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www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

Updated: July 26, 2015

To Del Ray Artisans members:

The Arts Hancock County has invited Del Ray Artisans members to be part of a very special *Thanks Y'all* art exhibit and event that they are hosting on **Saturday, August 29** in the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, area commemorating the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

The Arts Hancock County (TAHC) is an arts organization very similar in purpose, organization, and size to Del Ray Artisans (DRA). DRA members got to know members of TAHC during *Southern Surge*, DRA's benefit show for TAHC in March 2007. *Southern Surge*, curated by Theresa Kulstad and Linda Elliff, was organized to give artists devastated by Katrina support and an opportunity to sell their art after Hurricane Katrina. The show expenses were completely paid for by DRA, and all of the artwork sales went directly to the artists. DRA members as well as the Del Ray community were exceptional in the various volunteer efforts they gave and long lasting friendships were formed.

This coming August 29, 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. There will be various ceremonies along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the numerous towns. The Arts Hancock County (based in Bay St. Louis, MS) is holding an invitational art show to thank the art organizations around the country that came to their aid in the months after Katrina. Del Ray Artisans is among the groups being invited to participate. The Arts Hancock County activities are on Thursday, August 27 through Saturday, August 29.

Several documents have been received from The Arts Hancock County that provide more details and are included in the subsequent pages.

Important Information for Del Ray Artisans Members

DRA members are invited to ship or deliver in person their artwork to Bay St. Louis, MS. Shipped artwork must be received by Monday, August 24. See section "Artwork Delivery & Guidelines" for details.

Those travelling to Bay St. Louis are asked to provide some information to the host artists. Accommodation requests for visiting artists must be received by August 10. See the "Schedule" and "Accommodations" sections for more information. A potluck dinner is being organized for local and visiting artists on Thursday, August 27. The exhibit reception will be in the evening on Saturday, August 29.

Participating DRA artists are asked to email Linda Elliff at Membership@TheDelRayArtisans.org with their name, phone number, artwork name, artwork size, and whether you are shipping or delivering the work in person to Bay St. Louis, MS. If possible, DRA will work on consolidating artworks to save shipping costs or hand carry some artworks to deliver in person. Shipping & handling costs are to be shared by the participating artists. Participating artists will be contacted individually with details.

Please note: Even though The Arts Hancock County is allowing artwork up to a size of 36" x 36", any hand carried artwork must be 20" x 24" maximum. Smaller, lightweight artworks are encouraged by DRA.

This is a touching and special invitation. I hope you will participate. For other questions not answered in this letter or following documents, please contact me at Membership@TheDelRayArtisans.org.

—Linda Elliff, Director of Membership, Del Ray Artisans

Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote art for the benefit of artists and the community. Del Ray Artisans (DRA) appreciates the continued support from the City of Alexandria, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts. DRA is a 501(c) (3) organization.

Supported in part by:



Invitation to Participate

“Thanks Y’all!” Exhibit August 29, 2015 (New Date!)

“The Arts, Hancock County” would like to invite you to be part of a very special event.

Because of the efforts of communities around the country in the months after Katrina we were able to make art for an appreciative audience. We were given encouragement, provided assistance in the form of art supplies and gallery shows, and hosted in private homes. You were our “first responders” in bringing art back to Hancock County.

Private organizations and governmental agencies helped rebuild our infrastructure and buildings, but many of us remember the support of those who took us in, feeding and housing us as if we were their own family. That personal response meant so much in the months after the storm.

This is our initial attempt to gather information about organizers of these events, groups, and individuals who returned us to normal (or as normal as artists can be). We would like to offer our gratitude by inviting you down to see the effect of your generosity.

Welcoming artists, organizers, and host families to Hancock County and Bay St. Louis, we would host you as you hosted us, providing accommodations and hospitality, for anyone who wishes to come down. To officially mark the occasion, we would exhibit the work of our out-of-town colleagues alongside local artists who participated in the travelling shows.

The dates are between August 27 and 29. Our local artists and community have all expressed an eagerness to be a part of this project. It gives us a joyous reason to commemorate a solemn anniversary. While here, visitors can observe the revival of a lively arts community, participate in an historic event, and enjoy lots of great southern food! We expect it to be memorable weekend and hope you can share in our celebration of resilience.

You inspired us, with your kindness and encouragement, to return to our homes and be creative in the midst of disaster. On the tenth anniversary we would like to return the favor and say “Thanks Y’all” for giving us the spirit to face our future as artists instead of Katrina victims.



