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8th Annual Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival to Return in September

After a one-year hiatus, the 8th Annual Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival will return on September 24, 2011 to the Historic 4th Avenue Business District (4th Avenue North & 18th Street). Several area jazz groups will perform, with renowned saxophonist Paul Taylor as the headliner. The 2011 festival will kick-off at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 10 p.m.

The festival was founded by Urban Impact, which helps promote downtown Birmingham's Historic 4th Avenue Business District with the city of Birmingham as one of the festival primary sponsors. This year's festival is managed by Magic City Smooth Jazz, a nonprofit organization located in Birmingham, AL. The goals of the festival are to educate and expose Birmingham area residents about the rich culture of the 4th Avenue Business District, which was a historic place for black businesses, music and professional services.

The festival will take place at Fourth Avenue North and 18th Street adjacent to the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame at the Carver Theater.

In addition to the musical entertainment, Paul Taylor will host a lecture/demonstration and question-and-answer session on Saturday morning at from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame/Carver Theatre-Performing Arts Center for Birmingham area students (K-12) and music educators.

The festival will have an Art Village for artists to showcase their art. Vendors will include businesses located in the 4th Avenue Business District as well as healthy food vendors such as Jones Valley Urban Farm and West End Community Gardens.

The event takes place as Alabama's Tourism Department has designated 2011 as the Year of Alabama Music with events taking place across the state to showcase how blues, rock, jazz, country and gospel are among America's musical roots that run deep in Alabama.

More information about the festival will be released closer to the date. For more information, go to www.justataste.org. For a list of events on the Year of Alabama Music, go to <http://YearOfAlabamaMusic.com>