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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



The annual Gresham Arts Festival returns Saturday, July 18 to the city's historic downtown, packing streets and parks with treasures from top artists, along with live music and children's activities.

Gresham Arts Festival Saturday

The 14th annual Gresham Arts Festival, the city's most popular annual event, returns Saturday, July 18, drawing thousands of people to meet with - and shop from - a carefully selected crop of Northwest artists and artisans: painters, potters, sculptors, glass-blowers, jewelers, woodworkers, photographers, and more.

More than 150 artists will fill the streets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., along with 12 musical acts and a "Kids' Village" sponsored by Greater Gresham Baptist Church that encourages kids to unleash their inner artist by participating in free and fanciful craft projects and cooling off in the Children's Fountain.

Festival visitors also are invited to help break a Guinness World Record at the Chalk of Fame, as families, friends, businesses and community groups together color in 350 5-by-5-foot Gresham-themed chalk drawings - the most ever put to pavement - on Third Street next to the Arts Plaza.



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Himanshu Suri, a.k.a. Heems

New York Rapper Tour

New York rapper Himanshu Suri, better known by his stage name Heems, will be playing the Star Theater, downtown on Wednesday evening, July 22. Heems was a member of the alternative hip hop group Das Racist. This is his first tour since dropping *Eat Pray Thug*, a critically acclaimed hip hop album he says has been so important post 9-11 and in the wake of today's political climate. The CD was released earlier this year. He is also the founder of Greed-head Music, an independent record label.