

RAYMOND JAMES




Gasparilla Festival of the Arts



# 2026 ARTIST INFORMATION

February 28 - March 1, 2026 | Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park | Downtown Tampa

#GFA56

 GasparillaArts

 @gasparillaarts

RAYMOND JAMES



## Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

Dear Artist:

The Festival Committee has assembled this information packet to help make your visit to the 56th Annual Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts more enjoyable. Included in this packet are the following:

- 2026 Festival site plan
- Directions to artist check-in/registration and parking
- Festival highlights and schedule
- The Showcase information
- Artist awards ceremony & happy hour information
- Art Collectors in Training (ACT) program information
- Festival rules, regulations, and judging process information

This year's Festival site will return to the beautiful Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, a stunning 25-acre park located just north of the University of Tampa and across the Hillsborough River from the David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts. Opened in May 2018, Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park provides additional space for festival activities and amenities, including more food and drink vendors, expanded musical and performing arts entertainment, shaded seating options, and larger playground areas. For artists, the park offers easier access for booth setup and breakdown, convenient parking, and more opportunities for double-booths.

In order to provide easy access and extra time for set-up, we will again offer the option to check-in on Thursday, February 26th, and we are providing staggered check-in times on both Thursday and Friday. Please see the sections pertaining to check-in and load-in for more information.

We encourage you to visit our website — [gasparillaarts.org](http://gasparillaarts.org) — for more information on this year's Festival and GFA's history. Additional information regarding Downtown Tampa, including an interactive map, is available at the Tampa Downtown Partnership's website: [www.tampasdowntown.com](http://www.tampasdowntown.com).

On behalf of the Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Committee and its Board of Directors, we look forward to working with you to make the 56th Annual Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts a successful event for artists and patrons.

With gratitude,

*Rebekah Lane*  
Festival Co-Chair

*Alyvia Jansen*  
Festival Co-Chair

*Scott Olson*  
Festival Co-Chair

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# SCHEDULE & HIGHLIGHTS

## THURSDAY, February 26, 2026

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Check-In & Load-In (see schedule – time will be assigned)  
 Artists must register at Artist Check-In at their assigned time.

Check-In Time Starts	Check in Time Ends	Load-In Time Slot
9:00 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
11:00 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
1:00 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## FRIDAY February 27, 2026

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Check-In & Load-In (see schedule – time will be assigned)  
 Artists must register at Artist Check-In at their assigned time.

Check-In Time Starts	Check in Time Ends	Load-In Time Slot
7:00 AM	7:45 AM	7:45 AM - 9:15 AM
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM - 11:30 AM
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM - 2:15 PM
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM - 3:30 PM
2:30 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
3:45 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

## SATURDAY, February 28, 2026

- 7:30 AM Artist Hospitality Opens
- 7:30–9:30 AM Continental Breakfast – Served at Artist Hospitality
- 9:00 AM Festival Opens
- 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM Jurying by Festival Award Juror, Tiffany Williams
- 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Lunch served at Artist Hospitality
- 2:00 PM Artist Hospitality closes
- 6:00 PM Festival closes - (Artists secure booths for overnight)
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Artist Happy Hour & Awards Presentation
- 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Art Awards Showcase at River Center (artist access with badge/lanyard)

## SUNDAY, March 1, 2026

- 8:30 AM Artist Hospitality Opens
- 8:30–9:30 AM Continental Breakfast, Served at Artist Hospitality
- 10:00 AM Festival Opens
- 9:00–11:00 AM Juried art pick-up at the Tampa River Center
- 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Lunch served at Artist Hospitality
- 2:00 PM Artist Hospitality closes
- 5:00 PM Festival closes
- 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM Booth breakdown and load-out

# FACT SHEET

RAYMOND JAMES



Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

The Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is a premier juried outdoor fine art and fine craft festival featuring more than 200 national and international artists.

