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## **Cedar Key Art Festival scheduled for April 17-18; Organizers adjust for safety**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 3, 2021 at 1:10 p.m.**

**CEDAR KEY** -- The people who organize Cedar Key's renowned Annual Fine Arts Festival plan to conduct it on April 17 and 18, and the 86 artists have been selected for the juried art show.

Four months from now, more or less the event known as the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts 2021 Festival will be different than the 2019 festival, and as everyone knows the 2020 art fest was cancelled.

The revisions promise a degree of safety. They result from best practices triggered by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

People booking rooms for the event, though, need to remember that if it is determined that it is unsafe at a local, state or national level to proceed with the event, cancellation will be announced on or before April 1.

The slogan for 2021 is "We're All in this Together -- MASK-UP BACK-UP WASH UP."

Following are some of the highlighted precautions and differences between this coming festival and past festivals, noted on the festival's website as of Jan. 3:

- 86 Fine Artists & Craftsmen (instead of 120)
  - Booths will be staggered, half facing North, half facing South along 3 blocks of Historic 2nd St eliminating "tunnel effect"
  - Generous space for one-way flow of foot traffic along the venue directed by signage
  - Booths facing each side will be a minimum of 12' apart.
- Some artist hospitality features put on hold this year
- For the safety of our artists and volunteers, booth sitters, set-up/take down helpers; artist breakfasts and Saturday night reception will not be part of the 2021 artist amenities.
  - BUT, we will have our Hospitality Center for Artists ONLY open and hope to come up with several other "no-touch" ways to make artists and visitors feel welcome.
  - Focused – COVID-Conscious Advertising
  - We will do what we can to draw visitors who are primarily focused on art from surrounding areas in Florida.
  - There will be fewer food options in the park.
  - Music, children's art activities, and pets will not be part of the festival this year.
  - AND we intend to clearly state our plan for a COVID-Safer event by including the Cedar Key School's slogan "Mask Up, Back Up, Wash Up" in promotions and signage.
- Judging/Prizes – Winning artists will have their ribbons & checks delivered to your booth. The Purchase Award Program for this year is still under discussion.