



**Chain of Parks**  
**ART FESTIVAL**



*"Whispering Palm"* by John Davis

**LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival 2019**

**Media Kit**

## Press Release



### Chain of Parks

ART FESTIVAL

Produced by *LeMoyne Arts*

Presented by *Mad Dog Construction*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, April 22, 2019

#### Media Contacts:

**Kelly Dozier**

(850) 544-6399

[kelly@morethanbuildings.com](mailto:kelly@morethanbuildings.com)

## Chain of Parks Art Festival

*~Ranked among top 5 fine art festivals in the nation! ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** – Spring has sprung and the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival** will be in full bloom this year, held on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2019, at the Bloxham, Lewis and Randolph “Chain of Parks,” located in Downtown Tallahassee. The festival will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with an evening concert on Saturday night from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is the perfect way to enjoy the City’s spring weather and indulge in the experience of a premier fine art festival!

The parks are located along Park Avenue, east of North Monroe Street. Visitors can view and purchase unique works of art from 170 juried fine artists, while enjoying a weekend that features local heritage re-enactments, artistic creations, mouth-watering culinary creations, fanciful children’s art activities and delightful live entertainment. It will be a family-friendly fun time for all.

Nationally ranked as [the country’s #5 fine arts festival by Sunshine Artist Magazine™ \(August 2018\)](#), and the Southeast’s top ranked fine art festival, this year’s event will not disappoint, with plans underway to ensure the top ranking continues to be well deserved. Those who attend the festival will be able to view amazing, original, one-of-a-kind works of fine art while strolling under century-old trees in a charming Southern outdoor setting. Admission to the Chain of Parks Art Festival is free and open to the public.

“I am so very proud of the status that the Festival has attained, ranking in the top 100 fine art festival for four years and top 5 in the nation the last two years,” said Festival Chair, Kelly Dozier. “Every year, we get better and better, due in no small part to the work of many volunteers, staff and the very talented artists who participate. The impact to the City of Tallahassee is tremendous.”

A recent economic impact study shows that the 2018 festival resulted in approximately \$2.4 million of direct spending in the Tallahassee community.

**-MORE-**

## Chain of Parks Press Release

### Page 2

The 2019 cover artist is **John Davis**.

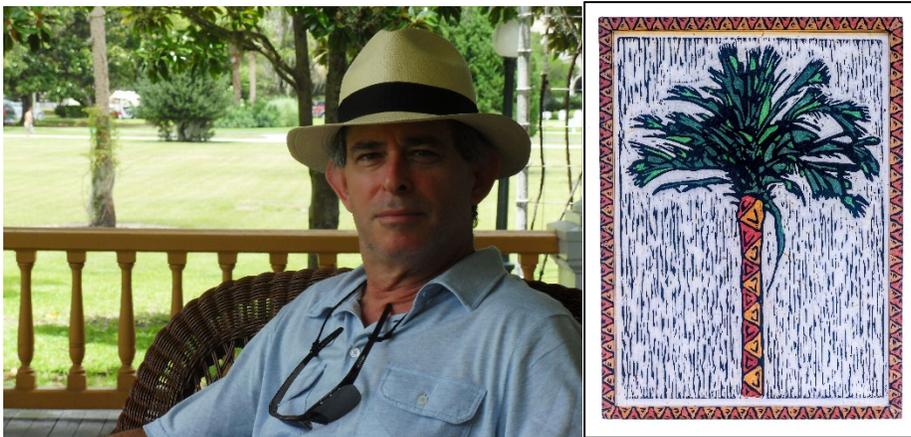
#### JOHN H. C. DAVIS, ARTIST

John earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus in printmaking from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA in 1986. Shortly after graduation, John moved to Florida and now lives in Pensacola where he is continually influenced by his coastal surroundings.

His work aims to capture the subtle designs of nature, using a range of printmaking techniques, which he has developed into his own graphic designs with clear lines and repetitive patterns. The color scheme of his work is heavily influenced by the brilliant colors of the home of his birth, Puerto Rico, and those of the Florida coast. Recently, he has included the use of traditional patterns observed during recent trips to the UK and Europe.

His preferred medium is a linoleum block print on handmade paper. Each piece is hand pulled and individually painted with acrylic paint. As a professional picture framer, John also builds picture frames with and embellishes borders specially designed to enhance each piece of art. As a new feature, he is providing mirrors with borders which incorporate the features of the original linoleum block prints and providing a utilitarian purpose.

John is constantly focused on producing new pieces of art. He is an award winning artist, frequently participating in festivals and on exhibit in select galleries throughout Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Georgia.



2019 Cover Artist John Davis and his cover art "Whispering Palm"

Other exciting news include a first time listing in the "Blue Chip 100" Fine Art Events by Art Fair Source Book. The Chain of Parks Art Festival debuts on this list, which measures sales of fine art in 2018 at #87.

