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Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Opens Call for Artists for 40th Anniversary Event
Artists Nationwide Invited to Apply to Showcase Art During the 2010 Festival on March 6 – 7

TAMPA, Fla. (July 1, 2009) — The Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is officially calling all artists to apply for exhibition in the annual festival, which returns to downtown Tampa on March 6 – 7, 2010. Celebrating its 40th year as one of the top-rated outdoor fine art and fine craft shows in the country, the festival will select approximately 300 artists to participate in the prestigious juried show.

The Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts allows selected artists to showcase their works to more than 250,000 art enthusiasts and offers cash awards totaling \$75,000. Selected artists from across the nation and internationally will compete for the top accolade, the \$15,000 *Raymond James Best of Show Award*.

All interested artists are required to submit four images and an application through www.zapplication.org by September 30, 2009. Entry categories include ceramic, mixed media, digital, drawing, painting, fiber, photography, sculpture, glass, watercolor, jewelry and wood. Artists are encouraged to apply for multiple medium categories for different bodies of work; however, a separate application must be submitted for each category, including its own set of images and jury fee.

Applications will be pre-juried by three jurors of regional or national prominence for acceptance into the Festival. Following this process, a juror of national prominence will jury accepted work Saturday, March 6, beginning at 9 a.m. The chosen artists enjoy an artist's welcome dinner, hospitality center, light meals and refreshments, booth-sitting services and near-site parking.

In order to submit an application, a non-refundable administrative fee of \$40 must accompany the application. If an artist is accepted into the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, a \$275 exhibition fee applies. Artists submitting an application should read the complete list of festival rules as failure to follow these rules may disqualify artists for awards and admission to future shows. For more information or to submit an application, visit www.gasparilla-arts.com.

The Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation dedicated to producing an annual, premier juried outdoor art festival for the enjoyment and education of patrons, artists and guests as well as for the enhancement of the Tampa Bay area's cultural arts. The non-profit organization relies on support from sponsorships, on-site retail sales and corporate and individual gifts to fund its programs and events. The Tampa-based organization is staffed entirely by volunteers. For more information, visit www.gasparilla-arts.com, send email to gasparillaarts@yahoo.com or call (813) 876-1747.

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