

News Release

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CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE JURIED ART SHOW & RECEPTION *Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower Features Show*

Springerville, AZ (September 22, 2009) – For the first time in history, the United States Capitol Christmas Tree 2009 is coming from Arizona. The project involves communities throughout the state and has a juried art competition as part of the celebration. In honor of this occasion, an artistic partnership evolved between the **Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Arizona Commission on the Arts and Arizona Art Alliance**. Through collaboration and public participation, statewide juried art competition was held to select artwork of the highest artistic merit to represent Arizona on a national level.

On Friday evening, October 2, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 *US Capitol Christmas Tree Art Exhibition* will feature artwork from around the state celebrating the 85-foot Blue spruce tree destined for the Nation's Capitol. During an award ceremony at 6:30 pm, artists will be recognized for their creative achievement.

The highest awards of distinction include the "Arizona's Gift Award" and the "Viewer's Choice Award." Arizona residents are encouraged to vote online for the "Viewer's Choice Award" a work of art distinguished by the people of Arizona for its quality artistic approach to the exhibition theme "Arizona's Gift from the Grand Canyon State."

Votes for the "Viewer's Choice Award" can be cast on the Arizona Commission on the Arts website now through October 1, 2009: <http://www.azarts.gov/voting.htm>.

Recap:

Who: US Capitol Christmas Tree 2009 Art Exhibition and Reception

When: Friday, October 2, 2009 – No cost for admission

Where: Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower

Why: Art show to celebrate Arizona's historic role in proving the US Capitol Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C.

Web: <http://www.azarts.gov/voting.htm>.