

Cultural Council
of Volusia County
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Celebrating Culture

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Cultural Council of
Volusia County
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Driving force for the arts

When you put a "State of the Arts" special plate on your vehicle, you are telling your friends, neighbors and visitors you know Florida's cultural climate is on par with the wonderful natural climate.

This attractive specialty plate is a positive way to advertise Florida as a state that recognizes the arts as a major part of our great quality of life. At the same time, funds from the sale of these plates go directly to help promote cultural and heritage organizations and individual artists at home. For every "State of the Arts" plate purchased in Volusia County, \$20 is returned to local arts agencies to finance a variety of community-based

cultural programs.

Let others know that Florida really is a "State of the Arts." Stop by your local tag office today and upgrade to one of these plates. Be a "show off" for the arts.

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A newsletter of the Cultural Council of Volusia County

Southeast Museum of Photography has a new home

On Nov. 3, 2007, the Southeast Museum of Photography entered a new era of growth and opportunity when its new building opened at Daytona Beach College. The new facility, in the Mori Hosseini Center, more than doubles the museum's gallery, support and program space. It also houses the college's renowned School of Hospitality and Culinary Management and Café 101.

Since opening in 1992, the museum has featured a dramatic space for exhibition, but the museum's full potential as a serious research, collecting and education institution could not be realized as a result of inadequate support and program areas.

The facility now houses new staff offices, workshop support spaces, research and education areas, and a greatly expanded photographic reference library. Gallery space also has been expanded to two levels and features state-of-the-art lighting and display technology.

Another important feature of the building is the new permanent collection storage facility. The collection is now in a much larger, more accessible facility with advanced environmental and security capabilities.

"One of the principal goals of the museum is to create exhibitions and educational programs that foster an active

and thoughtful engagement of a very wide variety of audiences with visual culture," said Kevin Miller, the museum's executive director.

"Photography's capability to inform and persuade requires that a specialized museum of photography should not only display photography, but also should provide interpretation and analysis."

The museum plans to present six seasons of exhibitions that encompass up to 12 exhibitions a year. Exhibitions will feature works by many of the world's most renowned artists and photojournalists and will be complemented by a diverse and comprehensive lecture, education and public program series featuring prominent scholars, writers, photographers, artists and critics. Most exhibition seasons will be augmented with a film and video series in the new cinema complex.

The museum is at 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. Hours are 11

a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesday; and 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays. Admission is free. For detailed program information, visit www.smponline.org or call (386) 506-4475.



The Mori Hosseini Center, home to the new Southeast Museum of Photography, opened in November.



NEW CULTURAL COUNCIL CHAIR NAMED – Dr. Katherine Smith-Williams, seen here at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, recently was elected chair of the Cultural Council of Volusia County for 2008. Dr. Smith-Williams is a retired educator from the Chicago Public School system and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. She is a graduate of the Volusia County Citizens Academy and is married to Dr. Al Williams of the Volusia County School Board. Donna Sue Sanders, director of Community Relations for the International Speedway Corp., was elected vice chair of the Cultural Council.

Discover DeLand: Committee markets city as a cultural center

Home to Stetson University, the Museum of Florida Art and the award-winning MainStreet Association, DeLand offers a wide variety of cultural opportunities for residents and visitors. It's small wonder that a community committee has seized on that niche and plans to market the city as a cultural destination.

Discover DeLand was formed in December to create and implement a master plan that develops and markets DeLand as a cultural and historic area offering diverse retail and recreational assets. Boasting a membership that includes museum and theater directors, tourism officials, and city and business leaders, the committee is gathering information and laying the groundwork for a marketing campaign that will target regional, national and international visitors.

DeLand already is well known for its rich culture and heritage, counting among its assets a charming downtown district that includes galleries, antique shops, quaint restaurants and cafes, and historic homes and buildings. The Volusia County Historic Courthouse, which opened in 1925 and was renovated completely in 2005, is a shining example of classical architecture.

Stetson University, an integral part of downtown DeLand, is the state's oldest private university, and its Gillespie Museum of Minerals has one of the finest mineral collections in the country.

Cultural facilities include the Cultural Arts Center, which houses the Museum of Florida Art and Sands Theater Center; African American Museum of Arts, which displays works of African-American artists and has a permanent collection of more than 150 artifacts; and the DeLand Naval Air Station (NAS) Museum, a National Museum of Naval Aviation qualified facility that commemorates the activities and history of NAS DeLand from 1942-1946.

The Athens Theatre is one of the few existing examples of a classic American movie house in Central Florida, and the 19th century DeLand House displays period photographs and memorabilia that trace the city's history.

If you would like to participate in the Discover DeLand project, contact Reggie Santilli at (386) 717-9876 or reggiesantilli@aol.com.



HISTORIC SPLENDOR - Shaded by stately oaks on the campus of Stetson University, the president's home is an excellent example DeLand's rich architectural heritage and commitment to historic preservation. Built in 1910, the neoclassical home was purchased by Stetson in 1948. It is one of 11 buildings on the DeLand campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

State budget forecast for arts and history looking dreary

This time of year, Floridians usually hear two significant forecasts. The first is the National Hurricane Center's annual storm predictions and the other the state's budget outlook for the fiscal year beginning in July. This year the first prediction looks stormy while the second one looks just plain gloomy.

Next year will be a very challenging year for cultural and historical organizations across the state. With the second year in a row of record revenue shortfalls, lawmakers in Tallahassee are taking a hard look at all nonrecurring general fund revenue appropriations including cultural and heritage programs.

