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

Media Contacts:

Ann Scott	(850) 393-0121	Grants Committee Chairman
Jerry Cummings	(850) 626-4499	SRACF President
Dragonfly Gallery	(850) 981-1100	

Public Announcement of 2008 County and Regional Grant winners

MILTON – The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation, Inc. (SRACF) congratulates and announces the winners of the 2008 Arts Grant Program. A total of \$16,500 were granted this year with \$13,500 going to regional and local arts and culture based organizations for upcoming projects and \$3000 to support Santa Rosa County School Children's Arts Festival more recently named Santa Rosa Celebrates the Arts. This annual county wide school children's arts festival ran in conjunction with the greater attended 20th Anniversary Riverwalk Arts Festival earlier this year.

Designated as the Arts Agency for Santa Rosa County, SRACF administers the Arts Grant Program. The purpose of this program is in direct support of the Foundation's mission to vitalize, promote and enrich the arts and culture in Santa Rosa County, FL: to be a catalyst for community growth and appreciation of the arts; preserve history & culture; encourage continued development of the arts & culture; foster charitable, educational, and recreational activities in the arts through the support of arts and cultural programs on a local and regional basis. Thus, the Arts Grant Program supports both local and regional organizations that serve and benefit the residents of Santa Rosa County.

Santa Rosa Arts & Culture Foundation's Grants Program follows the general guidelines stipulated by the State of Florida for its grant programs. SRACF accepts proposals for funding from entities recognized as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for projects up to \$5000. SRACF also accepts proposals for funding from other nonprofit entities not recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code who operate in SRCounty for projects up to \$500 that directly supports the arts.

Winners are selected by the Grant Evaluation Committee made up of Santa Rosa County residents who advocate the arts in all forms. The committee members are trained by the Foundation's Grant Committee and Chairman on the evaluation guidelines stipulated by the state and the process necessary for grading the merit of the proposed request in its ability to vitalize, promote and enrich the arts and culture in Santa Rosa County communities. Requests

for general operating expenses, overhead, debt reduction, operational deficits, grants to individuals, endowments, political or religious projects are not considered.

The following 2008 grant recipients were honored and presented with their respective grant checks at the Dragonfly Gallery during the Santa Rosa Arts & Culture Foundation's Annual meeting and reception at the conclusion of the grant cycle period. Please join us in recognizing and congratulating the following 2008 grant recipients.

Regional Programming Grants: (Regional programs serving Santa Rosa County Residents)

\$3000 The Pensacola Opera

- Funds were requested to continue support in Opera Education Initiative in the Santa Rosa County Schools. Through community and educational outreach programs such as school performances, Opera 101's, Morning at the Opera performances at the newly renovated Saenger Theatre, street fairs and/or From Words to Music programs, this initiative expects to expose 10,000+ children and adults in Santa Rosa County to Opera, enhancing the school arts programs.

\$1000 Greater Pensacola Symphony

- Funds were requested to aid in covering \$1000 of the \$32,000 project which reach 6400 public elementary school children with opportunity to experience the magic of music through the free annual spring Youth Concerts for all 5th grade students in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. With the Symphony's goal of enriching the communities through symphonic music programming and education, students develop reading, science and social studies skills through preconcert materials and activities.

Santa Rosa County Grants Up to \$500: (Only for Santa Rosa County-based organizations)

\$500 Santa Rosa Art Association

- Funds were requested to enhance and increase an ongoing program called the "Art Benefactor's Program" which is in its 6th year in offering mini grants to Santa Rosa County Teachers for art educational projects which assimilates art into learning. In 2007, twelve mini grants were given in this endeavor.

Santa Rosa County Grants Up to \$5000: (Only for Santa Rosa County-based organizations)

\$1000 Santa Rosa Pipes and Drums, Inc.

- Funds were requested to purchase band equipment to include "small pipes" to allow for playing at indoor venues. Inclusion of these smaller pipes will also facilitate the training of those who want to learn the instrument and play at public venues. With these instruments, the group will increase the potential for educating those interested in learning how to play the instruments. The number of participants will increase as well as the number of venues possibilities to the benefit of the public.

\$1000 Panhandle Community Players

- Funds were requested to upgrade sound equipment, lighting and curtain enhancements for main stage productions, educational workshops and community performances.

\$1000 Bagdad Village Preservation Association

- Funds were requested to convert thirty archival tapes of the historical stories of Bagdad to DVD. These DVDs will be used by the museum in community collaborative efforts to educate and promote awareness of heritage, culture, preservation, history and genealogy.

\$1500 Main Street Milton, Inc.

- Funds were requested to print and distribute 5000 copies of the Downtown Milton Visitor Guide designed to introduce visitors to local events, festivals, businesses and attractions within the vicinity of the Historic Downtown Milton. The guide is designed to present Milton as a vital community center offering a variety of experiences while promoting the many forms of art and entertainment in the Historic District.

\$1500 Veteran's Memorial Plaza

- Funds were requested to aid in the construction of an artistic fountain to be a modified replica of the flag placed at Iwo Jima made of natural rock at the frequently visited Memorial Plaza. With community and artistic collaboration, the fountain will add to the other monuments that serve not only as memorials that honor veterans, but as pieces of art that add to the beauty of the plaza and to the downtown Riverwalk area which is one of the county's highly visited art festival venues.

\$3000 Gulf Coast Kiln Walk Society, Inc.

- Funds were requested for the Test and Inaugural Firings of the Historically Reconstructed Ralph Howard Phillips Groundhog Kiln, circa 1940. The Society participants, community educational facilities and art groups are collaborating to support the entire preparation and firing process which will include community involved workshops and a kiln opening with participation by the public. The funding will also assist the society in meeting one of its objectives to provide educational venues for local artisans to learn new or different methods of creating ceramic art.

For more information about SRACF or its Grant Program, go to www.sracf.org or www.santarosaarts.org. Although the Foundation has concluded this year's grant program cycle, the 2008 application forms and guidelines were left online for the benefit of future applicants to preview the process and start collecting the information necessary for applying next year. New 2009 forms will be posted after the New Year.

Respectfully submitted by,

Margie Baldwin
Public Relations/Publicity Chairman & Webmaster
Santa Rosa Arts & Culture Foundation
850-981-1100 (@ Office located in Dragonfly Gallery)
www.santarosaarts.org or www.sracf.org

