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Edible Lotus: Local Tastes for Global Arts

Bloomington, Indiana – On Thursday, July 9, the Edible Lotus benefit event will bring the community together for food, drink, and music on the enchanting grounds of Deer Park Manor. A silent and live auction, an exclusive first-look preview of the 2015 Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, and a performance by Kenyan musician Makobi (and special guests) are the perfect ingredients for a magical evening. Better still, proceeds from Edible Lotus support flagship programs of the non-profit Lotus Education & Arts Foundation, including the music festival and Lotus Blossoms educational outreach.

Edible Lotus showcases nutriment, libations, and desserts from more than 20 of Bloomington's best restaurants and brew masters. The evening will also feature select tastings of summer ice cream flavors from the Chocolate Moose, as well as samples of locally-distilled spirits from Cardinal Spirits. This year's participating restaurants include: Samira Restaurant, Trojan Horse, Bloomington Brewing Company, Lennie's, BLU Boy Chocolates, The Uptown Café, FARMBloomington, Malibu Grill, Piccoli Dolci, Function Brewing, The Irish Lion, Anatolia, and Indiana Memorial Union Catering. For the full list, please visit lotusfest.org.

"Now in its 16th year, Edible Lotus is a fun and important way for Lotus fans, new and old, to support our annual programming," states Kristin Varella, Development Director of the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation. "The festival preview and live auction are new this year and are an exciting way to really connect event attendees to Lotus' mission."

The Edible Lotus Auction will boast an impressive array of enticing items and experiences that are sure to fit every budget. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on items donated by innovative Bloomington artists and businesses during both the live and silent auctions. This year's auctions will include hand-woven Turkish rugs and hangings, a handmade vintage Lotus t-shirt quilt, a French Lick Resort vacation package, and more.

Edible Lotus will take place on Thursday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Deer Park Manor (1501 E. Hillside Drive). Tickets are \$100/person, a portion of which is tax-deductible. For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Kristin Varella at kristin@lotusfest.org or by visiting lotusfest.org/support/edible-lotus

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