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## Fenton Street Market Turns Six Years Old!

Fenton Street Market celebrates six years of crafts, culture and community in Silver Spring

## Silver Spring, MD | August 25, 2015

Fenton Street Market is excited to announce its sixth birthday celebration on Saturday, September 5th from 10am to 4pm on Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring! Join us to celebrate the success of this community-based outdoor market. What began as an experiment to activate a vacant lot in East Silver Spring and has become a beloved part of Silver Spring and one of the premier markets in the region.

On September 5th, the market will feature 60+ local vendors, including a number of that started at FSM six years ago, selling everything from original artwork and pottery to used bikes and handmade jewelry. Customers can shop pottery, bath and body products, paper goods, apparel, and more as well. Special programming for the birthday celebration include: birthday cinnamon rolls at 10am after the opening bell; free yoga classes courtesy of <u>Blue Heron Wellness</u>; live music at 1pm by market regulars <u>Crush Funk Brass Band</u>; letter writing with the <u>Unofficial Hand Lettering Society of Silver Spring</u>; and screen printing lessons with <u>Pyramid Atlantic Art Center</u>. Details on programming and vendors is available here.

A <u>Benefit Corporation</u> owned and operated by Silver Spring residents, FSM invigorates the economy by providing a venue for locally-owned businesses to connect directly with customers. Since 2009, FSM has served over 2,000 entrepreneurs who use the market to reach customers and gather timely feedback about their products. To support their business development, FSM created and manages a robust vendor network, which allows vendors to learn from one another, connect to resources, and troubleshoot common business challenges. Over the years, these small business owners have invigorated the local economy and customers have contributed millions of dollars to the local economy through FSM.

Additionally, the market serves as a community gathering spot and holds roundtables, performances, workshops, children's storytimes and classes on a weekly basis featuring local organizations. Over the past six years, FSM has provided a venue for local musicians to perform, hosting over 250 different acts.

Aside from the flagship market, FSM has expanded to include <u>Grant Avenue Market</u>, a vintage market in Takoma Park; <u>Local Curiosity</u>, a love note to Silver Spring; <u>HOLIDAZE</u>, an indoor pop up shop each December. FSM partners with <u>Silver Spring Inc</u>. to produce a variety of community building events like <u>POPT Public Art</u>, #SSTweetUp and PechaKucha.