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**Detroit Jazz Festival Presented by Rocket Mortgage
and Detroit A.C.E. Announce Artist Chosen to Design 2020 Poster**

DETROIT – Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation President and Artistic Director Chris Collins on Tuesday announced the artist who will design the 2020 Detroit Jazz Festival presented by Rocket Mortgage Festival Poster.

Sanders “Skip” Bryant, an accomplished artist and designer in commercial and theatre arenas who has created visual designs for Coca-Cola, Comcast, Michael Jackson, Tyler Perry, Sean Combs, LL Cool J and racing legend Roger Penske, was chosen for his powerful concept that embraced the joy of jazz in a pandemic.

“For 40 years, the Detroit Jazz Festival poster has been a widely esteemed tradition among jazz patrons across the world,” said Collins. “This year’s exciting collaboration with Detroit ACE propagates that legacy even more. We congratulate Sanders “Skip” Bryant for capturing the spirit and vision of this year’s jazz festival and welcome him to the long line of local, national and international past poster artists.”

All proceeds from sales of the poster will be donated by the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation to the Detroit Arts Fund to benefit local arts and artists. Bryant will earn a \$10,000 commission. The poster will be unveiled to the public in a special event on August 21.

Bryant, who helped shape the urban theater industry in the United States, spent more than 20 years designing national touring stage sets, scenic art, logos and graphic packages for productions such as Sean "Diddy" Combs (Super Bowl XL Diddy's House), LL Cool J (10 Tour), Jaime Foxx (Unforgettable

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Tour), Mary J. Blige (MJB Tour), Chris Brown, Lil Wayne, Marquis Houston, Katt Williams (2015 Conspiracy Theory Tour) as well as theatrical productions with playwrights such as Ron Milner (Inner City Miracles: Judge Greg Mathis Story), TD Jakes (Woman Thou Art Loosed), Motown Producer Mickey Stevenson (Sing Sista Sing) and Morris Chestnut's Love in the Nick of Tyme. Bryant also has done Emmy-award winning work for the City of Detroit, where he works in Detroit Media Services.

Bryant, whose company PIKS is his nickname spelled backwards, grew up in Detroit and said that background has influenced an urban style that can be seen in his work. He cut his teeth as an airbrush artist and developed a national reputation for innovative concepts that became an industry standard for concerts, festivals and clubs across the country.

Sanders hadn't received any formal art education until being accepted at age 25 into Detroit's Center for Creative Studies (now the College for Creative Studies) Industrial Design program, one of the most prestigious and challenging design curriculum's in the world. Recruited to the design studio with only raw talent he studied interior design, product design and transportation design, trained among classmates that are now some of today's top automotive designers.

The announcement comes just weeks after the festival announced that it would be virtual this year in recognition of current city, state and federal safety guidelines for public gatherings during the pandemic.

All performances will be streamed or broadcasted **LIVE** (no replays or on-demand) from indoor stages at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center with no audiences and will be closed to the public.

Jazz enthusiasts will be able to view or listen to performances for free in a number of ways including: Channel 22, the city's new Arts and Entertainment Channel; the Festival's social media channels (Facebook Live and Instagram); on public radio and television stations; and on the DetroitJazzFest LIVE! app.

"This virtual format marries convenience with the excitement of a live performance that embodies the constant innovation in Detroit," Jasmin DeForrest, Director of Community Sponsorships at the Quicken Loans Community Fund, said last month. "JazzFest will be paving the way and reaching jazz lovers on a worldwide scale through this virtual format. Once again, we are pleased to highlight the festival and Detroit as a whole through music, art and celebration."

The Poster Selection Committee was composed of Collins, former Jazz Festival Chairwoman Sharon Banks, Shaun Wilson and artist Sabrina Nelson.

The choice of this year's poster artist came after an open call co-sponsored by Detroit ACE (Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship). Dozens of artists offered concepts for this unique year, in which the poster had to not only reflect the artistic tradition of jazz festival posters but reflect the pathos of life in a global pandemic.

- *The 2020 Detroit Jazz Festival presented by Rocket Mortgage will take place on the same dates (Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7) on three indoor large sound stages set up at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Each stage will mimic the size, sound, lighting, crew and gear of our traditional Festival stages.*

About the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation

Under the leadership of President and Artistic Director Chris Collins, the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that presents jazz and educational workshops throughout the year. The Foundation produces the Detroit Jazz Festival, which is the signature event for the Foundation and the largest free jazz festival in the world. The Festival is also a major tourist attraction for the City of Detroit, with 26 percent of its audience coming from out of state. For more information, visit detroitjazzfest.org.

The Foundation receives grant funding from the Kresge Foundation, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Arts Midwest, D'Addario Foundation and Carolyn Wanzo and the Purify Wanzo CTAA Endowment at Wayne State University. Hundreds of individuals also contribute to the Festival through membership and donations.

Major corporate partners include Presenting Sponsor Rocket Mortgage, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., DTE Foundation, Carhartt, Inc., Mack Avenue Music Group, Absopure, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe and Comcast Cable. Additional partners include Bedrock Detroit, Bingham Legal Group, Central Michigan University, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, Giffels Webster, Grand Valley State University, Plante Moran, SMART Bus, Schupan SustainAbility™, Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit, and Tito's Handmade Vodka.

Media partners include *Fox 2 Detroit, WJR Newstalk 760 AM, WEMU-FM, DownBeat, JazzTimes, Metro Times, Michigan Chronicle, WDET-FM 101.9, WRCJ 90.9 FM* and *Detroit Public Television*.