



City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs • For Immediate Release

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City of Slidell's Third Annual Cultural Extravaganza Promises to be Biggest and Best Yet

Mayor Ben Morris will be the first to tell you, he's no artist. Ask Police Chief Freddy Drennan about his artistic skills and you're sure to get a chuckle. The same holds true for many of the local, state and federal elected officials, media personalities and community business leaders who are tapping into their inner artists for the City of Slidell's third annual Cultural Extravaganza. The event will be held Saturday, August 22, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Slidell Municipal Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Their works of art, fondly referred to as the city's "Super Bowls," are just one component of the evening, which promises to be both enlightening and entertaining. The event will also feature exhibits from local visual and performing arts organizations, original works by some of the area's most respected artists, live entertainment and an eight-course meal, with each course prepared by a different culinary "artist." A cash wine bar with engraved souvenir wine glasses will also be open.

While Cultural Extravaganza was originally created two years ago to generate awareness of the many facets of the cultural economy and the financial and intrinsic values it creates, it has since earned a reputation for being one of the hottest tickets in town.

If the opportunity to peruse the many works of art isn't enough to whet your appetite, the evening's menu surely will be: Palmetto's - Oysters Rockefeller Canapé; Sunrise Café - biscuits; Christiano's - Fire Roasted Tomato and Pine Nut salad; My Girlfriends' Kitchen - green bean casserole; Nathan's Restaurant - blackened shrimp over potato tasso hash; Holiday Inn/Café 372 - blackened chicken alfredo; Copeland's - chicken, shrimp and sausage jambalaya; Nick & Nate's - praline bread pudding; CC's Community House - iced tea and coffee.

Event culinary sponsors are Christiano's, Nathan's Restaurant, Café 372, Copeland's, Nick & Nate's Catering and CC's Community Coffee House.

This year there will also be an art auction with proceeds supporting the ongoing Outdoor Mural Gallery, a project spearheaded by the city's all-volunteer mural committee. Auction items will be the centerpiece bowls

painted by elected officials and community business leaders. Prior to the auction, the bowls will be on display as part of the grand opening exhibit in the new Slidell Cultural Center, on the first floor of City Hall, from August 7 to 21. The gallery's hours will be Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We think the Super Bowl exhibit is a fitting opening reception for the new gallery, as it brings together the arts community, legislators and community business leaders, who are all joining forces to show their support of the arts as a vital component of our community," says Kim Bergeron, Director of the Cultural and Public Affairs Department.

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$350 for a reserved table with premium seating for up to 10 people. Tickets can be purchased at the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, 1330 Bayou Lane, trailer 118 in the municipal trailer complex. Only 320 tickets are available, on a first come, first served basis. Given the popularity of last year's *Cultural Extravaganza*, a quick sellout is anticipated. Early purchase is recommended. For more information, please call the Department of Cultural and Public Affairs (985) 646-4375.

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