## Officers of the Board of Directors:

**President:**  
Jeff Nader

**Vice President:**  
Alexis Mootoo

**Secretary:**  
Sabrina Pollard

**Treasurer:**  
Melissa Amish

**Past President:**  
John Scheffel

## Festival Co-Chairs:

Rebekah Lane

Alyvia Jansen

Scott Olson

<b>Dates:</b>	February 28 - March 1, 2026
<b>Location:</b>	Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park
<b>Admission:</b>	Free
<b>Estimated Attendance:</b>	75,000
<b>Selection Jurors:</b>	John Byrd, Michael Loren Diaz, Danny Olda, Noel Marie Smith
<b>Emerging Artist Selection Juror:</b>	Ry McCullough
<b>Award Juror:</b>	Katherine Brodbeck
<b>Major Festival Sponsors:</b>	Raymond James Financial; City of Tampa; Tampa Museum of Art; Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Gobioff Foundation, Amalie Oil Company, Community Foundation Tampa Bay
<b>Accepted Media:</b>	Ceramic, digital, drawing, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, watercolor and wood
<b>Artist Awards Party:</b>	The Artist Awards Party will be held at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, February 28, 2026 near the VIP tent
<b>Award Money:</b>	\$15,000 Raymond James Financial Best of Show Award 10,000 Board of Director's Award 6,500 GFA Founder's Award 5,000 Art Keeble Memorial Award of Merit 4,000 Roddy Brownlee Reed Award of Artistic Excellence 2,000 GFA Legacy Award in honor of Carol Gaynor 1,500 Ann Sklar Memorial Emerging Artists Award 1,300 Awards of Merit (30 awards of \$1,300 each) 3,000 Young Artists Expo Award (3 Students, \$1,000 each) 6,000 Young Artists Expo High School Representative Award (3 total, \$2,000 each)
	\$92,000 Award Money (39 awards), plus a generous Collectors Krewe program
<b>Entertainment:</b>	Local and regional performers and musicians
<b>Concessions:</b>	Food and beverages from regional vendors will be available for purchase at the Festival

# ARTIST REGISTRATION & LOAD-IN/LOAD-OUT INFORMATION

## CHECK-IN / REGISTRATION

Your booth assignment will include a designated Check-In Time and Load-In Time.

**You must arrive at Artist Check-In at your assigned Check-In Time.** Artist Check-In will be located near the Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park (map included in packet). You cannot access the Festival Site or set-up your booth until you check-in. At registration, you will receive a Check-In Packet with maps, parking passes, schedules and additional information pertinent to your arrival. Please plan your travel itinerary carefully. Weekday traffic in the Tampa Bay area and downtown Tampa can be unpredictable. Please allow for ample time to travel to the check-in site. If you miss your assigned Check-In Time, we reserve the right to release your spot in the Festival. **WHEN ARRIVING AT CHECK IN, STOP AT THE TENT BUT DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE.** One of our volunteers will be there to greet you and grab your information packet. After the volunteer has explained all the information you are receiving, you will drive forward to be queued by another volunteer. There, you will wait until it is time to head over to Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park. Our volunteers will call you out by booth number to be in a specific place in the caravan. Your caravan will have a police escort that will bring you to Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park and get you as close as possible to your tent to unload. On Thursday, you will be allotted 1hr, 45 minutes to unload and Friday, you will be allotted one hour. After unloading, you will follow directions on your load-in pass to the free off-site parking lot.

## LOAD-IN / SET-UP

When you check-in at your designated time, you will be placed in a caravan (approximately 30 artists at a time), which will be escorted from Artist Check-In to the Festival Site. You must load-in to the Festival Site at your assigned

Load-In Time. You will not be permitted to access the Festival Site with your vehicle prior to or after your designated Load-In Time. **YOUR ASSIGNED LOAD-IN TIME SLOT IS THE TIME ALLOTTED TO YOU TO ACCESS THE FESTIVAL SITE WITH YOUR VEHICLE, UNLOAD YOUR VEHICLE, AND REMOVE YOUR VEHICLE FROM THE FESTIVAL SITE.** You may continue to set-up your booth after your Load-In time slot has ended and your vehicle has been removed, but your booth must be setup by 9 am on Saturday. If you have a trailer, RV, or other large vehicle, be sure to specify the overall length of the vehicle and trailer when you complete your booth request. Small trailers may be permitted into the Festival Site, but large trailers and vehicles may be required to load in from N. Boulevard. Uniformed officers and festival volunteers will be providing assistance and directing traffic during the Load-In process.

Because your time in the park with direct access to your vehicle will be limited, we suggest that you plan to unload heavier items first and only begin to unpack and display your artwork when your entire vehicle is unloaded. To complete Load-In in a timely fashion and allow each artist adequate access to the Festival Site, the Load-In time slots will be strictly enforced. It is imperative that while setting up and breaking down that your load-in decal is visible at all times. The booth card you receive at Artist Check-In must be displayed at the front of your booth by 9 am on Saturday.

If at all possible, we will try to give double booths extra time for load-in on Friday. Please be patient and understanding if this isn't possible due to the next round of load-ins.

## OFF-SITE PARKING

The Off-Site Parking Lot is located a short walk north of the Festival site (see map in attached documentation). You may park your vehicle at the Off-Site Parking Lot or at any other legal parking spots in downtown Tampa. Do not park in the “bagged” metered parking spaces located on the adjacent streets surrounding the Festival Site and do not park in the parking lots at the park. This policy is strictly enforced, and violators will be towed at owner’s expense. You will receive a parking pass for the Off-Site Parking Lot when you pick up your registration packet at Artist Check-In. The parking pass must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle at all times. You will not be allowed access to the Festival Site or Off-Site Parking Lot unless your parking pass is properly displayed.

The City of Tampa requires proof of auto insurance for all vehicles accessing the Festival Site. By accepting your parking pass, you are also confirming that you have a valid auto insurance policy for your vehicle. If you do not have auto insurance, you will not be issued a parking pass.

