



Brendan Smialowski photo

**Stephen Steininger of The Potters places pottery on shelves yesterday morning in preparation for the 10th Annual Columbia Festival of the Arts on the Boone County Courthouse Square. The festival continues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.**

## Festival fills square with color

By **MARY JO FELDSTEIN**  
of the Tribune's staff

The sounds of South American pan pipes, Indian chants and barber-shop quartets flowed through the streets of downtown during the 10th Annual Columbia Festival of the Arts yesterday as thousands gathered to see, hear and eat creations from Columbia and the world.

Fifty artists and 40 live performers, including several from Columbia, are displaying their talents this weekend in and around the Boone County Courthouse Square and downtown. For a few of the artisans, the crafts are relaxing pastimes; others have transformed their weekend activities into full-time careers.

"I was in non-profit for about 15 years before I said 'I can work 70 hours a week for myself,'" said Ann Dennison, a silversmith from Lee's Summit. "It's fun; I really like it."

Along with the music, there was blown glass, pottery and watercolor paintings. And a 10-foot-by-10-foot image of Elvis — in chalk — was

Music, exhibits, activities lure thousands.

beginning to take shape yesterday.

About three times a year, chalk artist Kathy Colon of Kansas City attends art festivals to create drawings on the concrete. Her tools are few: She's using her hands and seven colors of chalk to create her portrait of young Elvis. She will employ her identical twin sister, also a chalk artist, and a skateboard to move more quickly across the square.

Colon will finish the Elvis drawing today. "You have to give Elvis at least two days," she said.

The FabricAction children's playground — 4,000 feet of brightly colored Spandex woven to create tunnels and caves — is proving one of this year's most popular festival attractions. Organizers said only 60 children are allowed to enter the playground each half-hour, and tickets for the last time slot, 4:30 to 5 p.m., were sold out by 2 p.m. yesterday. The sell-out forced some disap-

pointed children to remain in the triangle entrance section of the playground; the parents of some planned to return today to give their children another chance to get inside.

The festival features several booths designed for children, including a face-painting station and a shaving cream painting booth. There's an "Arts for All" project that allows the public to create art by attaching cutout shapes to rollers and pogo sticks, then dipping them in bright colors and using them to paint large pieces of cardboard. The rollers and pogo sticks can be attached to wheelchairs and walkers, allowing those with disabilities to get in on the fun. VSA Arts is using the cardboard paintings to make bookmarks and murals.

The festival continues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

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