

Vox Populi...



ELECTION RESULTS

(No...not that election...)

FAVORITE ART EVENT RESULTS

At the end of 2008, PAA sent an e-blast to all of our Cultural Arts Board organizations asking them to have their constituents email PAA with a 2-sentence maximum statement on what sparked their imagination or gave them a thrill when they attended any art event in 2008. They could only pick one.

38 arts supporters emailed PAA, some within the same email. The following statements are what were sent into us. Overwhelmingly, the arts event with the most votes from those who submitted was for Platform Florida (*now Platform Art*). 66% voted for Platform Art. (See photo from last year's event above.) Congratulations for extending the arts into so many people's lives.

Platform Art is now celebrating their 13th show of arts, which will be held March 21st at the Lakeland campus of PCC. The theme is "Eco-Vision." (Check out their ad in this issue on page 16.)

Honorable Mentions also go to Arts on the Park, Florida Dance Theatre, Imperial Symphony Orchestra and the Polk Museum of Art.

STATEMENTS:

- ✓ "Of course, I love the Platform Art events. There is something for everyone, and the night goes on and on. Music, theatre, art, dance, film... It's a creative representation of every discipline."
- ✓ "My vote is for Platform Art Party #12 at Sun n' Fun Museum....they did an awesome job of incorporating visual arts, film, fashion, sound and performance into a fun and interactive evening!"
- ✓ "Our favorite is Platform, FL."
- ✓ "Our favorite art event is absolutely PLATFORM! Second would be Arts on the Park openings."
- ✓ "Platform Art 2008-Most definitely the most inspiring, creative, personal Art event ever!!! Good luck for 2009 & the future!"
- ✓ "Platform Art - this was one great even for the people and the artists. Even though I did not win my mother came to my first show in 30 years."

✓ "Platform is my favorite art event that continues to overwhelm with the quality and diversity of art presented. The multimedia Platform event presents a pleasing palette for all of the senses."

✓ "I have to say that I thought the *Nutcracker* was the best event I've attended all year. It reaches a diverse cultural group as well as a diverse age group. I would love to see other theater programs for younger pre-teens in the Lakeland or Polk County area that are reasonable priced. I have taken my son to TBPAC for classes and would love for him to be able to do more locally. FDT does a great job with their events!"

✓ "I heard that you're taking a survey for favorite art event and I wanted to register my vote for Platform! It's always a little different and it's a great place to meet new people!"

✓ "Platform Art was the most diverse, creative and invigorating art forum in Polk County this past year. It attracts a very multi-generational audience - and that in itself makes for a much more vibrant experience...it is as if you are at a great private party!"

✓ "I would like to submit a vote for the Platform Art party that was held at the Sun and Fun museum as my favorite art / cultural event of 2008."

✓ "The Dallas Brass Concert held in Bartow at the old City Auditorium (BEA Auditorium) on March 18, 2008 that was arranged by Kent Kesler, band director at Union Academy."

✓ "I especially enjoyed being able to play in a pre-concert for this event as a member of the Slide Show Brass. (Guess who?)"

✓ "It was a tie for me between the Platform Florida event and the Florida Dance Theatre's *Nutcracker* performance Saturday night!"

✓ "My favorite of event over the past year in Polk County was the ISO Christmas program this December. Combining the talents of Florida Dance Theatre, Susan Holmes and Christina Sale was a wonderful idea and my family thoroughly enjoyed the show... This year's traditional *Nutcracker* performance was the best I have seen in 6 years. The costumes were beautiful and the dancing was fabulous - of course!"

✓ "Platform Art"

✓ "The First 'View & Review' Program at PMOA in September, 2008 was my favorite. Rocky Bridges critiqued local artists while others just came to gain a better understanding of the art."

✓ "*Karsh, Leonard, and Bagert: A Photographic Legacy* at the Polk Museum of Art. An outstanding and important photography exhibit and a very interesting compare and contrast environment from three age generations and experience."

✓ "*Karsh, Leonard, and Bagert: A Photographic Legacy & Robert Stackhouse: Swimmers & Floaters*. Both were excellent!"

✓ "Florida Dance Theatre is the best since they can enhance any event. Recently, they accompanied the Imperial Symphony Orchestra and my girlfriend said that the event was *sooooo* beautiful! She said that everyone enjoyed it and that it was so nice to watch the beautiful dancers perform while the musicians played. We are so lucky to have a PROFESSIONAL dance company in Lakeland! They should be appreciated and put on the roster at the Lakeland Civic Center every year for *Nutcracker* ... I think that FDT is a high caliber dance company and deserves more recognition! This town needs to support this wonderful company!!!"

✓ "I, for one, definitely vote for Platform as an exceptional art event this year! Lakeland is very lucky to have celebrations of this caliber."