There will be a shuttle service between off-site parking and the festival site. It will run continuously during the following hours:

- Thursday, February 26 - 12pm to 6pm
- Friday, February 27 - 7am to 7pm
- Saturday, February 28 - 7am to 9:30am, 5pm to 7pm
- Sunday, March 1 - 7am to 10:30am, 4pm to 6pm

**CITY OF TAMPA DOES NOT ALLOW SLEEPING IN VEHICLES, AND THEREFORE NO RESTROOM FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE.** Overnight security will be on site Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and artists will not have access in or out between 10pm and 6am. This will be strictly enforced.

## MANDATORY & SUGGESTED TOOLS

Over the years, we have found that certain tools and equipment are useful to artists during

**NO CAMPING IS ALLOWED IN ARTIST PARKING. THOSE WHO VIOLATE THIS RULE WILL BE BANNED FROM THE FESTIVAL PER THE CITY OF TAMPA.**

the Festival. To be as prepared as possible for unexpected and inclement weather conditions, we strongly suggest you bring: duct tape; 50’ rope - 1/4” thick; small tool kit; flashlight; first aid kit; sunscreen and bug spray; hat and inclement weather gear (personal and for your artwork). **WEIGHTS TO SECURE YOUR BOOTH IN THE EVENT OF HIGH WINDS ARE MANDATORY. PER THE CITY OF TAMPA, STAKES CANNOT BE USED TO SECURE YOUR BOOTH.** Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is NOT responsible for furnishing these materials.

## LOAD-OUT / BREAKDOWN

Please proceed with the breakdown of your booth after the Festival closes on Sunday. Once your booth is fully broken down and accessible with your vehicle, a Festival team member will allow you to proceed to artist parking to retrieve your vehicle and come back to the festival site.

No artists will be allowed to enter the festival site with their vehicle until all auxiliary vendors and tents have been broken down and have left for safety reasons.

There will be no "First Wave" passes this year.



## SECURITY

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts will provide volunteers and uniformed officers as a courtesy to assist artists throughout the Festival on a 24-hour basis beginning at 10:00 am Thursday, February 26 and ending at 9:00 pm on Sunday, March 2. In no event shall the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts or any of its representatives or volunteers be responsible for any theft or damage to your property. You should not leave valuable items unattended or in your booth overnight.

