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**MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION EXTENDS
AN OPEN CALL TO VISUAL ARTISTS**

20th Annual Festival of the Arts to Award \$10,000 in Cash Prize Awards

DESTIN, FLORIDA (April 30, 2015) —The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) continues a yearlong celebration of its 20th anniversary with the 20th annual Festival of the Arts October 24-25, 2015 throughout the grounds of the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village in Destin on the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast.

MKAF has a rich history of this award-winning fine art festival, dating back to 1995, but as MKAF marks two decades, it completes its third year of staging events at the contemporary Dugas Pavilion and spacious Village Green. The Festival site is on 6.76 acres of expansive green space and can accommodate 110 artist booths and other festival amenities for this regional juried fine arts and music festival.

Sculpture and oil pastel artist, Leland Williams of Crescent City, Florida, commented, “Of all the art shows, I view MKAF’s Festival of the Arts as possibly the best, from the meticulous planning by event planners to the unbeatable artist hospitality. The exhibited artwork work is of high caliber with the best being phenomenal ... thank you MKAF for presenting an event that we can be excited about.”

Artist applications and poster competition entries are now being accepted for the MKAF’s 20th annual Festival of the Arts.

Artists will compete for \$10,000 in cash awards. Artist entry fees include a \$30 non-refundable jury fee and \$200 booth fee.

“Last year we featured exhibits of more than 100 juried artists from 13 states showcasing a diverse palette of artistic styles in many different art mediums,” says MAKF Artist Market Chair Deb Nissley. “We were thrilled to recognize 28 artists hailing from 19 different cities with \$10,000 in cash prizes for artwork representing 12 different art mediums.”

The winning design for the official poster competition will become the signature artwork reproduced on festival t-shirts, posters, marketing collateral, specialty merchandise and prominently displayed on the cover of the official Festival of the Arts guide with a distribution of more than 30,000. Just one component of a comprehensive marketing campaign MKAF will launch surrounding the event.

A \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the winning artist’s design. The artist entry and poster contest application deadline is June 19, 2015.

For Artist Application, Rules of Participation and Poster Entry Form, visit online at www.MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org.

For more information, call (850) 650-2226 or email www.mattiekellyartsfoundation.org/pr/newsreleases-foa.htm for more festival and sponsor information.

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ABOUT MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF), a 501-c-3 not-for-profit charitable arts organization, was founded in 1995 on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of the late Destin Matriarch, Mattie Kelly. The champion of cultural arts and education in Northwest Florida, MKAF's vision is to impact lives through art and culture.

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