

## ABOUT ARTOMATIC

Artomatic creates community, builds audience and expands economic development by transforming available building space into a playground for artistic expression. Open-entry events showcase creative work including visual art, music, performance, film, and fashion. Artomatic is a non-profit organization headed by a volunteer Board of Directors and is funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Artomatic began in 1999 in the historic Manhattan Laundry building in Washington, D.C. A dozen or so artists originally toured the empty building and within a month, 350 artists had cleaned, lit, painted and curated its 100,000 square feet. Over 20,000 visitors attended the first Artomatic over six weeks.

Artomatic grew organically as buildings were made available by community developers. Music and performance of all kinds were added. In 2000, 665 artists exhibited and 200 performed at the old Hechinger's building; more than 1,000 artists and performers took part in 2002 at the Southwest Waterfront and even more in 2004 at the former Capitol Children's Museum in Northeast. Artomatic was held in Virginia for the first time in 2007, occupying a former Patent and Trademark Office space in Crystal City, Arlington. It drew over 40,000 visitors.

In 2008, Artomatic was held in the NoMa neighborhood in Washington, D.C., attracting a record-breaking 52,500 visitors, more than any previous Artomatic event. In all, about 1,540 individual artists took part in Artomatic 2008 — also a new high. The total included 740 visual artists — such as painters, sculptors and photographers — who showed thousands of artworks. The event also included individual 800 performing artists, such as dancers, poets, theatre groups, drummers, comedians, fire troupes and musicians. Attractions included a full line-up of educational and children's events and an on-site tattoo parlor.

In 2009, Artomatic expanded its reach beyond its single event with the Art of Change ball, held to celebrate the 2009 inauguration, and the Luck of the Draw, a Valentine's weekend art event. Artomatic's main 2009 event will be held May 29-July 5 at Half Street's 55 M Street, S.E., in D.C.'s Capitol Riverfront neighborhood. This will be the 10th anniversary Artomatic, and seventh main event.

Artomatic is socially organic and completely open-entry; there are no juries or curators. In addition to the volunteer Board of Directors, a Steering Committee works to produce the event and ensure the broadest possible artistic representation in the D.C. metropolitan area.

### **For more information:**

Find us online at [www.artomatic.org](http://www.artomatic.org); [Facebook](#); MySpace; YouTube; [Twitter](#); [Flickr](#); LinkedIn. Sign up to receive ArtoNews with the latest on Artomatic at [www.artomatic.org](http://www.artomatic.org).

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Artomatic is run entirely by participating volunteers, and new participants are sought year-round. To volunteer and help make plans for Artomatic 2009, e-mail [volunteer@artomatic.org](mailto:volunteer@artomatic.org).