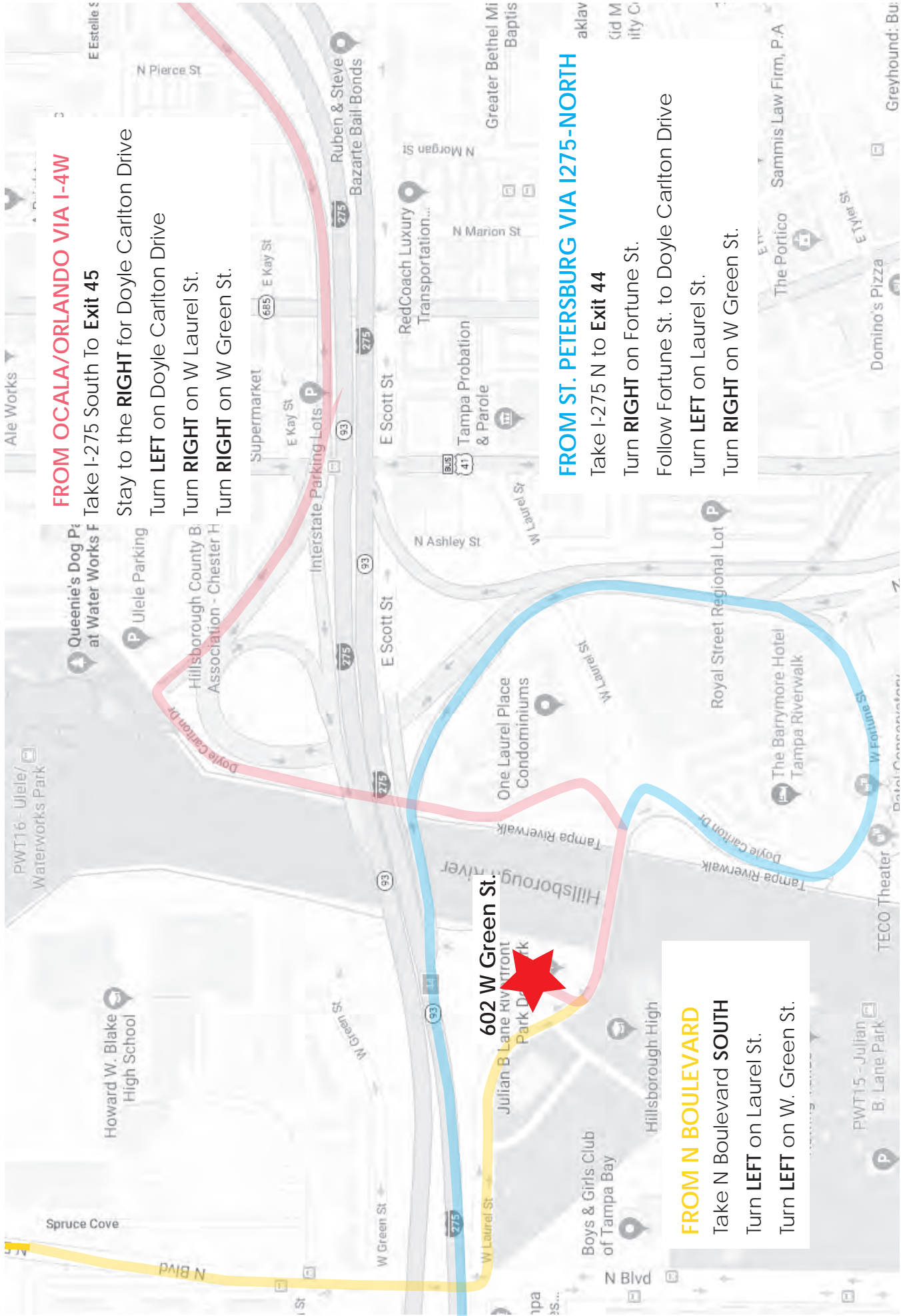
## INCLEMENT WEATHER

There is NO alternative site in the event of inclement weather. Please make certain that your booth can sustain unexpected and inclement weather conditions including rain and wind. Temperatures can also vary greatly. Please be prepared for either cold or very warm weather. In no event shall the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts or any of its representatives or volunteers be responsible for any refunds, damage to property, or lost sales occurring as a result of any weather conditions.

## INSURANCE & FLORIDA SALES TAX

The Festival does not provide liability or property insurance for artists. For your own protection, we strongly encourage you to carry such insurance. Hazardous substances used in or displayed as a part of an artist's work are strictly prohibited. Florida Sales Tax must be collected by the artist from the consumer for the sale of all artwork. Information may be obtained from the Florida Department of Revenue's local service center by calling (813) 744-6344. We cannot provide any information or advice regarding Florida Sales Tax. Be advised that the Florida Department of Revenue may require the Festival to provide a list of all attending artists.

# DIRECTIONS TO ARTIST CHECK-IN - 602 W. GREEN ST.



**FROM OCALA/ORLANDO VIA I-4W**

- Take I-275 South To **Exit 45**
- Stay to the **RIGHT** for Doyle Carlton Drive
- Turn **LEFT** on Doyle Carlton Drive
- Turn **RIGHT** on W Laurel St.
- Turn **RIGHT** on W Green St.

**FROM ST. PETERSBURG VIA I275-NORTH**

- Take I-275 N to **Exit 44**
- Turn **RIGHT** on Fortune St.
- Follow Fortune St. to Doyle Carlton Drive
- Turn **LEFT** on Laurel St.
- Turn **RIGHT** on W Green St.

**FROM N BOULEVARD**

- Take N Boulevard **SOUTH**
- Turn **LEFT** on Laurel St.
- Turn **LEFT** on W. Green St.