The Saturday Evening Concert performance scheduled for April 27 at 5:00pm on the Main Stage will feature Tallahassee Nights Live! Fondly known as TNL, Tallahassee Nights Live is a touring live music production featuring some of the best sounds of Jazz, R & B, Soul, Pop, Latin, Country, Rock, HipHop, Dance, Expressed Spoken Word (Poetry) and Hilarious Comedy. The appeal is universal and TNL offers a diverse musical journey which leaves its audiences extremely satisfied after every show. Each of its performers are passionate and dedicated to giving its fans first-class entertainment. This performance is free and open to the public!

Through a continuing partnership with [Sustainable Tallahassee](#), the festival is proud to “Go Green” for the fourth year. Our focus is to reduce landfill waste and food waste and to educate the public about recycling and other sustainable practices.

On Saturday, judges will review the artists’ works in each media category and awards (totaling \$10,300) will be announced on Sunday morning. Winning artists will display their award ribbons and flags in their booths at the festival on Sunday.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the [LeMoyne Arts](#) educational and exhibition programs.

For more information on the 2019 Chain of Parks Art Festival, please visit the website [www.ChainofParks.com](http://www.ChainofParks.com).

Be sure to “Like” us on [Facebook](#), and “Follow” us on [Instagram](#) and Twitter [@ChainofParks](#).

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**Chain of Parks**  
**ART FESTIVAL**

# Story of Chain of Parks Art Festival

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*April 27 and 28, 2019*

Originally started in 2001, the Chain of Parks Art Festival was designed to offer our community an outdoor, fine art experience that was previously not found in the North Florida region. Prior to the establishment of the Festival, interested art enthusiasts would have to travel to South and Central Florida, or even farther to partake of festivals of this magnitude.

LeMoyne's Executive Director at the time, Mary Beth Foss, began the festival by working with a few local artists who were interested in having an opportunity to participate in an outdoor fine art festival in this region. The Festival took its name from the beautiful venue in which it was first held, the Downtown Tallahassee "Chain of Parks" along Park Avenue—where it continues to be held to this day—and started as a small festival of approximately 50 local and regional artists.

The Festival was not only designed to be a diverse fine art experience, but also to provide a vehicle by which the LeMoyne Arts could raise funds for its ongoing art exhibitions and art education programs. During the life of the Festival, it has grown into LeMoyne's primary fundraiser; in 2012, the Festival experienced a 50 percent increase in funds raised over the prior year, resulting in \$65,000 of financial support for LeMoyne's ongoing programs. The fundraising goal of the festival is to raise \$100,000 annually for LeMoyne.

After eight years of being planned and organized by LeMoyne staff with assistance from volunteers, the Festival was transitioned into a volunteer-driven event. Volunteer Chairs were appointed by the LeMoyne Board, and Charles and Cynthia Tunnicliff and Kelly Dozier began to take the Festival to new heights. They were able to bring more artists into the Festival and broaden its reach through enhanced marketing and personal outreach to travelling artists. The result has been a Festival that was ranked as the #1 fine art festival in the country by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*™ in 2017 and #5 in 2018.

In 2009, Sheri O. Sanderson joined the Festival Committee as the Event Manager and brought her exceptional event management skills and experience to the team. Sheri managed all the intricate behind the scenes dealings with the artists, the Tallahassee Police Department, City of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department, Alcohol and Beverage Licensing, equipment rentals, the Festival Program and other printed materials and much more.

Kelly S. Dozier has served as Festival Chair since 2009. Through visiting other art festivals and having a keen eye to new ideas, she has brought a number of new initiatives to the Festival. Because of her efforts, more interactive opportunities, as well as depth to the experience, have been added to the Festival. Some of those initiatives include: The Village—including Community Partners and Children's Art Programs; Jacques LeMoyne Living History Encampment; the "Greening" of the Festival; the "Be the Art" photo opportunities; and Pop-up Entertainment. Dozier also has served as Sponsor Chair since 2008, bringing in more than \$65,000 in sponsorships each year.

Due to the phenomenal growth and increased complexity of producing the festival, part-time staff was added to bring consistency and a professional approach to management of the festival. Sheri O. Sanderson, Artist Relations Manager manages all aspects of recruitment, communications and placement of artists and Vanessa Rowse, Festival Manager handles all aspects of logistics including grant writing, licensing, working with the City and non-artist vendors. Vanessa joins the festival after a career in IT, marketing and business management.

The festival continues to grow in quality and notoriety, and there is no sign that it will be slowing down any time soon!

**The Festival Mission:**

LeMoynes Chain of Parks Art Festival was established to present an outdoor festival of high-quality original artwork and entertainment for the enjoyment of our Tallahassee area residents and visitors, while fostering the careers and financial support of local and regional artists, and raising needed funds for the operation of LeMoynes Arts.



