUSINESS ON FIRST FRIDAY, CONTACT THE MUSICIAN’S REFERRAL SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS AFM LOCAL 105. VISIT THEIR WEBSITE: WWW.NWMUSICIANS.ORG.