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**Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts
Celebrates 40 years of Fine Arts and Crafts with Guest Juror Jack Becker**
Executive Director of Art Museum to Jury Tampa Festival on March 6th & 7th, 2010

TAMPA (January 20, 2010) - Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts has named Jack Becker, Executive Director of Joslyn Art Museum (Omaha, NE) beginning in April, as the juror for its 40th anniversary festival. Held on March 6th and 7th, 2010 in downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts' participating artists compete in a prominent juried show for more than \$75,000 in cash awards, including the \$15,000 *Raymond James Best in Show Award*.

Joslyn Art Museum is a major regional resource for collection, preservation and interpretation of the visual arts. The Museum maintains a collection of art historical significance, ranging from antiquity to the present, with special emphasis on the 19th- and 20th- century European and American Art.

The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. In 1994, the Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavillion was built, a 58,000-square-foot addition to the Museum. The addition was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, and his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000 seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, library, café and shop.

Prior to Joslyn Art Museum, Becker was the president and CEO of the Museum of Art at Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art (Nashville, Tenn.). Housing nearly 8,000 objects, Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art has strengths in American art, works on paper, photographs and decorative arts. Under Becker's leadership, the Museum has completed more than \$2 million in renovations, established \$25,000 annual giving recognition and added works totaling over \$3 million to the collection.

Prior to Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art, Becker served as curator of the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, Conn., known as the center of America's best known Impressionist art colony. Becker launched a successful \$16 million campaign for collection and facilities expansion of the Florence Griswold Museum. In addition, he aided in effort to reinstall and reinterpret the Florence Griswold house, a National historic landmark.

With a significant background in the arts, he has worked at the National Gallery of Art, Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Whitney Museum of American Art. He also completed fellowships from the National Gallery of Art, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution. Becker earned his Bachelor's in Art History at Carleton College, Masters of Art History and Ph.D. in American Art at the University of Delaware.

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, email gasparillaarts@yahoo.com or call (813) 876-1747.

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