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ArtsFest 2024: A Festival of Art, Music, Poetry and Food Comes to Stuart on February 10 and 11

Art, crafts, music, poetry, student art, chalk murals, and the Stuart CHOPPED! Competition all await visitors to ArtsFest 2024 on February 10 and 11 in downtown Stuart.

"We're back to full strength," said Nancy Turrell, Executive Director of MartinArts, the sponsor of the festival. "We have more than a hundred artists who will be exhibiting their works in Memorial Park and along East Ocean Boulevard, and two days of exciting events in the park itself."

The Martin CHOPPED! Competition, with local chefs competing in a fiery kitchen showdown, takes place on Saturday afternoon at 11AM and 1PM. On Sunday, Stella B, well known "Slam Poetry artist," will oversee a battle of 12 spoken word poets at 11AM and again at 1PM. Art from local students, music from local and regional performers, and chalk art murals created on site will keep the "Fest" in ArtsFest.

As always, fine art, photography, ceramics, and jewelry will dazzle and engage the crowds each day from 10AM through 5PM. Admission is only \$5 each day, with 18 and under free. There will be food trucks available to spice up the visit.

"This is one of the largest arts festival in the region," Turrell said, "and we're proud that it was named one of the top 20 events not to be missed from across the entire Southeast United States."

Even before ArtsFest begins, there will be the traditional scavenger hunt for glass turtles. Palm City-based glass artist Dot Galfond of License to Kiln was commissioned to create 50 signed and numbered glass sea turtles: 40 in turquoise blue and 10 in gold. These limited-edition sculptures will be hidden in various spots throughout Memorial Park during the two-day ArtsFest event.

Attendees who find one of the 40 turquoise blue sea turtles can bring their keepsake home as a special souvenir. Those who find one of the 10 gold sea turtles will receive upgraded VIP ArtsFest tickets (including perks like priority seating and free soft drinks) and can also claim a special prize at the Explore Natural Martin tent during the event.

Admission to ArtsFest helps to support MartinArts and the educational and community events MartinArts sponsors and promotes throughout the year.

For more information and a complete schedule of events or to volunteer to help during ArtsFest, go to ArtsFestStuart.org.