



Virginia Highlands Festival  
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the website or requested via email

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTS & CRAFTS RETURNS TO BARTER SQUARE  
AT THE 69TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL  
FESTIVAL DATES: FRIDAY, JULY 28-SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017**

ABINGDON, Va./July 10, 2017/ – YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED: Festival audiences will be “kicking up their heels” at Barter Square this summer. The Virginia Highlands Festival has “gone green” by bringing the Juried Arts & Crafts show back to the beautiful Barter lawn. Browse the booths and get inspired at this Pinterest-worthy show, running Friday, July 28-Sunday, August 6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

“The rumors are true!” exclaimed Becky Caldwell, Festival Executive Director. “Our award-winning Juried Arts & Crafts Show is moving back to Barter, and we couldn’t be more excited about this homecoming!”

Barter Square will be brimming with regional artisans, showcasing everything from painting and woodworking, to pottery, jewelry, soap, and more.

In addition to the craft show, Barter Square will be home to Festival food vendors, street performers, and the Youth Tent. New sidewalks, improved landscaping, and the LOVE letters will welcome Festival-goers back to the Festival they love on the grounds of the historic Barter Theatre.

Take a break from your usual routine, throw out your schedule, and pick up the Festival’s *Highlander* program guides are available at shops and restaurants throughout the region, or dive deeper into the schedule of activities on the website: [www.VaHighlandsFestival.org](http://www.VaHighlandsFestival.org).

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**About the Virginia Highlands Festival:** Founded in 1948, the Virginia Highlands Festival is an annual, 10-day event devoted to the celebration of Southwest Virginian heritage and rich Appalachian tradition. Held in historic Abingdon, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Festival was selected as

the “Best Art Event” by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine in 2017 (sixth year in a row), recognized as a Top 20 Event by the Southeastern Tourism Society and has been consistently named as one of the American Bus Association’s Top 100 Tourist Attractions over the past four decades. In 2017, the 69<sup>th</sup> Virginia Highlands Festival will run from July 28-Aug. 6 (Antiques Market July 29- Aug. 6) and feature live concerts, a juried arts and crafts show, and an antique market, as well as workshops, lectures and tours. To learn more about the Virginia Highlands Festival and this year’s events, please visit <http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org/>

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