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Feathers and Flames: The Steel Yard's 20th Iron Pour Unfolds in Three Acts

PROVIDENCE, RI – To mark the 20th anniversary of the Iron Pour, one of Providence's best arts events, The Steel Yard has prepared a celebration in three acts: a pour preview and art market, an elegant fundraiser, and the magical main event, when skilled artists melt about 2,000 pounds of metal, ignite giant sculptures, and light the night sky with sparks.

The events highlight the Yard's history in steel and iron fabrication. They're also built on the theme of the Firebird, a creature from Slavic mythology that represents resurrection and renewal. There are many versions of Firebird folk tales, but most involve a hero's journey with guardians and villains, enchantments, tests, and traps. All Firebird stories include magic, hope, and transformation.

"As we rebuild The Steel Yard, and forge a stronger future, the Firebird theme felt right," says Drake Patten, the nonprofit's founding and now interim executive director. "We've had a trial by fire but we're emerging with fresh focus and new ideas. We want to share that hopeful energy."

Staff have designed three Saturday Iron Pour events to celebrate creativity and community:

- **Act I: Enter the Fire | Saturday, Oct. 3 | 11-4 p.m.**
A free, family-friendly educational event that features a production pour, when metal is melted in a furnace and poured into molds. This process dates back to the Bronze Age and today is how hundreds of cast iron parts, from cookware to monuments, are made. The afternoon will include a DJ, blacksmithing and jewelry demos, hands-on activities, and an art market featuring local makers and Steel Yard merchandise. We'll also have food trucks and beverages for kids and adults. No tickets or registration required.
- **Act II: Summon the Firebird | Saturday, Oct. 24 | 5-8 p.m.**
An intimate fundraiser featuring nibbles by Frank & Laurie's, dessert by Milk Thistle Kitchen, cocktails, a silent auction, and a behind-the-scenes look at how the Iron Pour comes together. Enter the Firebird's enchanted forest for an evening: dress for drama, prepare for atmosphere, expect swag. This will be a special night. Tickets are \$150 and

go on sale online Sept 28.

- **Act III: Awaken the Kingdom | Saturday, Nov. 14 | Doors at 4 p.m.**
It's the grand finale! Skilled artists activate giant metal sculptures with fire and molten iron, creating a glowing spectacle that has drawn crowds for 20 years. With the Firebird theme, expect battles, feathers, and thousands of sparks taking wing. Get ready for wonderment, merch, music, food trucks, beer, cider and a themed cocktail. Tickets are \$45 and go on sale online at midnight on Oct. 25.

This year, for the first time, The Steel Yard is turning the Iron Pour into a city-wide experience. We're asking local businesses to create special cocktails, menu items, window displays, or other creative gestures inspired by the Iron Pour, the Firebird, or The Steel Yard. A map showing Firebird partners will be created and promoted throughout Firebird season.

Iron Pour events take place at The Steel Yard, located at 27 Sims Ave. in Providence's Valley Arts District. Check the Iron Pour [website here](#) for updates.

Thanks to our Iron Pour sponsors: Providence Tourism Council, Mid City Steel, The Bend, Klopfer Martin Design Group, Beacon Bank, Polaris MEP, Hurricane Hill Farm, PCIS, Brezio, Industrial Welders Supply, Kite Architects, DiSanto Priest Charitable Foundation, Holliston Sand, Bullard Abrasives, Pizza J, Frank & Laurie's, Flowers by Semia, Allegra Providence, and New Harvest Coffee.

Note: Iron Pour attendance is capped at 1,000 and the event is expected to sell out. Consider purchasing tickets early.

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Mission

The Steel Yard champions a world made by hand where collaborative making strengthens individuals, supports local economies, and enriches the shared spaces of our neighborhoods. We advance the industrial arts by providing artists, makers, and community members with the space, tools, training, and education they need to learn, create, and thrive. In this work we strive to dismantle barriers, address inequities, and ensure the future of the industrial arts is inclusive, diverse and sustainable.