✓ "I'm writing to give my vote to the Platform Art events as the most exciting and eclectic art events in our area. The diversity and quality of the elements in each Platform event surpasses by far the events hosted or presented in other local venues."

✓ My favorite art event this year was the Polk Museum of Art exhibition: *Karsh, Leonard, and Bagert: A Photographic Legacy*. I enjoyed the lectures by Leonard and Bagert and viewing their photography."

✓ "Hello, I enjoy attending art events in Polk County. I particularly appreciate the Art Platform series because it showcases our local talent. It also encourages the young people in our community to participate. This is so important to expand the interest of the arts in our community."

✓ "What is better than PMOA's Mayfaire-by-the-Lake?! (Nothing is better!)"

(continued on next page...)

- ✓ "My favorite art event this year was the Polk Museum of Art exhibition: *Karsh, Leonard, and Bagert: A Photographic Legacy*. I enjoyed the lectures by Leonard and Bagert and viewing their photography."
- ✓ "Platform Art is my favorite local arts-related event!"
- ✓ "I want to comment regarding the Florida Dance Theatre's awesome performance, *Nutcracker* at the Polk Theater last week. These dancers kept the attention of young and old, in this Christmas classic."
- ✓ "Florida Dance Theatre-I appreciate their hard work and diligence to bring the arts to Polk County, not only for our enjoyment but also to instruct. It is so beneficial to our young people to have a place to study dance that is true to the art. In addition to the performances, Carol Erkes does a top notch job directing, organizing and caring in the school. I am so glad I found this school for my granddaughters. Thank you and anticipating many more such performances."
- ✓ "Platform Florida is my favorite simply because they cover so many different expressions of art."
- ✓ "The Kwanzaa Celebration was Wonderful!! The performers were excellent, it was so refreshing to see children and young people engaged and involved in promoting awareness to such a significant component of African-American culture. It was truly a learning experience for me."
- ✓ "Platform Art is my favorite art event in Central Florida. The Connecting Flights art party was vibrant with new, young artists and the energy of the music and fashion show was exciting and engaging. This event is wonderful, because people don't go to the art; the art is brought to the people!"
- ✓ "Platform Art's events were my favorites in 2008 because of the diversity in those who attend and in the art forms presented. The energy that results from this mix is joyous and does Polk County proud."
- ✓ "I'd like to vote for Platform Florida."
- ✓ "Naturally, I'm voting for Platform Art as the best art events for 2008. The events are innovative and make art exciting and accessible to all strata's of the population - children, senior citizens, students, art novices and art aficionados. Ann M. Wilson-Executive Director-Platform Art."
- ✓ "Platform Art is a wonderful mix of artists and artwork. The variety of interests and media elements represented makes it a fun, educational and inspiring event."
- ✓ "I must say, Platform Florida combines a variety of good art, entertainment, and music which becomes a truly satisfying evening of great fun and socializing. A perfect combination for the enjoyment of art and friends!"

Thank you to the following 38 Polk County Arts Supporters* who took the time to let us know what event and sponsoring arts organization they enjoyed the most in 2008!

They were: Marti Blackwell, Rocky Bridges, Steve Buck, Andy Crossfield, Margery Cunningham, Kimberley Trusty-Doughty, R. Scott Elliott, Cynthia Haffey, Terri Heacox, Crowe Horwath, Len Jordan, JustJulie1, Andrew Jurinka, Thomas Kelly, Georgia Keriazes, Latchiggy, Jacqueline F. Lagana, Diana Leavengood, Wendy A. Lee, Krystal Lockhart, Letty Miller, Tom Monaco, Kathy Nicklaus, Dawandolyn Norris, Terri D'Orsaneo, Lisa Parks, Tony Piekarski, Connie Prince, Jennifer E. Royal, Stefanie Schanz, Mary Ellen Schmitt, Rick Sgrillo, Tisha Shelden, Tiana Stevens, Eleanor Waller, Nancy J. Wiegel, Ann M. Wilson, Kate & Rick Young.

*NOTE: Some names were not provided, only internet 'handles.'
We also apologize for any misspellings on names. ✓



Special Recognition

Cultural Arts Board

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

2008-2009 Board of Directors -

Thank you for your service!

The Polk Arts Alliance would like to recognize and thank in advance all of the individuals who have committed to being a member of the Board of Directors in fiscal year 2009 for one (*and sometimes more*) of our CAB organizations and the Polk Arts Alliance. Without their time, attention and support; we would suffer as institutions. (EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a continuation of the listing posted in the spring issue.)

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Pick up the summer issue of *Art-i-facts* for more of the wonderful folks who make the arts in Polk County work!

Thank You!