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SUMMER'S HOTTEST CITY FEST – COMERICA TASTEFEST 2006 – GUARANTEES COOL FOOD AND MUSIC

**18th Annual Street Festival To Be Held
June 30 – July 4 In Detroit's Historic New Center**

DETROIT, June 5, 2006 – One of the most anticipated summertime events in the city -- the 18th annual Comerica TasteFest -- is just around the corner, bringing an ever-amazing line-up of free music and fantastic food. Recognized as Detroit's premiere street festival, the 2006 Comerica TasteFest will be held Friday, June 30 - Tuesday, July 4, on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit's Historic New Center Neighborhood.

The all-ages food and music festival, held annually during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, will showcase more than 40 of metro Detroit's most popular restaurants serving a diverse international palette of cuisines, along with a stellar line-up of free musical entertainment that rivals all other major festivals. This is why the Comerica TasteFest has earned the reputation of being Metro Detroit's ultimate summer event.

Culinary connoisseurs and BBQ lovers alike will find something delicious to sink their teeth into. Making their Comerica TasteFest debut are Sweet Lorraine's Café and Bar (Detroit), Asian Village (Detroit), Sticky Fingers (Southfield), Grand City Grille (Detroit), La Pita Fresh (Detroit), Louie's Buscemi's (Harrison Township), Centaur Bar (Detroit), Lola's (Detroit), Louisiana Creole Gumbo (Detroit), Clubhouse Tavern (Detroit) and Au Bon Pain (Detroit). Returning favorites include Coach Insignia (Detroit), Lazybones Smokehouse (Roseville), Beans and Cornbread (Southfield), Under the Eagle (Hamtramck) as well as the decadent "Cold Stone Creamery Dessert District," a delight for anyone with a sweet tooth.

And a day at the Comerica TasteFest would not be complete without a tall glass of fresh squeezed lemonade, a tropical fruit smoothie, or an "adult beverage" from The Town Pump Tavern (Detroit). Ravenswood Winery will also be back to share its fine varietals from the Sonoma Valley in their very special traveling wine garden.

When you've had your fill of food and drink, pick a stage, grab a seat and enjoy some great live music! Comerica TasteFest 2006 will deliver another amazing collection of free national and local musical acts -- nearly 60 in all. This year's headliners on the MotorCity Casino Main Stage (located in the Fisher Building Parking Lot) include 2006 Grammy winner **Common**, 60's pop star **Eric Burdon and The Animals**, former leader of The Kinks and prolific songwriter **Ray Davies**, Southern garage rockers **Kings of Leon**, alternative vocalist **Cat Power & The Memphis Rhythm Band**, Vancouver's superstars of indie rock **The New Pornographers**, power punk pop band **The All American Rejects**, perennial pop-jazz group **Spyro Gyra**, legendary gospel singer **Mavis Staples**, punk-pop group **Damone** and gospel vocalist **J Moss**.

For more great electronic and garage rock, check out the Pure Detroit Stage (at Second Avenue and Lothrop) spotlighting blistering top talent including **Amp Fiddler**, **The Grand Nationals**, **John Arnold**, **Amadou and Mariam**, **waajeed**, **Brave Rifles**, **J DaVey**, **Free Element**, **the Breakers** and many more.

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Just down the boulevard, the metroPCS Jazz & Blues Stage (at Grand Boulevard at Cass) will soothe your soul with the sounds of **Robert Lowe** with special guest **Cody Black, Howling Diablos, Kevin Mahogany & Red Holloway's Jazz & Blues Summer Party Tour, Dwight Adams Group, Tim Bowman, Seeley & Baldori** and **Urban Jazz Coalition** to name a few.

While over at New Center Park, the New Center Council Park Stage (Grand Boulevard at Second) will feature a diverse mix of the Detroit area's most brilliant singers/song writers along with budding local talent. Artists include **Audra Kubat, Blanche, The Hard Lessons, The Sights, The Paybacks, The Demolition Doll Rods, Cowboy Messiah** and **Freer**.

And while the food and music may be the main attractions at Comerica TasteFest 2006, there are many other pleasures to partake in and enjoy. Fashion divas and eclectic shopping aficionados can dive into the shops of the 2nd AVE Street Market featuring more than 20 local specialty stores. Burning Bead Studio (Berkley), Ki & Jul's Fashions (Detroit), Nubian Essence (Detroit), and The Style Gallery (Detroit) will make their Comerica TasteFest debut, joining Pure Detroit (Detroit), City Knits (Detroit), The Pampered Chef, Spirit in the Park Gallery (Detroit), Vera Jane (Detroit) and other intriguing retailers.

In addition, this year Detroit's 4731 Gallery will feature a group show in the 2nd AVE Street Market Gallery, located off 2nd AVE inside the Fisher Building lobby. 4731 Grand River began as a couple of studios and a place for artists to hang out. It has since morphed into a true arts incubator and now includes seven buildings, two galleries, and 50 artist studios.

Mix in an ever-expanding Kid Zone starring Farmer John and his barnyard friends, Radio Disney, Arts & Scraps, and the return of Kevin Collins and his African Drummers; along with demonstrations by the Detroit Derby Girls flat track roller derby league, rock climbing, Detroit Pistons' Shoot-Out, and skateboarding demos on an all-new "Street Course" in the Youth Zone (a special area for teens and tweens) and you have the ingredients for a sure-fire, July Fourth weekend blowout.

In addition to Comerica Incorporated, sponsors of the 2006 Comerica TasteFest include MotorCity Casino, Budweiser, metroPCS, AT&T, Diageo, Windsor Casino, Burt's Bees, Cold Stone Creamery, Ravenswood, Harley Davidson, Pure Detroit, Starbucks, HAP, Detroit Pistons, Henry Ford Health System, AlertnessMatters.com, Stoneyfield Farm, Farbman Group, Trizec Real Estate Services LLC, General Motors Corporation and Orton Development.

Each year more than 500,000 visitors fill the streets for the Comerica TasteFest, held adjacent to the historic Fisher Building on West Grand Boulevard between Woodward Avenue and the Lodge Freeway. Hours this year have been extended, from 11:30 AM - 10:30 PM daily, closing at 8 PM on July 4. Admission is free, including all concerts. "Taste" tickets are priced at \$6 for 10 tickets. The Comerica TasteFest hotline number is (313) 927-2700.

Comerica TasteFest is produced by New Center Council, Inc., which uses the proceeds to support its charitable activities including an award-winning summer youth program and the yearly maintenance of the New Center's outdoor public spaces.

For more information about Comerica TasteFest 2006, please visit www.comericatastefest.com or call (313) 872-0188.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Comerica TasteFest images can be found on our website:
www.comericatastefest.com.