

State of the Arts

Fair another step toward Arts District's renown

The Dallas Arts District is maturing as fast as a teenager on growth hormones, and supporters foresee a day when the district will enter the ranks of heavyweights.

The ultimate test will be the ability to act as a powerful magnet that attracts crowds regularly to the city's center and also project prestige worldwide. That prestige is starting to radiate, with the dedication this fall of a new opera house and theater next to the symphony hall.

Another necessary ingredient, outside the orbit of most North Texans, will be on display this weekend. The fine-art business will be the centerpiece of the inaugural Dallas Arts Fair, Friday through Sunday at the Fashion Industry Gallery on Ross Avenue.

This event brings together more than 30 nationally known art dealers and a few thousand enthusiasts who might add to their collections. The public is invited if they want to see what this scene is all about.

As for why to give a whit, consider how the city lost out to Chicago in competition for Boeing Co.'s corporate headquarters. Executives were diplomatic, but there was no mistaking that they thought Dallas was, well, lacking.

A full-bodied arts scene counteracts that perception and helps sell Dallas as a place to be.

If you go

What: Dallas Art Fair

When: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday

Where: Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave.

Admission: \$20; \$15 for students and seniors