Information Update Letter (July 25, 2015)

Hello Everybody!

Although things are changing, they are changing for the better. We're not having the exhibit on Friday in Bay St. Louis, as we originally planned. We're going to have it on Saturday night, August 29, at the Ground Zero Hurricane Museum in Waveland. (Just so you'll know, Waveland and Bay St. Louis are neighboring communities and these events are within five miles of each other.)



This is a good, maybe even great, thing. Instead of having a stand-alone event, we're being invited to the BIG party with all the publicity and energy focused in one location. The Museum will have several different activities going on in one place so this will be THE place to be.

I hope that y'all will all be able to be there, and I also hope that our change in plans doesn't affect any travel arrangements you have already made. I'm enclosing the revised schedule. I hope you will all notice that the extra day gives us a chance to connect with you all in two additional events.

First, on Friday we will still have a luncheon for you, along with an opportunity to "play" a little. We will be making ATC's, "artist trading cards". We will provide the materials, but if you want to bring any graphics or materials you can. It's a great way to interact in a fun, creative activity.

Saturday morning, local artists will open their studios for visitors. We will provide maps to all the studios, most will be in the Bay St. Louis Waveland area and easy to find. If necessary, we can arrange for guides to help locate all studios.

These extra events are optional, but we'd like to provide a purely enjoyable experience. Many of you were here in the past to help us rebuild. Now we'd like for you to have fun, meet our local artists and neighbors, and see how far we've come with your help.

Even though our original plans have changed a bit, they are changing for the better. We hope you are as excited about all of these events as we are.

We look forward to showering you with our famous Southern Hospitality! Please let us know as soon as you can if you plan to join us. And as always, contact me if you have any questions about anything!

Vicki Niolet
The Arts, Hancock County
vniolet@earthlink.net
228-671-9790

Artwork Delivery and Guidelines

Each artist may send/bring 2 pieces of art. **Please provide a list of your art by Monday, August 24, 2015.** We will prepare a program and title cards for the exhibit that is on Saturday, August 29. We need the following information:

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Price: _____

Artist Name: _____

City (and Arts Organization): _____



There is no theme, but if you choose to develop the subject of Katrina, the media may be more inclined to focus on your work

There will be no commission or entry fee. Two Dimensional work will be limited to 36" x 36" and Three Dimensional work limited to 100 pounds.

If you choose to ship your work, please make sure that it arrives by Monday, August 24, so we can unpack it and make sure everything is okay. If you are bringing it with you, please try to have it to us by Thursday ASAP, so we can hang it at the Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum.

If you ship it, please send it to:
Vicki Niolet, c/o Bay Emporium
112 South Second Street
Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520

When you ship your work, you may call me at 228-671-9790, or email me, vniolet@earthlink.net, if you'd like, so I can be watching for it. We'll keep your packing and send your work back to you, if necessary. Hopefully we won't have many pieces to return! Right now the exhibit is only up Saturday, 8/29, but we are working on a way to extend it. We'll send more info and ask permission if it changes.

If you have any questions, please contact me either by email, vniolet@earthlink.net or by phone, 228-671-9790. Please don't hesitate to call if you need anything. We're looking forward to seeing y'all again. You can return this information via email, or to the address above. Please put on the subject line or outside of the envelope: **"ARTWORK for THANKS Y'ALL"**.

Thanks, Vicki

Schedule

Thursday, August 27, 6 pm: Pot Luck Party - All visiting artists and Arts Hancock County members are invited to meet and greet in a casual setting.

Friday, August 28, 11 – 2:30 pm: ATC Makin' - Membership and visiting artists will gather to create “artist trading cards” at the Longfellow Civic Center on Court Street. Light lunch will be served. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can get a head count. You may bring any collage or scrapbooking material you would like to use, but materials will be provided.

Friday, August 28, 4:30 – 6:30 pm: Reception at Waveland City Hall for Hancock Arts members Katrina Art Show.

Also happening Friday – A mini Second Saturday with shops open all day until 8pm, and music in the streets of Bay St. Louis and Art Market at the Mockingbird Café. Band “Category Six” will play later at Bouy’s Bar on the beach.

Saturday, August 29, 10 – 2 pm: Mini studio tour - Self directed with local guidance. Local artists will open their homes and studios to show off our progress.

Saturday, August 29, 4 pm: VIP Reception for Dignitaries and Visiting Artists and Guests at Ground Zero Hurricane Museum, Waveland.

