

## Striving for Art Fair Excellence

The Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in Cedar Key, April 1 & 2, 2023

Have you ever wondered what makes a great Arts Festival? If so, just ask the folks in Cedar Key as their annual spring arts festival which has been recognized as one of the Top Small Town Art Fairs in America in previous years.

When you ask members of the festival committee at the Cedar Key Arts Center, coordinating sponsor for the event, you get a variety of tips that might just add up to why this festival has earned such a great reputation and is respected by artists and festival attendees alike.

### **Work to attract high quality and creative fine artists and artisans.**

Since the festival returned to a fine arts event in 2006 the goal has been to identify and attract top artists through a nation-wide application and jury process. Through this process all entries are reviewed by artist peers, scored and only the most qualified artists are invited to this relatively small show that strives to have a balance of disciplines.

### **Create an inviting atmosphere that encourages engagement between artists and visitors.**

One of the reasons the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts invites only 100 artists is so there is room for Artist Demonstrations (1-4 both afternoons) and space between booths for artists and patrons to interact. The smaller venue results in a relaxed environment compared to larger Florida art shows.

### **Be organized and have great volunteers.**

In this small town of about 800 residents, it is simply amazing how many volunteers and businesses work to make the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts one of the best. With answers to the question "What can we do to improve the festival?" like the one below on the post-event survey, you can see that this "village" knows what it's doing.

***"I can't think of anything. The show was very well run. Everyone - staff, volunteers, even the motel staff, cared about the show. It's refreshing to see so many people who are interested in not just the show but the artists. I loved the show and the town. Thank you!"***

The 2023 Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in Cedar Key will be Saturday, April 1 (10-5) and Sunday, April 2 (10-4). Prize winners are announced Saturday night at a special Artist Reception so consider coming on Sunday to see who won. Enjoy great food, prepared by local non-profit groups, live music and the popular Cedar Key Arts Center's Children's Art Booth in Beachfront City Park. The event is free. For more information go to [www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com](http://www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com). Questions contact: 352-543-5400 or [CedarKeyArtsFestival@gmail.com](mailto:CedarKeyArtsFestival@gmail.com).

\*The America's Best Art Fairs Awards are based on online voting by art fair patrons, collectors, organizers, and artists both regionally and nationally. It is the only national survey of art fairs and festivals designed to recognize achievement in art fair event production and promote the cultural importance of fine art events across America. Please visit

[http://www.artfaircalendar.com/art\\_fair/americas-best-art-fairs-the-top-50.html](http://www.artfaircalendar.com/art_fair/americas-best-art-fairs-the-top-50.html) or <http://www.BestArtFairs.com>.

Pictures (attached to email):

OFCA Logo ([www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com](http://www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com))

Child Artist

Street Shot

Sponsor Logo (attached to email):

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