News Release

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First Night® Akron is a Fun Last Night of '05

The 10th annual First Night® Akron celebration of the arts brought 15,000 to downtown Akron.

(AKRON, Ohio)- Despite rainy weather, 15,000 revelers crowded the venues at First Night® Akron's 10th annual New Year's Eve celebration. More than 70 artists on 32 stages throughout downtown entertained the crowds from 5 p.m. to midnight.

First Night guests were encouraged to discover their artistic side with make & take projects like Pat Catan's Mask Making, P.R. Miller's Recycle Bugs Workshop, the Main Library's kazoos and hand kites, This City Reads' magic wands and more.

InfoCision Management Corporation's First Night Idol competition drew a large audience as Heather Cullotta of Green High School was crowned "First Night Idol" at the John S. Knight Center.

"It was really, really fun," said Cullotta. "I like competition in general, but this one was great because it was so fun and relaxed."

Eight couples tied the knot as Love, Laughter & Elegance: *Wedding & Event Planning* presented "Chapel in the Moonlight" at Main Place. In addition to the first-time ceremonies, more than 30 couples renewed their vows throughout the evening.

With so much music, dance, theater and interactive activities to choose from, and Metro buses shuttling First Night attendees from site to site, First Night Akron 2006 was packed with fun on the last night of 2005.

First Night is a program of Downtown Akron Partnership. Founding Partners of the program are the City of Akron and the Akron Beacon Journal. For more information visit www.firstnightakron.org.

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