

The Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in Cedar Key, March 30 & 31, 2019



Have you ever wondered what makes a great Arts Festival? If so, just ask the folks in Cedar Key as their annual Spring Arts Festival was just ranked in the Top 10 Juried Art Fairs in America for the third year in a row in Art Fair Calendar's annual Survey\*. In addition, this art event was recognized as #2 on the list of Favorite Small Town Art Shows.

When you ask members of the festival committee at the Cedar Key Arts Center, coordinating sponsor for the event, you get a variety of tips that might just add up to why this festival has earned such a great reputation and is respected by artists and festival attendees alike.

#1. Work to attract high quality and creative fine artists and artisans. Since the festival returned to a fine arts event in 2006 the goal has been to identify and attract top artists through a nation-wide application and jury process. Through this process all entries are reviewed by artist peers, scored and only the most qualified artists are invited to this relatively small show that strives to have a balance of disciplines.

#2. Create an inviting atmosphere that encourages engagement between artists and visitors. One of the reasons the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts invites only 120 artists is so there is room for Artist Demonstrations and space between booths for artists and patrons to interact. The smaller venue results in a relaxed environment compared to larger Florida art shows.

#3. Be organized and have great volunteers. In this small town of about 800 residents, it is simply amazing how many volunteers and businesses work to make the Spring Arts Festival one of the best. With answers to the question "What can we do to improve the festival?" like the one below on the post-event survey, you can see that this "village" knows what is doing.

***"I can't think of anything. The show was very well run. Everyone - staff, volunteers, even the motel staff, cared about the show. It's refreshing to see so many people who are interested in not just the show but the artists. I loved the show and the town. Thank you!"***

The 2019 Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in Cedar Key will be Saturday, March 30 (10-5) and Sunday, March 31 (10-4). Demonstrations 1-4pm. Prize winners are announced Saturday night at a special Artist Reception so consider coming on Sunday to see who won. Enjoy Great Food, prepared by local non-profit groups, live music and the popular Cedar Key Arts Center's Children's Art Booth in Beachfront City Park. The event is free, family & pet friendly with smoking/vaping allowed only in designated areas. For more information go to [www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com](http://www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com). Questions contact: 352-543-5400 or [CedarKeyArtsFestival@gmail.com](mailto:CedarKeyArtsFestival@gmail.com).

\*The America's Best Art Fairs Awards are based on online voting by art fair patrons, collectors, organizers, and artists both regionally and nationally. It is the only national survey of art fairs and festivals designed to recognize achievement in art fair event production and promote the cultural importance of fine art events across America. Please visit [http://www.artfaircalendar.com/art\\_fair/americas-best-art-fairs-the-top-50.html](http://www.artfaircalendar.com/art_fair/americas-best-art-fairs-the-top-50.html) or <http://www.BestArtFairs.com> for the complete list of Best Art Fair Award winners for 2018.