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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008

Eyedrum Celebrates ‘A 10 Year Affair’ on Oct. 11 Atlanta’s longest-running all-volunteer nonprofit venue looks toward the future

ATLANTA — Eyedrum will celebrate its 10-year anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 11, with “A 10 Year Affair,” featuring a cast of more than 30 musicians, performing artists, and a host of programming surprises. The night includes the first Eyedrum Awards presentation, and bands Judi Chicago, the Hotels, and No Face. The gallery will also debut the documentary “Eyedrum: The 10 Year Affair” commemorative DVD.

In just 10 years, the organization has grown beyond its eight-member founding group and its storefront space on Trinity Avenue to a board of more than 20 members and a 6,000-square-foot space on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. There, the all-volunteer group built-out three gallery spaces and a performance space that features a professional-quality sound system with multi-track recording capability. The Eyedrum music archive, the gallery’s greatest asset next to the people involved, features over 1,000 shows recorded live over the past 10 years.

Eyedrum has a lot to celebrate: a 10-year run as a Best of Atlanta winner in both music and art categories (*Creative Loafing*), and securing a \$30,000 Warhol Foundation curatorial grant in 2006, all while operating debt-free for 10 years.

“Eyedrum has grown to be cultural think tank. It’s an arts incubator, as many new projects are born from the space in the form of new arts collectives, small businesses, bands, and new arts venues. This party is to celebrate the collective efforts of the community and to welcome the next generation,” said Board President Nisa Asokan.

While the goal is to have fun at the anniversary bash, proceeds from ticket, DVD and limited-edition memorabilia sales will be an important part of the evening. “Eyedrum has been providing a stage for new bands, walls for emerging artists, and next year a classroom for the life-long learner, without a single employee, ever. Your support goes entirely into keeping our mission alive and lights on,” said Alyson Laura, Co-Chair of the Arts Committee.

The awards program, “The Eddies,” aims to recognize Atlanta’s deserving but unheralded artists and venues. It is Eyedrum’s first-ever awards program. The categories are lighthearted, but have the important goal of shining a light on contributors to Atlanta’s arts community.

WHAT: “A 10 Year Affair,” Eyedrum’s 10th anniversary party, with performances by Judi Chicago, No Face, Hotels, Matthew Proctor, DJs_Zano and Chris Daresta, sound installations, public art, and a large crew of performance artists.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, 8 p.m.-midnight

PRICE: \$10 for non-members; members asked to make a donation. Friend-level memberships will be available for \$25, a \$10 discount. Tickets available in advance through TicketAlternative.com.

WHERE: Eyedrum, 290 MLK Drive, Suite 8, Atlanta 30312

Started in 1998, Eyedrum is a nonprofit organization developing an interdisciplinary approach to the arts by incorporating a wide range of contemporary art, music and new media in its gallery space. The gallery is operated entirely by volunteers, and supported through memberships and donations. It has been recognized internationally as well as locally by Atlanta’s Office of Cultural Affairs and within the community at large for its advancement of innovation.