Saturday, August 29, 5 – 8 pm: Katrina Memorial Event. Waveland’s Ground Zero Hurricane Museum is hosting this event. At 5:00 there is a Remembrance of Lives Lost. At 5:30 the museum and “Thanks Y’all” Exhibit will open to the public. The Visiting Artists work will be shown in the auditorium with music, food, and beverages by the Silver Slipper Casino. The Arts will have wine and light snacks in the auditorium.

Sunday, August 30: Misc. Katrina events along the coast - TBA



Accommodations

Information for Coordinating Host Families

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Do you have any special preferences (e.g., dietary requirements, pets/smoking allergies, etc.)?

When do you plan to arrive?

Will you fly? Into which airport? Gulfport (GPT) or New Orleans (MSY)?

(FYI, Gulfport is a local airport, and easy to deal with, but may cost a little more. Gulfport is approximately 20 miles, about 30 minutes away. New Orleans is approximately 70 miles, about an hour away, depending on traffic.)

Will you have your own vehicle or a rental car?

Are you sharing a vehicle?

If so, with whom, so we can try to place you close together:

Please let us know if you are coming by August 10, if possible, so we can make sure we have our host families lined up. You can return this information via email, or to:

Vicki Niolet, c/o Bay Emporium
112 South Second Street, Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520

Please put on the subject line or outside of the envelope: **“ACCOMMODATIONS for THANKS Y’ALL”**. If you have any questions, please contact me either by email, vniolet@earthlink.net or by phone, 228-671-9790. Please call me if you need anything else.
—Vicki Niolet



Press Release (Released July 25, 2015)

“Thanks Y’all” Exhibit

Presented by The Arts, Hancock County

Saturday, August 29, 2015 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Ground Zero Hurricane Museum

335 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS 39576



On Saturday, August 29, artists from around the country will take part in tenth anniversary Katrina ceremonies by exhibiting work at a very special invitational art show. These artists and visitors will experience the legendary southern hospitality in repayment for the assistance they extended to local artists ten years ago.

After Katrina, many communities reached out to Hancock County artists and offered gallery shows, housing, and even travelling expenses for artists, to continue showing their work outside the storm stricken area of South Mississippi. Originally from Waveland, Claire Haun relocated to Little Rock post Katrina and planned the first exhibit, “Hearts for Art” in February 2006. She organized local Arkansas arts groups, who secured the Clinton Presidential Library for the event, hosted the show, and found families to house the 20 artists who made the trip. Not only did the Arkansas angels do this once, but also a second time, when a citywide ice storm, crippling Little Rock on the morning of the show, cancelled the first event. Not to be discouraged, the benevolent donors paid twice for airfare, as well as re-publicizing the event, and re-organizing sponsors and host families.

These acts of generosity were repeated in other cities across the country between 2006 and 2007. Arts organizations, guilds, and galleries from Minnesota, Georgia, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Pennsylvania hosted exhibits of Hancock County artists. The Washington, DC area hosted three separate events in two years.

The main reason for the exhibits was to offer viable economies that could focus on buying art, not rebuilding walls. Most of the artists sold work at all of the individual shows, many returning home with sizable checks. But when painters, sculptors, photographers, and musicians travelled to these charitable havens they were given a more valuable gift than money. The escape from “Katrina Fatigue” was an immeasurable boost to morale for the participants. Hosts welcomed artists into their homes with friendships and luxuries such as home-cooked meals and bathtubs with plenty of hot water. In many cases, bonds were established between artists and families that still remain.

The Arts, Hancock County now welcomes those artists and families who were so generous to participate in the upcoming Katrina observances on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The exhibit, entitled “Thanks Y’all”, borrows the phrase from an early statewide campaign recognizing the volunteers who came to our region.

Artists from other parts of the country will reunite with Hancock County artists and display their work in Bay St. Louis for a reciprocal exhibit. While the basis for the event is primarily to express gratitude for their generosity, it also demonstrates how their actions revitalized the local arts community. The Arts, Hancock County invites our visitors to see the progress we have made with their help since 2005.

On Saturday, August 29, the reception for the artists will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 at the Ground Zero Hurricane Museum in Waveland. The public is invited to come meet and thank the people who helped us get back on our feet. Admission is free and the art will be for sale.



For more information about the "Thanks Y'all" exhibit, please contact Vicki Niolet at 228-671-9790 or vniolet@earthlink.net.