



desoto arts council

artbeat →

May 2016

ART MATTERS

By: Edith Herring, DAC President

"It was the best of times and the worst of times"...this time worn statement could be said of this year's ART ROCKS 2016! Event. By 7:30 am on Saturday, April 30, 2016, some 3" or more of rain was falling in downtown Historic Grand Cane. Water was overflowing the drains and the sky was heavy with rain clouds. This is the worst nightmare of outdoor festival planners. However, since at the moment, the Village of Grand Cane is blessed to own several very large, vacant old building smack in the middle of the area, the outdoor event just moved indoors. But, not without a lot of pre-planning and cleaning by the volunteers with the Historic Grand Cane Association (co-sponsors of the event with the DeSoto Arts Council), **Lynn Hoell**, and **Keith Wanamaker** had their crew working days before and all was ready for the art vendors rain or shine.

One best of times came around when the clouds began to disperse and the sun peek through. The day was saved and the visitors continued to come throughout the remainder of the event.

A very special "best" would have to include the impromptu concert with the **Grand Cane Ukulele Band** and the **Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band**. When they joined their music, the Hicks & Richardson Bldg. rocked.

There was a dancing in the aisle, singing along and hand clapping good time!

Another best of times would have to be the diligent sidewalk chalk artist, **Rachel Addy**, who traveled from Shreveport and worked throughout the day mostly on her hands and knees to create a beautiful mural of the "Lion and Lambs" as a tribute to the promise of Spring. Even though this was originally planned for the outside walk, the mural can now be enjoyed much longer inside the building. Plans are to leave the building open with a sign inviting visitors to take a look. And, while most of the sidewalk chalk art activities were scrapped, many signed the chalk boards and a few kids just took the chalk and created their own art for all to enjoy. **John Neilson** was observed doing a great backward Hopscotch!

Barry Wiley (DAC Feature Artist) enjoyed a special best of times, as his paintings were almost flying off the walls. His show continues through the month of May and still has many special pieces. Check his popular works out during regular DAC Gallery hours: Thur – Sat 10am – 1:30pm. Call 318-663-3080 for info.

Perhaps the best, best of times was the beautiful and inspiring "Artists of Tomorrow" children and youth art show. **Margaret Dickerson** (show co-chair with **Becky Lawson**) and assisted by **Emma Mouser** met the show judges: **Lenora DeLude**, **Martee Reeg** and **Erin Sitton** and had the ribbons and awards all set for the 10 am show opening. See a list of the winners elsewhere. It was definitely the best to welcome so many families to the Gallery and engage the children in the Art Scavenger Hunt game (which is enjoyed by adults as well). We were happy to hand out many "poppers" (the favorite prize) to the winners. This year's free giveaway item was another best.

Young and old were eager to get their own "invisible ink" packet.

And, finally all of this is made possible by the commitment of the best volunteers: **Emma Mouser**, **Ninette Russell**, **GINNY WANAMAKER**, **Kathleen James** and **Jeannie Rogers!** Special thanks to a special group of Dra-Maniac teens: **Sarah Franklin**, **Lexi Austin** and **Clara Linkenholker**. DAC Board Members on the scene also were: **Margaret Dickerson**, **Jerline Jackson**, **Bobbie Cunningham**, **Edith Herring**, **Melanie Glenn** and **Joe Hartley**. **Linda Brown** took care of pre-plans for refreshments!

CHURCHES OF DESOTO KICKS OFF - Beginning with May, 2016, the "Churches of DeSoto" photograph display will kick off this project in the Mansfield Library, Mansfield, LA. Please make an effort to stop by and learn about the churches in the Mansfield area. DAC members working on this phase of this project are: **Cindy Williams**, **Rowena Anderson** and **Linda Brown**.

DAC NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seeking new members to serve on the DeSoto Arts Council Board of Directors. The Board meets once monthly and undertakes various special projects though out the year and oversees the management of the all volunteer DAC Art Gallery. If you are interested in serving, please contact any Nominating Committee Member: **Carol Paga**, 933-8545, **Linda Brown**, 858-3419 or **Jerline Jackson**, 858-2972.

