

NEWS RELEASE (February 29, 2008)

Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 604, Bagdad, FL 32530; www.SantaRosaArts.org or www.sracf.org

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Details: **Sat & Sun (3/8-9/2008) 10am-5pm**

26th Annual Santa Rosa Celebrates the Arts!

MILTON – The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation (SRACF) announces its 26th “**Santa Rosa Celebrates the Arts**” at the Riverwalk in historic downtown Milton during the weekend of March 8th and 9th in conjunction with the Riverwalk Arts Festival. The “Festival & Celebration” will run from 10am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Willing Street will be closed to traffic starting Friday for setup from Berryhill (one block north of Hwy 90) to Pine (one block south of Hwy 90) along the River Boardwalk to house the numerous booths, vendors and entertainment.

Santa Rosa Celebrates the Arts is a county-wide youth focused program made available to all elementary, middle and high school students throughout Santa Rosa County. Tony New, Educational Committee Chairman, of the SR Arts & Culture Foundation spear-heads the program with the assistance of Kathleen Tracey, a former Foundation Board Member. Each encourages and enlists participation from all grade level students and schools.

For months now, children in the Elementary Schools throughout SRCounty have been submitting their creative writings of poems, essays and short stories for this program. Only the very best creative writing pieces are selected for inclusion in the annually published “Santa Rosa Celebrates the Arts’ - Creative Writing Booklet” to honor the very best of each grade level from every participating school. The creative writings are judged by five PJC English professors. Each author selected for inclusion in this book are presented with a courtesy copy of this published collection as their merit award. This educational program instills motivation and encouragement for future writers of America. The “Book” will be displayed at the Riverwalk Festival in the elementary school tent section on Willing Street. **These publications will be available for purchase through custom orders for family, friends and generally interested persons at the Festival.** Traditional art by elementary students will showcase the “Dragonfly Alley” connecting Willing Street to the Riverwalk Gazebo. Take time to enlighten yourself with these on display.

The middle and high school participants are given opportunities to submit their work of art in one of the following categories: drawing; painting; sculpture; pottery; textiles; graphic design; and a special category for beginning art students. Students competing in these categories will receive 1st, 2nd, 3rd or participation ribbons. The top two winners of the show will receive cash prizes of \$100 and \$50 respectively. Judges from UWF & PJC will select the winners. All participating entries will be under the school tents on Willing Street.

SR Celebrates the Arts for students have been included in the Riverwalk Arts Festival to give a greater scope from the beginner to the professional artist for everyone’s enjoyment and appreciation. The festival will feature a juried fine arts and heritage/folk art shows, exhibits,

demonstrations, poetry readings, story telling, continuous music, festival foods and other surprising and fun entertainments.

This year's juried art show prizes have been raised to \$4000 with the best of show receiving a \$1000. Other cash awards of \$300, \$200, \$100 in each of the five categories will be granted to 1st, 2nd and honorable mentions, respectively. Competition will be high with quality artwork to be judged by qualified non-partial judges from the art world.

Nonprofit arts and culture based organizations are encouraged to participate by providing information about their organizations and volunteering to distribute programs and information at the festival information booth. Separate booth space for nonprofit arts and culture based organizations is also available by contacting the festival coordinators.

For more information visit www.SantaRosaArts.org, www.sracf.org or call the Dragonfly Gallery at 981-1100 or the coordinators Pat at 623-8493 or Jan at 623-3711.

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About the Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation (SRACF)

The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation is a membership-based organization that promotes education and public interest in the arts, continually broadening the spectrum of visual and performing artists to reflect the diversity of the arts community and the interests of its patrons.

The mission of the Arts and Culture Foundation is to vitalize and enrich the cultural arts in Santa Rosa County. More information is available online at www.SantaRosaArts.org.

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