**602 W Green St.**



**FROM FESTIVAL SITE**

Turn **RIGHT** out of the parking lot onto **N. Boulevard**

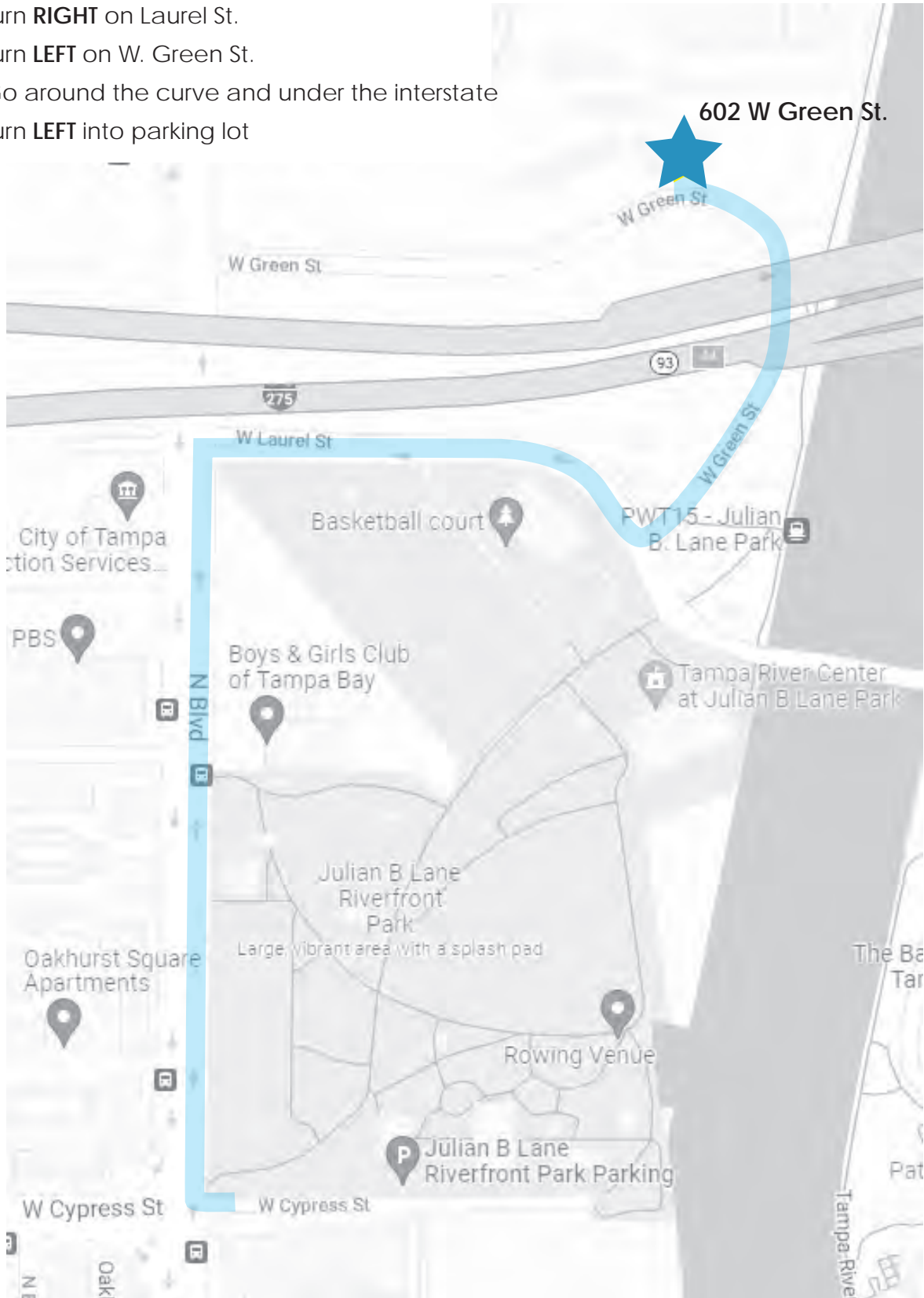
Turn **RIGHT** on Laurel St.

Turn **LEFT** on W. Green St.

Go around the curve and under the interstate

Turn **LEFT** into parking lot

**DIRECTIONS FROM FESTIVAL SITE TO PARKING**



TO TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART  
&  
WILLIAM F POE GARAGE

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER

TO BLAKE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
PUBLIC  
PARKING

WATER TAXI STOP



GREEN STREET

TAMPA RIVER CENTER

I-275

LAUREL STREET

LOT A  
NORTH  
PARKING LOT  
(SPONSORS  
AND ADA)

NORTH ENTRANCE  
CDC  
INTERACTIVE  
EXPERIENCE

SEATING

CHALK WALK  
TBECA

ARTIST VILLAGE

SEATING

LOT B  
SOUTH  
PARKING LOT  
(SPONSORS  
AND ADA)

TAMPA PREP  
ENTRANCE

SPLASH PAD/  
PLAY COVE

SOUTH ENTRANCE

AH

NORTH BOULEVARD

PARKING SHUTTLE  
STOP

RIDE SHARE  
STOP

ART PICK-UP

- AH Artist Hospitality
- F Food / Beverage Vendor
- LAS Local Artist Spotlight
- M GFA Merchandise
- V Volunteer Check-In
- info Info booth
- Artist Booth
- ⊕ First Aid
- 🎵 Music
- ♿ Restrooms

COMMUNITY OUTREACH VILLAGE:

- C Project Return
- ACT Art Collectors in Training
- 4 Arts4All Florida
- CA Children's Activities
- CT City of Tampa
- MT MacDonald Training Center
- P Pyramid, Inc.
- YAE Young Artists Expo
- T Tampa Museum of Art

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Gasparilla  
Festival  
of the Arts



NORTH



# FESTIVAL INFORMATION

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Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

## ARTIST HOSPITALITY

Artist Hospitality will be located on the Tampa Prep Campus, at the south of the festival site; on the other side of the accessible parking. Artist Hospitality will be the food service location with bathroom facilities only for artists. Credentials will be needed to access this area.

**NOTE:** Please remember to bring our own re-usable water bottle or cup

### Saturday Hours:

Open 7:30 am – 4 pm

Breakfast: 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Lunch: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

### Sunday Hours:

Open 8:30 am – 2 pm

Breakfast: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Lunch: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

*\*One free coffee per day is offered to artists on Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 10 am. Free coffee will be available after 10 am but artists will have to wait in line.*

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Booth-Sitting Services are available. Volunteers will also be circulating throughout the Festival Site to answer questions or assist the artists as needed.

