

# Congratulations to the 2017 Top 20!

## 1. LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival

Tallahassee, Florida; April. Produced by LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival.

Racing to the top of the 2017 **Sunshine Artist 200 Best** in the Fine Art and Design Show category like a speedy dark horse, the LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival nabbed the number one spot this year. The festival has placed in the 200 Best twice before in the past ten years. In 2016 it placed 94<sup>th</sup> and in 2015, 87<sup>th</sup>.

LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival is promoted as “North Florida’s Premier Art Festival,” and festival director,

Kelly Dozier, and festival manager, Vanessa Dozier Rowse, agree. “We focus on the artist first,” says Dozier. “Happy artists make a happy festival.”

Each year the free festival draws over 40,000 visitors to the chain of parks area, raising cultural awareness to the streets of downtown Tallahassee, Florida. The festival is heavily promoted throughout Northern Florida and Southern Georgia and has resulted in a marked increase in attendance and sales.

The festival hosts 170 artists; the last show garnered over 300 applicants. Patrons enjoy a variety of original fine art, a 1560’s living encampment, BeTheArt photo opportunities, “The Village” children’s festival, tasty food options, and live entertainment.

Promoting art awareness, culture, and sustainability are top priorities at the LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival. In 2016, partnerships with Sustainable Tallahassee and the City of Tallahassee have enabled the festival to go green by reducing landfill waste and other environmental impacts associated with the event. Eliminating one-time use water bottles and replacing them with refillable ones, not using foam containers, composting waste, and promoting clean transportation are just a few ways LeMoynne is promoting sustainability.

Interested exhibitors pay a \$30 application fee; a 10’x10’ booth size remains affordable at just \$275. No buy/sell is permitted at the festival. Art in the following media is accepted: 2-D mixed-media, 3-D mixed-media, ceramics, drawing and graphics, fiber arts, jewelry, painting, and photography.

New in 2017, the festival was open two hours longer for an evening concert; however, the art fair portion of the festival closed at 5 p.m. to allow artists the opportunity to unwind and enjoy the show along with patrons.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the LeMoynne Center for the Visual Arts education and exhibition programs. “The festival is put on for the community to enjoy and to also accomplish the mission of LeMoynne Center for the Visual Arts,” says Dozier.

For 2018, LeMoynne Chain of Parks Art Festival is planning to collaborate with a few universities to get involved and help promote interest in the visual arts culture. The festival is also considering adding a non-standard category which may change yearly, allowing entries from artists who perhaps might not fit quite as well into typical media categories.

Dozier also notes that the local road construction, which affected the layout of the previous event, is expected to be completed prior to the 2018 show, allowing the festival to utilize several streets they had used in the past.

Rowse reiterates the attention and amenities the festival offers artists: “We have Starbucks coffee, free cookies donated from DoubleTree by Hilton Hotels, food for artists both days of the festival, a special area for artists to sit and relax, free water and coffee, booth sitters, and help with load-in and out.”

Rowse added that the volunteer turnout is tremendous. “It feels like the whole city is there working together,” she says. Artists also have the opportunity to win awards totaling \$10,000.

Although there is room for the festival to grow, Dozier says their goal is to remain small. “Artists tell us they prefer a smaller show. We strive for diversity in our art and to address the educational component of our festival that will continue to attract patrons from our area and beyond.”



## 2. Under the Oaks Fine Arts & Crafts Show

Vero Beach, Florida; Produced by the Vero Beach Art Club.

Skyrocketing to the top of the 2017 **Sunshine Artist 200 Best** in the Fine Art and Design Show category is Under the Oaks Fine Arts & Crafts Show. This year, the show placed second, moving up from the number 23 spot in 2016. In the preceding nine years, Under the Oaks made the *200 Best* list each year; however, their status remained stable in the middle to lower-third of the rankings.

The largest event and fundraiser for the Vero Beach Art Club, Under the Oaks Fine Arts & Crafts Show brings together over 220 juried artists from around the country. Over 80,000 visitors attend the show, which is located in beautiful Riverside Park. 2018 will mark the 67<sup>th</sup> year of the event. The application fee for this show is \$35, and booth fees start at \$330. Admission and parking are both free for all.

Unique to this show, in 2018 there will be a breakfast available for artists and patrons to learn and experience how the jurying process works. Tickets cost \$25 and include a continental breakfast and full lunch — space is limited.

Formed in 1936, the Vero Beach Art Club is an independent, nonprofit organization which serves the community through art education, exhibitions, social events, and monthly meetings. The club's mission is to foster appreciation of art and artistic growth, to extend cultural enrichment, to stress the importance of art in the world, to offer scholarships to art students, and to financially support art programs through schools.

## 3. MOCA Boardwalk Art Show

Virginia Beach, Virginia; June. Produced by the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art.

Throughout the past ten years, the MOCA Boardwalk Art Show has remained relatively stable in the ranks of **Sunshine Artist's 200 Best** list of shows in the Fine Art and Design Show category. This year, the show made a significant jump to the number three spot, up from number 29 in 2016. In 2015 the show placed 44<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup> in 2014, 35<sup>th</sup> in 2013, 34<sup>th</sup> in 2012, 43<sup>rd</sup> in 2011, 51<sup>st</sup> in 2010, 49<sup>th</sup> in 2009, 56<sup>th</sup> in 2008, and 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2007.



The popular East Coast show offers a generous awards package; in fact, the show has awarded out a whopping \$7,500 prize for Best In Show for the past several years.

To enter, there is a \$45 application fee, a \$50 jury fee, and, and a \$50 late application fee (where applicable). A 10'x10' space will set an artist back \$440 and \$895 for a double booth.

Attendance to the show is convincing that the show is a top local summertime attraction — 300,000 visitors

come through the gates, according to the 2014 Virginia Beach Convention Center and Visitor Bureau Economic Analysis Report.

2018 will mark the show's 63<sup>rd</sup> year; the event takes place on Virginia Beach's Historic Boardwalk and admission is free. MOCA's annual Boardwalk Art Show is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, which is a nonprofit institution which aims to foster awareness, exploration, and understanding of the significant art of our time.



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