

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Tuesday, January 10, 2017

**Etsy.com co-founder to speak at “Etsy and the Art of Social Impact”**

*Local First to host meet-and-greet and discussion with Etsy.com Co-Founder Matt Stinchcomb*

**Grand Rapids (Mich.)** – **Local First** will host “Etsy and the Art of Social Impact” on Monday, Feb. 6 at LaFontsee Galleries located at 883 Lake Dr. SE. This free community event will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will feature a discussion with [Etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) Co-Founder **Matt Stinchcomb**, who will talk about the incredible success of Etsy.com as well as the company’s commitment to making a positive social impact through becoming a B Corp.

“‘Etsy and the Art of Social Impact’ is a unique opportunity for Grand Rapids artists and local business owners to learn about Etsy’s success and what it means to use business as a force for good,” said **Local First President Elissa Hillary**. “We invite everyone to come out to this event to connect with local artists, shop local and learn how business can be used to make a positive social and environmental impact in our community.”

During the event, Stinchcomb will share why and how Etsy.com, an online marketplace that allows people around the world to buy and sell handmade goods, became a certified B Corp. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet local Etsy shop owners and browse their goods available for purchase. Refreshments will be provided by two local B Corps, **Bistro Bella Vita** and **Brewery Vivant**.

“We believe it’s important for the community to be a part of the conversation and learn how West Michigan businesses are making a positive impact right here in our neighborhood,” said **Linda LaFontsee, co-owner of LaFontsee Galleries**. “Even if you aren’t a business owner, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the businesses and artists who are making our community a great place to work and live.”

For more information and to register for “Etsy and the Art of Social Impact,” visit [localfirst.com/events/etsy-and-the-art-of-social-impact#.WG6cnbYrJ-V](http://www.localfirst.com/events/etsy-and-the-art-of-social-impact#.WG6cnbYrJ-V).

[Facebook Event](https://www.facebook.com/events/349375445445061/)

[Website Event](http://www.localfirst.com/events/etsy-and-the-art-of-social-impact#.WHPJGvkrLRY)

#BtheChange



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*Local First’s Mission is to lead the development of an economy grounded in local ownership that meets the basic needs of people, builds local wealth and social capital, functions in harmony with our ecosystem, and encourages joyful community.*