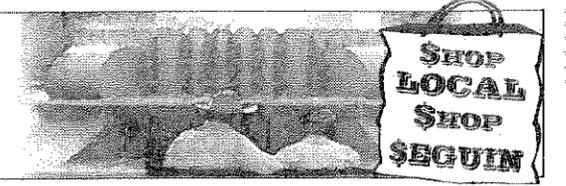


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SEGUIN



ArtsFest 2011 will bring music, theatre, dance and more

BY MARIAH KILBOURNE
Intern, Seguin Main Street Program

Seguin's arts community is preparing for a celebration and Seguinites of all ages are invited to attend. The weekend of March 25 - March 27 will be filled with art, music, theatre and dance as the Seguin Commission on the Arts host the first annual ArtsFest.

The event will showcase local artists, actors and musicians with more than 20 performances of dance, music and theatre, six art exhibits of painting, sculpture, film and photography and five hands-on participation events for children and adults. For a detailed schedule of events and their locations visit: www.seguinarts.com. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

"The arts are always an expression of the actual people who live there," Dr. John Masterson, Chair of the Seguin Commission on the Arts, said. "The art comes out of the artist. Good art, of course, resonates with all of us, but what's special about the art in Seguin is that it is of, by and

for Seguin. It comes from our collective community experience and I think is a great expression of our community."

The Seguin City Council established the Commission on the Arts in 2009. This event is a fulfillment of the group's purpose and goals.

"One of our goals is to identify and create spaces for art in Seguin," Masterson said. "Another goal is to support and promote the arts as they are now. Let's not hide the lights under a bushel. Not every artist has great marketing skills, so we'll help identify ways to bring visibility to all the wonderful artists and arts organizations in Seguin. The third goal is a little bit more nebulous, but we heard it pretty clearly for the artists. That is, we just need to raise community consciousness about the arts, about the role of the arts, about the importance of the arts. This last goal is a public education function."

The commission hopes that ArtsFest will enrich the lives of everyone in our community.

"In a word this will make

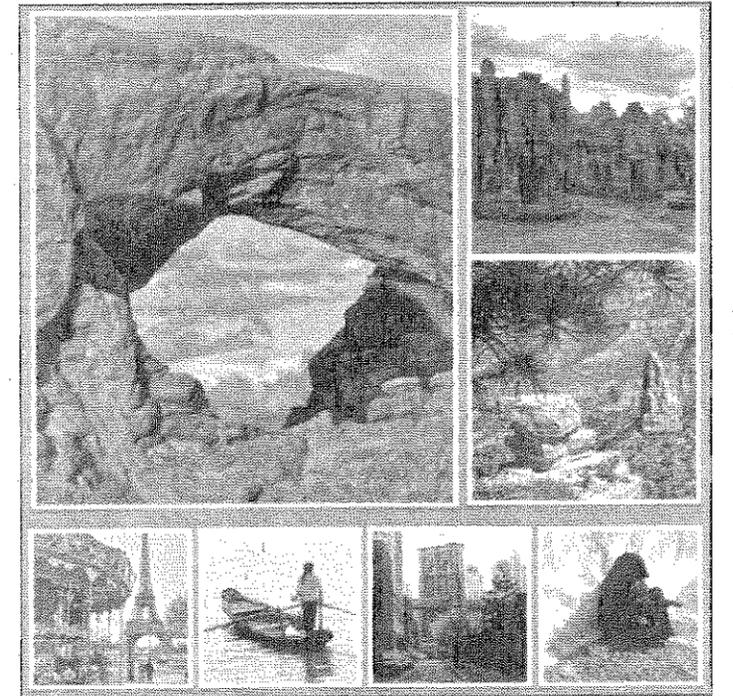
people happier," Masterson said. "The arts tend to do that. They are spiritually uplifting. When you are encountering the arts, you are leaving behind the troubles of day-to-day life. This is an artistic community. All we have to do is pull it together, bring some visibility to it and Seguin will take off as a destination for the arts and artists. Our community will be a more beautiful place, a more interesting place, a more vital place and an overall more enjoyable place. When you've got a vital arts community, you make a community much more attractive to the business world. So I think it makes us better all around."

The event will have many events that everyone can actively participate in and contribute to. For instance, children can create a large outdoor group painting with the Oakwood Art League in Central Park on March 26 at 9 a.m. Adults and children can also make a resin tapestry with members of the Seguin Sculptor's Guild at that time. The Seguin Public Library will hold Chills and Thrills: poetry with arts and crafts for children from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. At noon, there will be a children's Art Slam - speed painting to music - in St. Andrew's Fellowship Hall. At 1 p.m., Robin Bisha will offer a more meditative participation event called Compassionate Art at the King Rawn Center. These events and more will allow fun, hands-on experiences.

"It all needs to start with the children," Masterson said. You'll



Courtesy of Robin Bisha



Photos courtesy of Robert H. Gardner

Paintings by local artist Robin Bisha (left) and photography by Robert H. Gardner (above) are just a sampling of what will be on exhibit during ArtsFest 2011 at the Heritage Museum. Other events during the March 25-26 celebration of the arts include theatre, poetry, music, dance and more.

notice that there are a lot of opportunities for children. That's part of our arts awareness and education. So, whether they're learning sculpture or experiences with the Oakwood Art League, that is engaging them in hands-on experiences. Art should be for everyone - people of all ages, ethnicities, races. Everyone will be able to participate. We hope this will be a good showcase for the different forms and varieties of art and artists in our community."

The Seguin Commission on the

Arts is excited to bring this event to our community and hopes it will continue to grow in the future.

"The most rewarding part is yet to come," Masterson said. "I can't wait for that weekend when I see so many of the different artists performing, exhibiting and demonstrating. I think it is going to be a very exciting day and I'm going to feel very good that weekend. We're already working on the future. The public response and the response from the artists themselves will tell us where to

go next. I can see in the future the possibility of a major juried art show. Right now everyone is volunteering. No one is paying to participate and no one is being paid to participate. This is all a grassroots movement right now. Later on as it grows we may have to become more discerning and have some juries and so forth for the art."

For more information on ArtsFest and the Seguin Commission on the Arts call: 830-305-9103 or 830-303-0332 or visit: www.seguinarts.com.

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