

**PRESS RELEASE**

March 11, 2016

The Arts Council, Inc.

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**Event:** ArtsFest 2016 Winners for Literary Village Competition, Local & Emerging Artist Tent People’s Choice, and Judges Award for Exhibiting Artists

**When:** February 20 – 21, 2016

**Where:** Stuart, Florida

**Who:** The Arts Council of Martin County

**For Immediate Release, (March 11, 2016), Stuart, FL:** The Arts Council of Martin County announces the award recipients for ArtsFest 2016 at Memorial Park in Downtown Stuart on February 20 and 21, 2016 for the literary competition, the people’s choice and fine arts.

“The Arts Council was pleased to bring together within ArtsFest four artistic genres: literary, performing, culinary and visual. This year marked the first ever literary village and literary competition and we look forward to bringing it back in 2017,” stated Nancy K. Turrell, executive director of the Arts Council of Martin County. She continued, “ArtsFest’s strength lies in its ability to attract a wide-array of people through the diverse activities that are happening with the festival, including free hands-on kids activities and entertainment.”

Literary Village Competition Awards were selected in two categories: Short Story: 1st Place: W.W. Whitten, “Life after Death?”; 2nd Place: Greg Leatherman, “The Blue Fox”; and 3rd Place: Christina Li Roberts, “A Good Day” and in Poetry: 1st Place: Christie Page,

“Haute Couture”; 2nd Place: Marcia Vojcsik, “Denny's Aubade”; 3rd Place: Christie Page, “Let Me In.”

During the ArtsFest, attendees had the chance to vote for their favorite artist from the 20 in the Local & Emerging Artist Tent. The 2016 People’s Choice Award was given to painter Meagan Puett.

Three judges canvassed the 100 plus fine artists to select awards the Fine Arts Awards for ArtsFest 2016. Awards are selected by category of artist medium with an overall best of show and awards of merit.

Best of Show: Andrea Olson (jewelry)

1st Place (by medium): Anne Wooster (drawing/graphics); Keith Martin-Johns (painting); Nancy Moreland (photography); Jim Dirks (glass/ceramics); Veronica & David Bennet (mixed media); Mark Orr (sculpture); Jeffrey Nelson (wood); Erh Ping Tsai (jewelry)

2nd Place (by medium): Mimi Damrauer (mixed media); Rick Austin (jewelry)

Awards of Merit: Patricia Astudillo (mixed media); Chris Kling (painting); Paul Shatz (photography); John Krieger (sculpture); Mike Williams (drawing / graphics); Stephen Koury (painting).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CHOPPED competition title was awarded to Ron Kerr, Bite Catering & Kitchen by a panel of culinary judges that included the 2015 CHOPPED competition winner, Eric Grutka, Ian’s Tropic Grill and local luminaries, Mike Terrio and Gil Smart.

ArtsFest engages hundreds of artists in the four genres of culinary, visual, performing and literary arts to exemplify the Council’s mission of engaging people in the arts and helping them to find their passion for the arts. The revenue raised at ArtsFest support the on-going programs of the Arts Council including arts information activities, arts

education programs for youth and support for artists and arts organizations. ArtsFest 2016 would not have been possible without the support from all of the wonderful volunteers and generous sponsors.

The Arts Council is the designated local arts agency for Martin County. The Arts Council provides services to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students and the public and strives to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. For more information, please call 772-287-6676 or visit [www.martinarts.org](http://www.martinarts.org).

*The Arts Council is sponsored in part by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, the City of Stuart, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, and private contributions.*

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