Artist Hospitality service closes at 2pm on Sunday, but Tampa Prep will still be open for restroom access until 4pm.

## FIRST AID & EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

While we hope this will not be required, if you need medical or first aid attention, please go to the EMS tent located between the basketball court and the Boys & Girls Club. The tent will be staffed with City of Tampa EMS professionals.

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 or proceed to the nearest hospital, Tampa General. We wish you a happy stay and sound return.

### Tampa General Hospital

1 Tampa General Cir

Tampa, FL 33606

(813) 844-7000

Open 24 hours

Non-emergency contact information for Tampa Police Department  
411 N Franklin St.  
(813) 276-3200

# FESTIVAL RULES

RAYMOND JAMES



Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

## ELIGIBILITY AND ATTENDANCE

Artists participating in the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts (the “Festival”) must be 18 years of age or older as of the first day of the Festival. If a participating artist is required to sign any document prior to his or her 18th birthday, such document must be co-signed by a parent or guardian and ratified by the artist after he or she turns 18 years old.

To be eligible for jury and awards, all work must be original, created by the artist within the 3 years prior to the Festival, signed by the artist and available for sale with the price clearly visible. Any piece of art that has won an award at a previous Festival is ineligible for awards at any subsequent Festival.

An accepted application is a commitment to participate in the Festival, and refunds will not be issued for cancellations.

All artists, including both artists if accepted as partners, must exhibit and be present during the complete Festival, from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Sunday. Artists who fail to follow this rule will be ineligible for prizes and may be denied admission to future Festivals.

Only accepted artists may exhibit works within their assigned booths. Subletting booth space is prohibited. Artists can apply for double booths with fees adjusted accordingly. Artists can apply and display up to two media within a double booth space if the artist has applied and been accepted in both mediums. Artists shall only exhibit works typified by the images submitted with their application. Only one medium category may be exhibited in a booth.

Any artist who has been accepted in the “Emerging Artist” category may not, in subsequent years, apply to the Festival as an emerging artist.

## DISPLAY AND SALE OF WORK

Artists shall not display or sell manufactured or kit jewelry, ceramics cast from commercial

molds, glass created from commercial molds, art supplies, commercial displays, decoupage, or candles. Artists shall not display or sell non-original commercially reproduced items such as posters, greeting cards, postcards, calendars, t-shirts, or buttons. Works of art that have won any award at the Festival shall not be prominently exhibited in the artist’s booth at any subsequent Festival while the juror is reviewing the booth. Such artwork may be kept in a portfolio, bin, or other non-prominent location.

Only the works of accepted artists may be displayed or sold at the Festival. “Sale” signs are prohibited. Ribbons and awards from other art shows or other festivals may not be displayed.

All artwork shall be displayed in its final form. Artists shall not engage in painting, drawing, or any other production of artwork or revisions to artwork during Festival hours.

All exhibited artwork must be available for sale. Prices for all exhibited artwork must be clearly noted on or beside each piece. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the prices for jewelry may be noted on a price list which is displayed and readily available for viewing by all patrons.

## BOOTH DISPLAY

Regular booth spaces measure approximately 10’ deep x 10’ wide and double booth spaces measure approximately 10’ deep x 20’ wide. All booth spaces will be marked by Festival personnel before artists are permitted to set up their booths. All artwork must be contained within the assigned space.

All displays should be wind-resistant and able to withstand large crowds. **Water-resistant coverings and weights are required by the city.** These items will not be supplied by the Festival. Artwork may not be affixed to or leaned against any tree, pole, or other fixture within the Festival grounds. Stakes, or any tools or displays that penetrates the ground is prohibited.

Sharing of booth space is prohibited. Only one exhibitor will be permitted in each space unless artists applied and were accepted as partners



on collaborative work. Each artist must exhibit a minimum of five works to be eligible for jury. To be eligible for jury, the name of the artist and the booth number (provided at check-in) must be displayed clearly in the artist's booth.

All paintings must be framed or mounted. Unframed or uncounted watercolors, drawings, and graphics must be displayed in a portfolio or a bin.

### CATEGORY-SPECIFIC RULES

Artwork (other than photography) that is printed using inkjet technology will be permitted only in the digital art category. Original, limited edition prints of digital art will be permitted and must be signed and numbered as part of an edition. Digital art refers to original artwork that is created on a computer.

Photographs must be signed and numbered and must be the artist's original image. Artists are encouraged to identify clearly whether a photographic print is produced digitally or through a traditional photographic process (silver print, Polaroid, dye-transfer, etc.).

Ceramic works must be handmade by the artist. If multiple pieces of the same design are displayed, each must be signed.

Jewelry must include components designed and hand-crafted by the artist using traditional methods of casting or fabrication/construction. No commercially manufactured elements, other than findings, are permitted. Items created solely through the stringing of beads and similar materials on wire, string, or cord, with no elements handmade by the artist, are not permitted. Wearable art, such as hats, purses, and other apparel that are designed and hand-made by the artist are eligible to be displayed and sold.