## 2019 Chain of Parks Art Festival Cover Artist

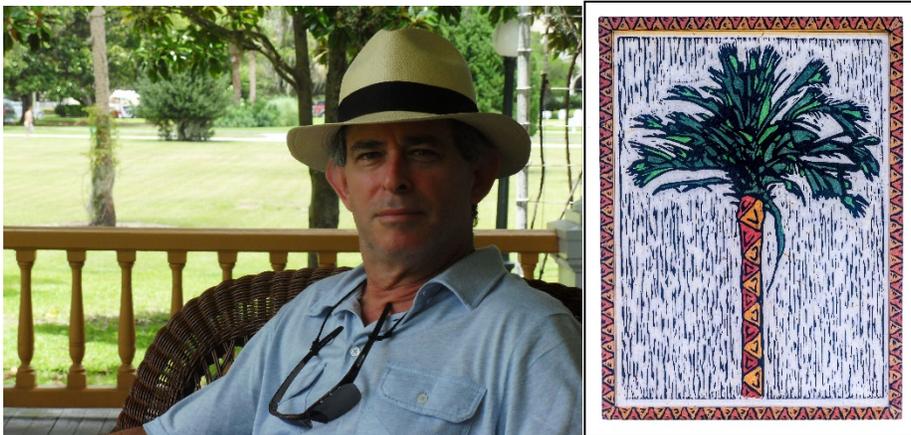
JOHN H. C. DAVIS, ARTIST

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2019 Cover Artist John Davis and his cover art "Whispering Palm"



## Chain of Parks ART FESTIVAL

Chain of Parks Art Festival | April 27-28, 2019

### Editorial Ideas

#### Media Contacts:

- **Kelly Dozier** | (850) 544-6399 | [kelly@morethanbuildings.com](mailto:kelly@morethanbuildings.com)

#### ***LeMoyne's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival and Cover Artist John Davis***

LeMoyne Arts has hosted the Chain of Parks Art Festival for the past 18 years. This art festival brings together more than 170 fine artists from around the country to Tallahassee and offers attendees the opportunity to purchase amazing one-of-a-kind fine art creations. Known as one of the city's most anticipated events during springtime, the Chain of Parks Art Festival brings a rich infusion of culture to the community. In addition, attendees can meet the festival's 2019 cover artist, John Davis. His work, "*Whispering Palm*," will grace the cover of the festival magazine and will be on a variety of festival souvenirs offered for purchase. Find out more about the exciting experiences planned by visiting the website <http://www.chainofparks.com>.

#### ***The Economic Impact Study Prepared on the Chain of Parks Art Festival***

The Chain of Parks Art Festival is nationally ranked in the Top 100 fine art and design festivals among thousands hosted every year across the country. This is due to the high-quality event and amazing sales of art during the festival. The Chain of Parks Art Festival has a significant positive impact on the local economy by bringing an influx of art lovers to Tallahassee where they spend, shop for art, food, lodging and much more!

A recent economic impact study shows that the 2018 festival brought \$2.4 million in direct spending into the local community.

#### ***Chain of Parks Art Festival Partners with Sustainable Tallahassee to "Go Green in 2019!"***

The festival is continuing our "Go Green" partnership with [Sustainable Tallahassee](#) focusing on reducing landfill and food waste while educating the public about recycling and other sustainable practices.

For more information about the Chain of Parks Art Festival, visit [www.chainofparks.com](http://www.chainofparks.com) or email [chainofparks@lemoyne.org](mailto:chainofparks@lemoyne.org).

You can also "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and Twitter [@ChainofParks](#).



**MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:**  
Friday, April 26, 2019

**Media Contacts:**

**Kelly Dozier**  
(850) 544-6399 or  
[kelly@morethanbuildings.com](mailto:kelly@morethanbuildings.com)

## **19th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival**

*Ranked top 5 Fine Art Festival in the nation!*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The LeMoyne’s 19th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2019. Visitors can view and purchase unique fine art creations from more than 170 artists from throughout the United States, while enjoying a weekend that features local heritage re-enactments, artistic creations, mouth-watering culinary creations, fanciful children’s art activities and delightful live entertainment.

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- WHO:** LeMoyne Arts
- WHAT:** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival
- WHEN:** Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2019  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27, 2019  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Concert, featuring **Saturday Nights Live**
- WHERE:** Downtown Chain of Parks,  
located along Park Avenue, east of Monroe Street
- PRICE:** **FREE**

For more information on the Chain of Parks Art Festival events, including photos from past festivals, please visit the website at [www.chainofparks.com](http://www.chainofparks.com).

Be sure to “Like” us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ChainofParks) and follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ChainofParks) and Twitter [@ChainofParks](https://twitter.com/ChainofParks).

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