FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2017

Spudnik Press Proudly Announces:

2017 Hashbrown Chili Cook-Off & Carnival
A Fundraiser for Spudnik Press Cooperative

Saturday, February 25, 2017
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Spudnik Press Cooperative
1821 W. Hubbard Suite 302

VIP: $40 Pre / $45 Door | General Admission: $20 Pre / $25 Door | Youth 12 & Under: $10

All-You-Can-Eat Chili | Sweet & Savory Tamales | Printmaking Carnival Games | Audience Choice & Jurors Choice Awards | Silent Auction | Music by DJ Pickled Beets

Chicago has a long connection with chili, beginning with The San Antonio Chili Stand at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In keeping with that history, Spudnik Press is pleased to announce, for the seventh consecutive year, the 2017 Chili Cook-Off & Carnival to be held on Saturday, February 25th, 2017.

This annual fundraiser has become a celebratory tradition among the Chicago arts community. Throughout the years, dozens of local organizations and businesses have contending for the coveted Golden Ladle. This year, guests can sample chili from up to 20 chefs, including previous champions and first-time competitors. New in 2017, Spudnik Press Cooperative members are forming chef teams and joining the competition!

The 2017 Hashbrown Chili Cook-Off & Carnival is also the first to include all-you-can eat chili, a guest jury, unlimited print-themed carnival games, and discounted tickets for youth.

GUEST CHEFS:

Returning Chefs
Chicago ACT Collective
Chicago Alternative Comics Expo
Chicago Design Museum
Chicago Printmakers Collaborative
Homeroom

First Time Competitors
Cal de Sac Press
Candor Arts
Double Trip Press
Fata Morgana Press
Hoofprint Workshop
Metal Magic Interiors
Metropolitan Brewing
Zine Not Dead

Plus Spudnik Member Teams
While unlimited chili tastings (and the ability to cast a vote for their favorite) is what draws many guests to attend, The 2017 Hashbrown Chili Cook-Off & Carnival offers guests a varied of activities to round out their evening.

Spudnik Press members have reinvented a variety of carnival games that turn the antique printing presses into festive hands-on printmaking games, fun for children and adults. Unlimited carnival games are included in all levels of admission.

Another exciting addition to this year’s battle is that chefs will have the opportunity to vie a “Best Of” award in addition to the “Best Meat” and “Best Vegetarian” Audience Choice Awards. The “Chili Champ” award will be selected by a Guest Jury including Chicago’s prestigious food writer, David Hammond and the owner of Kaiser Tiger and certified National Beer Judge, Pat Berger.

Each Chef Team featured in the 2017 cook-off is a critical contributor to arts in Chicago. This network of organizations, businesses, and generous individuals all work in harmony to provide resources and support Chicago many artists. The Hashbrown offers a unique opportunity to meet staff and volunteers from many of Chicago’s favorite local establishments. Confirmed chefs include Zine Not Dead, Metal Magic Interiors, Candor Arts, Chicago Alternative Comics Expo, Chicago Printmakers Collaborative, Fata Morgan Press and more.

The evening will be rounded out with DJ Pickled Beets spinning vinyl, a silent auction featuring artwork produced by some of Chicago’s most popular artists and gifts from some Chicago’s favorite culinary establishments. Sweet and savory tamales, also included in the price of admission, will help guests enjoy a well-rounded dinner.

Admission starts at $20 for adults and $10 for kids, with all proceeds supporting the mission and vision of Spudnik Press Cooperative. The VIP packages includes an open bar and a commemorative limited edition mug, affectionately known as “The Spud Mug”. Plus, VIP guests will stand out in the crowd by sporting their VIP-only golden tasting spoons! Tickets support the mission of Spudnik Press and can be purchased online at spudnikpress.org.

Spudnik Press Cooperative is a non-profit organization. Founded on the premise that art should be a democratic and empowering medium, they are committed to being an approachable and affordable print shop; a space where professional printmakers merge with aspiring students; a space that encourages collaboration and the sharing of ideas.
Guest Jurors:

DAVID HAMMOND
David is Dining and Drinking Editor for Newcity/Chicago, and a regular contributor of food/beverage-related articles to Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Men’s Book, Plate, Wednesday Journal, and Where Chicago. Between 2010-2014, he wrote weekly Food Detective and What to Do With columns for Chicago Sun-Times; since 2010 he has written weekly restaurant and product reviews for Wednesday Journal.

