



Contact: Brandon Wilson: 205.324.1911

SLOSS FURNACES RETOOLS METALS ARTS PROGRAM

Metal Arts Programming Remains Intact

BIRMINGHAM, AL- (December 9, 2011) — Sloss Furnaces retools its Metal Arts Artist-in-Residence program to create opportunities for artists around the world to participate in metal arts at Sloss Furnaces. All of the metal arts programs remain intact at Sloss Furnaces.

The Metal Arts Program at Sloss Furnaces continues to provide the public with a youth apprenticeship program, iron pours and art workshops.

As a result of the retooling of the artist-in-residence portion of the Metal Arts Program Sloss Furnaces will actively recruit artists from around the world to serve as visiting artists and host workshops, pours and share their passion for the arts with the Birmingham art community. The retooled Metal Arts artist-in-residence program will also allow metal artists to serve as Fellows before graduating out of the program after serving a pre-determined period of time.

“We are proud of Sloss Furnaces’ distinction as a National Historic Landmark. As we welcome a new visitor’s center and museum it is important that we honor the past while preparing for our future. All of our efforts will contribute to shaping a viable future for Sloss Furnaces,” said Robert Rathburn, executive director, Sloss Furnaces Foundation.

According to Rathburn, Sloss Furnaces future is one that allows the public to not only celebrate its past, but to become active participants in shaping its future. Sloss Furnaces as a Historic National Landmark offers visitors a chance to experience the history that gave birth to the *Magic City*, while touring the only preserved blast furnace in the world. As an activity center, Sloss Furnaces plays host to weddings, special events, and artists seeking a one-of-a-kind metal arts experience.

To learn more visit www.slossfurnaces.com.

About Historic Sloss Furnaces:

In 1876, James Withers Sloss, settled in Birmingham and would eventually found Sloss Furnaces in 1881. Sloss Furnaces would grow to become one of the world’s largest manufactures of pig iron and cast iron— material that would aid in the growth of Birmingham, Alabama. In 1952 the United States Pipe and Foundry Company purchased the old Sloss Sheffield Steel and Iron Company, and continued to produce pig iron. In 1971 Sloss Furnaces were closed. The furnaces have since been preserved, providing visitors an opportunity to partake in the oral histories of the foundry men and workers who helped make Birmingham the *Magic City*. To learn more visit slossfurnaces.com .

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