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Americus Center for the Arts hosts free community event

Take an ARTbreak on Friday

Keven Gilbert

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AMERICUS — On Friday, Sept. 7, the Americus Center for the Arts, located at 326 W. Forsyth St.m will host "ARTbreak," a day dedicated to the arts for the purpose of getting the community involved in creating art, and having fun in the process. The intent of Art Break day is to give anyone and everyone an opportunity to take an "Art Break," to give the community a chance to experience art as a whole.

"This event truly empowers and transforms communities and individuals. It gives people an opportunity to have fun, connect, create and play with their fellow neighbors," said Sam Hendley, who works at the Center for the Arts, which was established earlier this year to foster appreciation for art and creativity in the community.

The event was created by the San Francisco, Calif.-based organization Art is Moving, and 2012 marks the first year ARTbreak will "break" the California border as Sumter County Arts Council President and GSW assistant professor of visual arts, Keaton Wynn applied on behalf of Americus to become an ARTbreak satellite site.

"We are having art supplies shipped here from California. It is a nonprofit event created to spread the activity of art making to anyone and everyone. It's a special event for Americus; we are the only town in Georgia holding this event, or practically anywhere other than California," Hendley said.

Americus will be one of six cities, along with the California cities of San Francisco, San Rafael, Berkeley, Oakland, Malibu and Eureka, to put on the event on Friday.

Wynn said the "event as a way to bring attention to what will be an ongoing community art project. What better way to promote the arts in our community than through connecting with other communities across the U.S.," in a note published on the Art is Moving website.

ARTbreak will take place from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Friday and is open to the entire community. Visitors will be provided with free access to art supplies, including paint brushes, paper, pencils, paints and crayons. Everyone is welcome to have a seat and make art for free.

ARTbreak Day was created by artists, Lisa Rasmussen and Lauren Odell Usher. The free community art event centered around offering art to the masses. It aims to encourage people to take a momentary break to create free art. In Rasmussen's words, "Creating art together in a public space encourages dialogue between strangers and allows everyone the opportunity to discover the power of art. Rarely in our busy lives do we make room for it."

For more information go to www.facebook.com/AmericusCenterfortheArts and www.artbreakday.com