David has contributed chapters (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand) to the Encyclopedia of World Street Food, as well as to the upcoming Encyclopedia of Chicago Food and Culture. He is the producer/host of “You Really Should Eat This,” a cable television series done in conjunction with the Village of Oak Park; for WBEZ, he produced two seasons of Sound Bites, an examination of how chefs use sound to manage their kitchens. David is a founding member and moderator of LTHForum.com, the 15,000 member Chicago culinary chat site.

PAT BERGER
All cities have celebrity chefs, but great foodie cities have guys like Pat Berger, glue guys who hold communities together. Berger is a former rugby player who now owns his own bar, makes his own beer and serves as much bacon to customers as humanly possible. He started his college’s rugby program and now runs camps helping local kids get into the game. He works with a lot of local brewers and is a certified National Beer Judge. If you’re man enough -- and you’re not -- order the Whole Bomb, five pounds beef and pork deliciously weaved with brown sugar bacon.

Beverage Sponsor:

ARTISANAL IMPORTS
Artisanal Imports is an importer of specialty beers from England, Germany, Belgium and beyond. They believe in working in full partnership with our breweries and are careful to select beers that are high quality and interesting but that do not overlap one to the next.

Featured Chefs:

CAL DE SAC PRESS
Cul de Sac Press is the Chicago based print studio of Bobby Sims.

CANDOR ARTS
Candor Arts publishes books that focus on life, learning, and healing. Candor Arts provides design services in books and printed projects. Candor Arts designs and produces a line of handmade products.

CHICAGO ACT COLLECTIVE
Chicago has a long history of creative resistance—artists and activists working together to envision social change. The Chicago Artists Creating Transformation (ACT) Collective will contribute to the tradition of political printmakers giving greater voice to activism, sparking dialogue and new ideas, and bringing about transformative social change.
The 2017 Guest Chefs & Jurors

**Chicago Alternative Comics Expo**
The Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE) is a weekend-long celebration of independent comics, inspired by Chicago’s rich legacy as home to many of underground and alternative comics’ most talented artists—past, present and future.

**Chicago Design Museum**
ChiDM strengthens design culture and builds community by facilitating the exchange of knowledge through dynamic experiences.

**Chicago Printmakers Collaborative**
The longest-running, independent printshop in the city, Chicago Printmakers Collaborative provides a facility where professional artist-printmakers & novices alike can pursue their work in intaglio, lithography, monoprint, screen printing, photo processes and other print mediums. Through continuing education, classes, workshops, gallery exhibitions, open houses, lectures and demos, the public can share in the enthusiasm for all things PRINT.

**Double Trip Press**
Nestled in-between the East Lakeview and Lincoln Park neighborhoods in Chicago, Double Trip Press was established to provide the highest quality custom letterpress printing and design for wedding invitations, professional needs, & all of your most important personal moments.

**Fata Morgana Press**
Fata Morgana is the letterpress and design studio of Mary Clare Butler and Amy Leners. They specialize in custom prints, artist collaborations, and small publishing projects.

**Homeroom**
Homeroom designs artistic projects and programs with two core values: conversation and collaboration. We build programming structures with artists, audiences, curators and venues to create and artistic dialogue with shared and far-reaching impact.

**Hoofprint Workshop**
Hoofprint Workshop is a Chicago-based printmaking studio specializing in fine art editions. Processes we use include relief, intaglio, plate lithography, monotype, and screenprinting. Print-partners Gabe Hoare and Liz Born formed Hoofprint workshop in 2012. Our Studio is located in the Heart of Chicago Neighborhood in a re-purposed funeral parlor.

**Metal Magic Interiors**
Incorporated in 2012, Chicago based Metal Magic Interiors is a steel design and fabrication shop specializing in furniture and architectural design elements. Owned and operated by a team of artists and art handlers, Metal Magic showcases contemporary urban metal design through creative solutions and collaboration with other small businesses. At Metal Magic we strive to improve people’s daily lives through the dissemination of durable handmade American products.

**Metropolitan Brewing**
We specialize in German-style beers, mostly lagers. Chicagoans all the way; we make the beer we like to drink. Period. Lagers are the perfect vehicles for our favorite toasty, bready malts and bright, earthy hops. We work hard to showcase a variety of lagers, from a delicate, traditional Kölsch-style beer to a robust, jet-black Schwarzbier. Goofy, yet determined; scrappy, yet reliable; passionate, yet precise, count on Metro to deliver solid, dialed-in beers brewed solely to make people happy.

**Zine Not Dead**
Zine Not Dead is a quarterly comics/performance art reading series in Chicago, IL. Look for upcoming Zine Not Dead readings on facebook.