DeSoto Arts Council Membership drive begins in May. For our supporters that have not already joined through the Red Envelope project or paid forward, the dues remain at \$15 per individual membership. Checks made payable to the DeSoto Arts Council may be mailed to P. O. Box 352, Grand Cane, LA 71032. Call **Linda Brown**, Membership Chairman 318-858-3419 for more information. Our success depends on the continued financial support of our members. Please renew your membership and enlist someone else to join. Help DAC unleash the force of the power of art for DeSoto Parish !

Mark Poole to Teach Basic Pottery Techniques at LSUS

Pottery Basic, Hand Building \$149. Create and glaze your own hand built pottery design(s). Learn basic pottery techniques; recommended prior to taking the Wheel Throwing Pottery class. Students should bring an apron, smock or wear clothing they don't mind getting dirty. Clay, glaze and a personal tool set will be provided by instructor for a fee of \$30 payable to the instructor at the beginning of class.

<http://www.ce.lsus.edu/documents/catalogs/LSUSCE-SU16Catalog.pdf> (for more information)

Instructor: Mark Poole
Mondays & Thursdays, June 6 – June 20,
(Skip 6/13), 6:00pm - 9:00pm
318-798-4177
Course #: 16MLEIART094
Register by May 31 and pay \$129!

DAC ART ROCKS 2016! posters available. The colorful poster prints of the original by **Edwin Lee Myers**, signed and numbered are for sale for \$10 in the DAC Gallery during regular business hours.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

'Art is the Answer....What was the Question'

Exploring the positive influence of art on child development.

Sarah Glenn Duncan, B.A. M.S. LPC

Just when it seemed like April's showers were a permanent weather condition, May finally arrived and with it the hardier colors of our summer flowers. The camellias and azaleas, daffodils and snowdrops are gone but the roses and lantanas, zinnias and sunflowers are on their way in. A perfect way to preserve these beauties is the art of pressed flowers; a perfect time to take a nature walk with a pair of sharp scissors and a phone book is now!

Making art from pressed flowers can be as simple or complex as the artist desires. Flat-faced flowers like pansies are the simplest, and placing a the dry flower in a heavy book (no shiny pages or magazines!) for about a week is the easiest method. More complex approaches include disassembling three dimensional blossoms like magnolias and drying the petals individually for reassembly later. A few hints include making sure the chosen flower is completely dry, so pick in the afternoon of a sunny day, and free of blemishes or tears. Blotting papers can be used directly above and below the flower in a traditional press or book to make sure all moisture is removed from the flower. When ready to remove the dried flowers, use care as the dried forms are very brittle.

Use heavy paper and small amounts of glue to make note cards, stationery, place cards, simple pieces of art, or incorporate them into a mixed media piece illustrating anything from fairy gardens to scary jungles! Pressed flowers are a timeless way to preserve the memories of these bright days...so just in case another storm of the century hits next year, make art NOW!



DAC Gallery Welcomes New Artist

The DeSoto Arts Council Gallery in Grand Cane, LA is pleased to welcome Nancy Spanial-Blake as a new artist! Blake lives near DeBerry in nearby East Texas and has been a regular visitor to Historic Grand Cane with her husband, Tim Blake and the Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band. Her realistic western, rancher and rodeo life are a welcome addition to the DAC Gallery.

Artists of Tomorrow ART ROCKS 2016! Winners List



Congratulations to the winners of the ART ROCKS 2016! "Artists of Tomorrow" art show on April 30, 2016. Cash awards were sponsored by the DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau as follows: 1st, \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10 and \$100 each for the top awards Best of Show and the Artis Wells Creativity Award. The event is co-sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Council, the Historic Grand Cane Association and the DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau, in cooperation with the Village of Grand Cane.

These are the winners in each age category:

5 and Under:

- 1st – Ivey Salley
- 2nd – Izzy Crocker
- 3rd - Madison Moore

6 – 8:

- 1st – Paxton Stevenson
- 2nd – Emma Bottoms
- 3rd – Dylan Denney

9 – 11::

- 1st – Jacob Cristler
- 2nd – Rebekah Bottoms
- 3rd – Gus Salley

12 – 14:

- 1st – Julia Bottoms
- 2nd – Katy McMellon
- 3rd – Tiahna Kittrell

15 – 18:

- 1st - Makayla Hunter
- 2nd – Abigail Sparks
- 3rd – Allison Shaver

Best of Show: Daisy Rivers
Paxton Stevenson is the big winner in the Artists of Tomorrow art show, Winning first in ages 6-8 and the coveted Artis Wells Creativity Award!



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