### DEFINITIONS

"Original artwork" shall refer to artwork that is one-of-a-kind. Artwork that is printed utilizing inkjet technology must be created on a computer

and then exhibited as first printed in order to qualify as an original artwork. Original artwork printed utilizing inkjet technology may be modified by other methods, such as traditional painting, and exhibited in the mixed media category.

"Original limited edition prints" shall refer to an image that originates as digital art, a photographic negative or a traditional printmaking technique (including, without exclusion, linoleum blocks, woodcuts, etching plates, stone lithograph, or serigraphs) when such image is executed in media worked by the artist himself/herself, printed in a limited edition, signed, and numbered.

"Reproduction" shall refer to original artwork that is digitally captured into a computer or photographed onto film and then printed as an inkjet print, photograph, offset lithograph, giclee, etc. The defining factor is that an original piece of artwork already exists prior to the printing – everything that follows is a reproduction.

Reproductions are not eligible for awards. All reproductions must be clearly and individually labeled as reproductions. No other terms, such as "print" or "offset lithograph" may be used.

Labels must say "reproduction." Reproductions must be in signed editions of no more than 750. Reproductions may not be framed and displayed alongside original work. Reproductions must be placed framed or unframed in a browsing bin separate from original work and clearly labeled "Reproductions." Reproductions must be an ancillary part of the artist's display.

"Hand colored" or painted reproductions are not permitted and may not be displayed or sold as original artwork. Giclees, or ink-jet prints of original artwork produced in another medium, are considered reproductions whether they are printed on canvas, paper, or any other surface.

For digital media, only one of each image is to be displayed on booth walls.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Conducting opportunity drawings, raffles, auctions or other games of chance is strictly prohibited.



## FESTIVAL RULES

Each artist is responsible for collecting Florida state sales tax on sales made during the Festival and remitting such taxes to the local office of the Florida Department of Revenue. Vehicles will only be permitted on Festival grounds during designated load-in and load-out times absent expressed permission from authorized Festival personnel. Artists must present a photo ID when delivering or picking-up any artwork that has been pulled by the juror. Artwork pulled by the juror and delivered by an artist may not be retrieved by the artist until the last day of the Festival, after the time designated by the jury room staff.

Penalties for failure to abide by these rules include immediate removal of artwork in violation of the rules, ejection from the Festival, and possible suspension from exhibiting in future Festivals. If an artist fails to disclose previous award-winning artwork in violation of these rules, all artwork from that artist may be deemed ineligible for jury and awards.

Any artist or artist assistant who engages in inappropriate, aggressive, abrasive, or illegal behavior or who violates these rules or any other Festival policy may be expelled or banned from the Festival and future Festivals. Any artist who applies for admission to the Festival after having been banned shall not be entitled to a refund of any application fee. Any artist who is inadvertently invited to participate in the Festival after having been banned may be asked to leave and shall not be entitled to a refund of any application or booth fee.

**NEITHER THE GASPARILLA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, INC., NOR ANY OF ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, SPONSORS, OR VOLUNTEERS SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOST, DAMAGED, OR STOLEN PROPERTY.**

# AWARDS & JUDGING INFORMATION

RAYMOND JAMES



Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

## FESTIVAL AWARDS JUROR

The Board of Directors is delighted to announce that Katherine Brodbeck, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, Columbus Museum of Art will serve as the Festival's Awards Juror for the 56th Annual Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts.

## AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS

The Festival Awards Juror will walk the festival first, visiting every artist booth and requesting that selected artwork be brought to the Jury Room for further consideration. The four Selection Jurors will each visit a quarter of the artist booths, and each will select up to eight pieces to be brought to the Jury Room for further consideration. (Note: Having artwork pulled for further consideration does not guarantee that the piece will receive an award.) If the Festival Awards Juror has already requested a piece of an artist's work be brought to the Jury Room, the Selection Jurors will not pull any other artwork from that artist. This process will ensure that every artist is visited by two jurors, the Festival Awards Juror and a Selection Juror, and that no artist receives two awards.

Once all pulled artwork has been brought to the Jury Room, the Festival Awards Juror will review all pieces, including artwork pulled by the Selection Jurors, and will choose the top awards and ten Awards of Merit. The four Selection Jurors will review all unselected artwork, and each will select five pieces to receive the remaining Awards of Merit.

## EMERGING ARTIST PROGRAM

The Festival is proud to support an Emerging Artist program. As mentors and role models to these up-and-coming artists, please take some time to visit the Emerging Artist area and interact with these bright, enthusiastic individuals. We hope this interaction will be a positive experience for everyone.

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

You are invited to join your fellow artists for the Artist Awards Ceremony and Showcase on Saturday evening, starting at 6:00 pm. Toast the Festival's first day success, share stories, wind down, and relax. The awards presentation will begin at approximately 6:30 pm. Heavy appetizers will be provided, together with beer, wine, soda, and water.