At the beginning of this year's budget process, the secretary of state, who oversees the Divisions of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, submitted requests for \$40.8 million for cultural programs and \$20.9 million for historical grants, with both budgets including money for new facilities. Knowing it would be unlikely these amounts would be approved with the anticipated budget shortfall, the Florida Cultural Alliance, in concert with the state's local arts agencies and cultural and historical institutions, adopted a position that requested funding be maintained at least at the current year's already adjust-

ed level of \$12.5 million and \$7.3 million respectively, with no money requested for facilities or endowments. Gov. Charlie Crist, in his recommendations to the legislature, reduced the request further to \$10.3 million and \$2.9 million respectively.

As of this writing, the State House and Senate budget conference committee responsible for these programs has proposed budgets of \$6 million for cultural programs and \$1.1 million for historical resources. These compromise numbers must still be approved by both houses and signed by Governor Crist to be effective July 1.

Whatever the final number turns out to be, it most certainly will reflect a major cut from the last two years. And those numbers represent a reduction of more than 60 percent from the revenue-rich year of 2005 that resulted from the construction boom after the 2004 hurricanes.

Unfortunately, predictions don't forecast much improvement for next year's revenue receipts. It looks very much like the nonprofit cultural sector will have to look for alternative sources for sustainability, at least for the foreseeable future.

— Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator

IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts celebrates 32 years

In 1976, Doris Leeper, a Volusia County artist and environmentalist, graphic designer Holly Bivins, and a dedicated group of volunteers, founded IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts. The nonprofit organization was established originally to produce an interdisciplinary community arts festival to enrich the cultural life of New Smyrna Beach.

Almost immediately the organization's mission broadened to embrace Leeper's vision and passion for an artist-in-residence community committed to providing artists from all artistic disciplines spaces to live, work and collaborate during three-week residencies. Two boards were formed—one to oversee the annual festival, the other for development of what was to become Atlantic Center for the Arts. To enable both missions to plan and raise funds more effectively, the two groups separated amicably in 1979.

The groups operated independently over the next 25 years, though they maintained a close working relationship with many of their leaders serving on both organizations' boards. In 2004, IMAGES came full circle when the Atlantic Center for the Arts became the presenting organization for the annual juried fine arts event.

The 32nd annual festival attracted more than 30,000 visitors to Riverside Park in downtown New Smyrna Beach Feb. 9 - 10. More than 200 of the finest artists from across the nation competed for more than \$20,000 in prizes and \$95,000 in Patron Purchase Awards. The two-day event provided live musical entertainment, youth art exhibits and hands-on art opportunities for children.

"The IMAGES art festival is valuable to the cultural life of this community," said Mona Brewer, former member of Atlantic Center's Board of Trustees and previous chair of IMAGES. "It makes sense for the Atlantic Center to bring its many resources, from volunteers to artists, together to present arts at the highest possible level in New Smyrna Beach."



MURAL HONORS FLYING HEROES – The mural on DeLand's Fish Building depicts the role played by the DeLand Naval Air Station during WWII in training the flying heroes of the "Greatest Generation." The 115-foot-long painting by Oviedo artist Courtney Canova shows naval pilots and gunners training in SBD Douglas Dauntless dive bomber aircraft. This is the 11th mural completed in the ongoing downtown mural project sponsored by MainStreet DeLand.

Cultural affairs

Here's what's happening on the cultural scene in Volusia and Flagler counties:

- ❖ Ross Lishen has been named executive director of the Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts. He comes from a background in creative design and was a business owner in DeLand for many years.
- ❖ Joining the Atlantic Center for the Arts as community arts manager is Sarah Higgins. Marnye Keenan Donnelly has been named business manager.
- ❖ Susan Tucker Richmond, former regional director of the American Lung Association, has joined Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens as museum director replacing Ann Burt, who retired at the end of January.
- ❖ The Volusia County Cultural Alliance announced its officers for 2008. They are: president, Jennifer Coolidge, executive director of the Museum of Florida Art; vice president, Kelly Ferguson, director of development, News-Journal Center; secretary, Dr. Carol Anderson, executive director, Daytona Beach Symphony Society; and treasurer, Hank Mason.
- ❖ Thirty-two nonprofit organizations have applied for funding from the Volusia County Community Cultural Grant program. Applying for the first time this year are The Commemorative Air Force, Cinderic Documentaries and Surfscapes Contemporary Dance Theater.
- ❖ The Museum of Florida Art has hired Pam Coffman as the new curator of education. Also joining the Museum as administrative assistant is Jenna Sabatini.
- ❖ Twelve organizations applied for and were recommended to receive ECHO grants for 2008 for acquisition, construction or renovation of facilities offering cultural or heritage programs in Volusia County. The total to be awarded by the Volusia County Council for these projects is \$5.7 million, which includes a \$3 million "exceptional grant" for a Cultural Information Center to be constructed at the expanded Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.
- ❖ Cultural Council member Bill Dreggors was presented the Mary Call Darby Collins Award by Florida Secretary of State Kurt Browning at a ceremony in Tallahassee during Preservation Days. The prestigious award is granted infrequently to an individual volunteer within Florida who forever has changed the course of historic preservation.
- ❖ Cultural Council member Sandra Wilson received the 2008 President's Award/Silver Star from the Volusia League of Cities. Wilson was honored as the backbone behind the creation of the DeBary Art League and birth of the Gateway Center of the Arts. She was nominated for the award by the City of DeBary.