



## Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

**RELEASE DATE:** August 18, 2009

**CONTACT:** Linda Piper, Events Coordinator

**Email:** [piperlr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:piperlr@cityofgainesville.org)

**Telephone:** 352-393-8536

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Support the Arts at the Nationally Acclaimed Downtown Festival & Art Show

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** – Show your support for the arts in Alachua County by becoming an Art Sponsor at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show on November 14 and 15, 2009. Presented by the City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the Downtown Festival & Art Show is recognized as one of the most successful and distinguished art festivals in North Central Florida. Help support the work of local artists, and show your commitment to the arts in your community by becoming an Art Sponsor. To request a pledge form, contact Festival Coordinator Linda Piper at 352-393-8536, or visit [www.gvlculturalaffairs.org](http://www.gvlculturalaffairs.org).

You can become an Art Sponsor by pledging a minimum of \$50 in advance toward the purchase of any piece of art. During the Festival, Art Sponsors will have the opportunity to select from a wide variety of original pieces. Once an Art Sponsor selects a favorite piece, the chosen artist proudly displays a ribbon and certificate personalized with their sponsor's name. Art Sponsors will be recognized throughout the Festival during live announcements from the Plaza Stage.

During the Downtown Festival & Art Show on Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the tree-lined streets of historic downtown Gainesville will be transformed into a celebration of art and creativity, complete with live music, performing arts and a spectacular array of food. The streets from City Hall to the Hippodrome State Theatre, welcome more than 250 professional artists, whose works will be available for purchase including vibrant paintings, decorative ceramics, unique sculptures, dazzling jewelry, vivid photography and more.

Children can create their own art at the Imagination Station, which features a large selection of free hands-on activities including sidewalk-chalk drawing, painting, mask design, puppet and button creation and clay sculpting. The Imagination Station will also feature entertainment including magic shows, puppet shows and music for the young and the young at heart.

For music lovers, the Festival features continuous, live entertainment on three stages by local bands, solo musicians and dance companies. The weekend kicks off with the Downtown Blues Concert, a display of sultry sounds and electric notes on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza featuring the Winner of the 2006 and 2007 Blues Music Awards for Best Contemporary Female Artist of the Year, Janiva Magness. Come and experience these musical treats which are absolutely free and open to the public.

Since 1996, the Downtown Festival & Art Show has consistently ranked in the Top 200 art shows in the nation! In 2008, the Festival was ranked No. 27 among the best 200 fine art shows in the country by *Sunshine Artist* magazine, and chosen as one of the "American Bus Association's Top 100 Events" in North America for group travel.

Mark your calendar now for November 14 and 15, 2009. You won't want to miss this spectacular weekend of arts and entertainment at the Downtown Festival & Art Show, North Central Florida's most beloved fine arts festival. For more information, please call 352-334-ARTS or visit [www.cityofgainesville.org](http://www.cityofgainesville.org).