You and your guests are also invited to the River Center to see the Showcase of award-winning artwork between 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm. Present your badge/lanyard for entry.

RAYMOND JAMES



Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

## ART COLLECTORS IN TRAINING (ACT) PROGRAM

Dear Artist,

Congratulations for being selected to participate in this year's Festival! We invite you to be part of the 2026 56th Annual Gasparilla Festival of the arts Art Collectors in Training (ACT) program. With the support of last year's Festival artists, our 2025 ACT program was a huge success! More than 100 artists donated art to ACT and, with the support of our young art collectors, ACT raised funds for two local nonprofits that help children: The Spring of Tampa Bay and NOMADstudio.

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts encourages the appreciation of the arts in youth through the ACT program. Our primary focus is to develop and foster future art patrons and have some fun in the process! ACT provides a space for young people ages 6-14 to view and purchase art donated by artists participating in the Festival. Our tent is a "kids-only" art gallery and shopping zone in which most items can be purchased for \$5-\$10 and more valuable pieces are priced just slightly higher. All donated artwork is labeled with the artist's name and booth location so that each young art collector and their adult companion can have the opportunity to meet with the artist face to face.

The Festival is also dedicated to strengthening the foundation of the arts through youth in our community and providing outreach support to local nonprofit organizations. This year, all proceeds raised by ACT will support NOMADstudio and The Spring of Tampa Bay:

NOMADstudio's mission is "Art for ALL". NOMAD operates a mobile art studio known as the NOMAD Art Bus. The Art Bus is filled with art supplies and a crew of teaching artists who bring joyful creative experiences to group foster homes, halfway houses, domestic abuse shelters, and community programs for at-risk youth. The Art Bus also participates in community events and cultural celebrations and encourages the public to engage in a collaborative exercise of creative expression by painting the Art Bus.

The Spring of Tampa Bay provides housing and services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Its programs raise awareness to prevent domestic violence and help survivors rebuild their lives.

By encouraging kids to become art collectors, ACT provides our young patrons with an avenue for personal growth and an opportunity to connect with their community.

Please consider participating in the ACT program by donating a small piece of your work, valued at \$25 or less. Your donation can be a piece that isn't quite perfect enough to sell, or a special work of art made just for ACT. If you are interested in donating artwork to the ACT program, please contact us by emailing [GFA.art.collectors.in.training@gmail.com](mailto:GFA.art.collectors.in.training@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the 56th Gasparilla Festival of the Arts and hope you will support our efforts to foster future art collectors.

RAYMOND JAMES



Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

## THE COLLECTORS KREWE

The Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is proud to continue its long-standing purchase award program, now known as The Collectors Krewe, which is designed to promote the purchase of artwork from artists exhibiting at the Festival.

Each Collectors Krewe member will receive “Krewe Bucks” coupons. Krewe Bucks are issued by the Festival in \$50, \$100 and \$500 denominations. Collectors Krewe members can exchange their Krewe Bucks for artwork of equal or lesser value than the amount shown on the coupon. If a Collectors Krewe member wishes to use their Krewe Bucks to purchase your artwork, please accept the Krewe Bucks as a valid form of payment.

You should redeem the Krewe Bucks at the VIP tent located at the North end of the festival, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2026. If you are unable to redeem the Krewe Bucks at the Festival, please mail the Krewe Bucks to “GFA Collectors Krewe,” c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 10591, Tampa, FL 33679. The Festival will send you a reimbursement check. **ALL KREWE BUCKS MUST BE REDEEMED BY APRIL 30, 2026.**

The Collectors Krewe member may also present you with a Collectors Krewe Award Ribbon to display in your booth.

The total sale price of the artwork exchanged for Krewe Bucks must include any and all applicable sales tax. It is the artist’s responsibility to determine the amount of any applicable sales tax and to collect a sufficient combination of Krewe Bucks and/or other payment to cover the total sale amount, including sales tax.

Should you have any questions or comments about the program, please send an email to: [programs@gasparillaarts.org](mailto:programs@gasparillaarts.org).

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# ARTIST AWARDS SHOWCASE

6:00–7:30 PM

**AS THE DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE** and the crowds disperse, please come and join us at the VIP tent near the band shell for a toast to the success of the first day of the Festival. Take this opportunity to meet your fellow artists, exchange ideas and stories, recharge your batteries and enjoy some camaraderie over a glass of wine or beer.

**The Awards Ceremony will begin at approximately 6:30 pm.**

Following the Awards Ceremony, all artists and their guests may view the award-winning artwork at the Artist Awards Showcase in the River Center. Present your badge/lanyard for entry. The Showcase is the public's first opportunity to view and purchase the artwork.

**The Showcase will be open from 7:30 - 9:00 pm.**

**RAYMOND JAMES**



**Gasparilla  
Festival  
of the Arts**