CONTACT: Kelly Marshall 205-540-7385 kellymarshall@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 1, 2015

BIRMINGHAM ARTWALK ANNOUNCES PRESENTING SPONSORSHIP BY URBAN STANDARD & FRIENDS

BIRMINGHAM – Birmingham Artwalk, now in its 14th year hosting an annual arts festival in Birmingham's Loft District, is pleased to announce a partnership with Urban Standard and Friends.

"For the first time in our 14 year history, we have partnered with a Birmingham favorite in Urban Standard as a presenting sponsor for our event," Joy Myers, executive director of Birmingham Artwalk, said. "Urban Standard has been a long standing friend of the festival as an artist host and we are very appreciative of this major support. We are proud of the incredible progress we have seen in our festival footprint, and Urban Standard is just one example of the growth and revitalization of downtown Birmingham."

Friday night (September 11) is similar to a giant gallery opening, with all the energy and excitement of a street festival. Saturday afternoon (September 12) caters more to families with special children's activities and entertainment. In addition, both days offer an enticing glimpse of the economic, residential and cultural revitalization under way downtown.

"We are excited to share the success and good fortune Urban Standard has experienced on 2nd Avenue for more than seven years," Tom Wrzesien, owner of Urban Standard, said. "By including some friends in the district, we are acknowledging the 'it takes a village' effort from a community in order to continually put on such a rewarding and fun event for our neighborhood. It is important that this much loved festival continues to grow and thrive along with the neighborhood."

Set for September 11-12, Artwalk 2015 transforms the city's historic loft neighborhood into a vibrant arts district, featuring the work of more than 100 visual artists, live music, street performers, food and drink, and children's activities. This free festival draws more than 15,000 people downtown each year to experience art in an urban environment.

The Artwalk district is located on Morris Avenue, 1st Avenue North and 2nd Avenue North between 22nd and 25th Streets. The event will take place Friday, September 11 from 5 to 10 pm. and Saturday, September 12 from noon to 6 pm. For additional information, please visit www.birminghamartwalk.org.