



Chain of Parks

ART FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 13, 2025

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Chain of Parks Art Festival Marks 25th Celebration in 2025

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Celebrating 25 years, LeMoyne’s Chain of Parks Art Festival returns on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 & 27, 2025, in downtown Tallahassee’s “Chain of Parks”. LeMoyne’s nationally acclaimed Chain of Parks Art Festival will mark 25 years of excellence on April 26 and 27, 2025. This iconic annual event transforms downtown Tallahassee’s Chain of Parks into a vibrant outdoor gallery, celebrating fine art, live entertainment, and community spirit. Drawing over 35,000 attendees, it’s a highlight of the Southeast’s cultural calendar.

Since its inception in 2001, the Festival has provided art lovers with an unparalleled experience to view and purchase original works from over 150 nationally juried artists. The event also features professional 3-D street art, live music, children’s activities, historical reenactments, and culinary delights from local vendors.

“The Chain of Parks Art Festival has become a treasured tradition for Tallahassee,” said Festival Chair Kelly Dozier. “Its continued growth and national recognition are a testament to our community’s passion for art and culture, and the uniquely engaging cultural experiences that bring folks back to the Festival year after year.”

National Recognition

Consistently ranked among the Top 100 Fine Art Festivals by Sunshine Artist Magazine for the past decade, the Festival has been recognized as Florida’s #1 Fine Art and Design Festival multiple times. The team is especially proud of our top 10 rankings, notably #1 in 2017, #5 in 2018, #3 in 2019, top 10 in 2020-2021, #7 (#1 in Florida) in 2022 and #7 (#1 in Florida) again in 2024. This prestigious ranking reflects its dedication to showcasing world-class art and creating an unforgettable visitor experience.

Economic Impact

According to the Leon County Division of Tourism/Visit Tallahassee, the 2024 Festival generated an economic impact of over \$1.7 million. Participating artists collectively earned more than \$250,000, underscoring the event’s role in supporting the arts and the local economy.

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Cover Art and Artist: Stephen Koury, Title: Kestrels and Jessamine

This year's cover artist is painter Stephen Koury. A celebrated wildlife artist and Florida native, Stephen has been part of the annual Chain of Parks Art Festival since the beginning. His artwork invites viewers to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of nature through his masterful use of vivid colors and intricate textures. His unique medium, creamy gouache mixed with a clear acrylic binder creates luminous works that capture the essence of the flora and fauna he loves. Praised by U.S. Art Magazine as one of the world's finest contemporary wildlife artists, Stephen's pieces have been showcased globally, earning accolades from art institutions and collectors alike.

Kickoff Event

The art-filled long weekend will begin on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in partnership with FSU's Opening Nights with a presentation by the 25th annual Chain of Parks Art Festival Presenting Artist, Andra Douglas. A Florida State University alumna, Douglas will discuss her new art show, "Exit 65," at the Jim Moran Building in downtown Tallahassee starting at 6:30PM. This event is presented by the Laurie and Kelly Dozier Endowment for Opening Nights and Chain of Parks Art Festival Collaboration.

NEW Musical Performance Event

In partnership with Leon County and Scott Carswell, the Chain of Parks Art Festival is bringing an exciting new musical performance event to Tallahassee during the Festival weekend. On April 26, musical group WILCO with special guest WAXAHATCHEE will delight attendees at the Adderley Amphitheater at Cascades Park with an unforgettable night of music. Gates open at 7:00PM, with the show time starting at 8:00PM. Visit TheAdderleyAmphitheater.com for tickets and more information.

Join the Celebration

The 25th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival is free and open to all, open from 10AM-5PM on Saturday, April 26, and from 10AM-4PM on Sunday, April 27. This year's festival promises to delight with new partners adding to an immersive experience that will engage the senses – from sight, to sound, to touch, and to taste. This year's festival includes beloved features and adds new experiences that continue to elevate the participant and visitor experience.

The Festival is back with an exciting new pop-up public art exhibit and competition leading up to the festival weekend called "Art in Bloom"! To celebrate 25 years, up to 25 local and regional artists will create upcycled planter sculptures, to display throughout Downtown Tallahassee from March 25 – April 25, 2025. All sculptures will be transferred to the Festival for the exhibit conclusion and silent auction in our "Chalk Art Oasis" area, benefiting LeMoyne Arts.

The community will get to enjoy PROOF Brewing's new custom beer and can art by painter Beverly Hardy, which commemorates the Festival's 25th year. Visitors will also be able to view a special exhibit at LeMoyne's gallery, showcasing 25 years of Festival posters and original Cover Art.

New elements added this year will set the stage for the next 25 years! The long weekend of events will celebrate the history and traditions that patrons have come to know and love such as live local entertainment, the culinary arts, and kid-friendly interactive artistic and educational activities; by popular demand, the Retired Art Teachers of Tallahassee group returns to support the Children's Park. Visitors can expect to see enhancements and expansions in the fan-favorite Chalk Art Oasis and Community Corner zones, along with the Heritage Art Row which has become a permanent feature of the event.

Mark your calendars for April 26 and 27, 2025 and visit www.ChainofParks.com for more information. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

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2024 Fun Facts:

- Est. attendance over the weekend: 35K
- Est. collective sales for the participating artists: \$250,800
- \$10,400 prize money awarded to artists
- Overall Economic Impact = \$1,767,300
- Out-of-County Visitors = 4,133
- Visitors outside of Leon County spent \$1,077,600 in our community
- 78 unique volunteers and 23 volunteer committee members
- National Recognition: The Chain of Parks Art Festival continues to grow in quality and notoriety. Starting in 2015 the Festival has been recognized as one of the top 100 Fine Art Festivals in the nation by Sunshine Artist Magazine, and every year since. The team is especially proud of our top 10 rankings, notably #1 in 2017, #5 in 2018, #3 in 2019, top 10 in 2020-2021, #7 (#1 in Florida) in 2022 and #7 (#1 in Florida) again in 2024.