



## ***40<sup>th</sup> Annual Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Extends Deadline for Artists To Apply for 2010 Event***

**TAMPA, FL (Sept. 29, 2009)** — One of the top-rated outdoor fine art and craft shows in the country, the Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts has extended the application deadline for artists interested in participating in the 2010 event that will be held in downtown Tampa March 6 – 7.

The Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is considered one of the premier arts events in the Tampa Bay area and ranks among the leading juried arts festivals nationwide that feature both fine arts and fine crafts. The award money awarded to artists has been increased to an all-time high for the 2010 event, with awards totaling \$75,000 in cash prizes plus a generous purchase award program. Throughout its history, the Gasparilla Festival has been able to attract top artists from around the world. Many of the artists invited to attend are award winners and have works that have been added to the permanent collections of major museums.

The deadline to apply has been extended to midnight Oct. 7, 2009. Artists may find further information at <http://www.gasparilla-arts.com/applications.htm> or apply directly through Zapplication at <https://www.zapplication.org/index.php>. For more information, email inquiries to [gasparillaarts@yahoo.com](mailto:gasparillaarts@yahoo.com).

Each year a select number of accomplished artists and rising stars from around the globe are chosen to participate in this celebrated show. Artists vie for what is considered among the country's leading cash awards, including the coveted \$15,000 *Raymond James Best of Show Award* and an additional \$60,000 in award money.

This year the Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts surpassed many of the country's largest and most successful fine art and fine craft events to rank among the Top 25 events of its kind in the US, according to a leading arts source, Sunshine Artist, "America's Premier Art and Craft Show Magazine."



Approximately 300 national and international award-winning, acclaimed artists, typically chosen from more than 1,000 applicants, will exhibit their original works throughout Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park in downtown Tampa. Estimated crowds of more than 250,000 art enthusiasts of all ages enjoy world class art, free musical entertainment, special exhibits featuring new and emerging artists and more throughout the weekend. Representing more than 11 different media, participating artists enjoy amenities that include an artist's welcome dinner, hospitality center, light meals and refreshments, booth-sitting services and near-site parking.

On Saturday, March 6, a nationally respected juror with experience in a variety of media will review the displayed artwork and make final decisions prior to the awards ceremony held that same day.

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*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](http://www.gasparilla-arts.com) or call (813) 876-1747.*