By 1963 the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair had expanded from three days to four and presented 363 artists. Applications outnumbered available space. Booths acquired plastic roofing and lighting. They crept, like a colorful caterpillar down South University Avenue and around the corner on to East University. A children’s art fair joined the celebration. Only four years old, the fair had grown so large, the committee decided to limit the number of artists to 350; a jury system was put into place. At age six, the fair grew to three blocks, and Ann Arbor’s sister city, Tubingen, Germany, sent a display. There was art plus carnival rides, animal acts, music and five prototype Civil Defense shelters. In 1967, the Fair dates were moved to July 19-22 to avoid conflict with the University of Michigan’s sesquicentennial celebrations. The State Street Art Fair launched in 1968 presenting local artists on East Liberty Street.

Quote: In 1961 Esther Rainville stated proudly in the Ann Arbor News, “Some university art students made enough sales to pay their tuition for the fall term.”

Weather Report:
The report in 1966 said, “Wednesday saw early morning rain then grey skies and black umbrellas.” In 1968 there was a heat wave, showers and high humidity. Friday had a tornado warning with 1.17 inches of rain and high winds damaging artists’ booths.

Figure: Esther Rainville, speaking of the growth of the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, said, “Now we don’t contact 1,000 artists, 1,000 of them contact us!”