



Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Cultural Arts, Education and Entertainment

City of Destin Proclaims March 12 'Mattie Kelly Day'

Destin, Florida (February 18, 2015) - Twenty years ago the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) began an earnest mission to bring art programs, cultural events, art education and lively entertainment to the sleepy beach town of Destin, Florida. Fast forward from 1995 to 2015, and the milestone 20th anniversary of the organization founded on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of Destin matriarch, Mattie Kelly. The anniversary year provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the organization, while presenting vision for the future.

“It’s easy to take for granted the wonderful cultural arts programming we have in our community in 2015, but it’s through the long term efforts of the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation that we are able to enjoy so many concerts, festivals and especially educational outreach in the schools. Their leadership led the way and their contributions have made our community better,” said Stacey Brady, chairperson of the 20th anniversary committee for Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation.

MKAF will celebrate this significant milestone with activities and events throughout the year, showcasing the cultural and educational outreach made by the organization. On March 12, the City of Destin will proclaim it “Mattie Kelly Day” with an official proclamation commemorating the 103rd birthday of Mattie Kelly. The proclamation states, “Whereas, throughout her life, Mattie pursued dreams that brought not only progress to Destin, but educational, spiritual and cultural opportunities that Destin still embraces today.”

The City of Destin proclamation also recognizes MKAF as one of Northwest Florida’s premier art organizations, naming their impact on cultural events, entertainment and their award-winning All Kinds of Art K – 12 education program.

The 20th anniversary committee of MKAF is creating a commemorative keepsake magazine that will include the proclamation, a historical timeline, contributions from long-time Foundation

supporters and a visual representation of the organization's history. The magazine will be inserted into area newspapers in March and available at events throughout the year.

Marcia Hull has seen much of the past 20 years of work by MKAF up close. As Chief Executive Officer of the organization, she came aboard in 1998 and continues today as the voice of MKAF. She, along with Director of Operations Deb Nissley – a 16-year staff member – are responsible for successfully producing and executing the mission and the programming of the Foundation with an all- volunteer board of directors

CEO Marcia Hull stated, “From our humble beginnings that started with a handful of visionary leaders, the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation today continues to emerge as a powerful champion of cultural arts and education in Northwest Florida. Our organization understands that a vibrant arts and culture industry contributes positively to the economic impact, quality of life and place for its residents and visitors. We remain committed to delivering Mattie's dream and carrying on her legacy.”

Other events which will showcase the 20th anniversary include the April 11 “December '63, a Musical Tribute to Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons,” and the introduction of a new Bluegrass music concert, “Bluegrass Meets the Beach,” September 11 & 12, featuring the award-winning and chart-topping band, Blue Highway. Such signature events as Concerts in the Village, Festival of the Arts and Sound of the Season are celebrating their 20th season.

“It's nice to take time this year to reflect, celebrate a big anniversary and set the tone for future meaningful community work from the Foundation. It's an honor to serve,” said Brady.

For more information about Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation mission and events, or to become a member, please visit www.MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org or call 850.650.2226.

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