



May 16, 2007

Mike Minozzi, Council Chair  
Marco Island City Council  
50 Bald Eagle Drive  
Marco Island, FL 34145

Dear Chairman Minozzi and Members of the City Council:

The Art League of Marco Island formally requests the closure of Winterberry Drive from Landmark to Peru for the Second Annual Celebration of Arts event scheduled to take place February 16 & 17, 2008 at the Art League of Marco Island. This is an area of Winterberry Drive that will not impact any residential properties. In addition there are easily accessible detour options to navigate around the closed portion. This request is identical to that approved for the successful 2007 celebration of arts & culture.

The Art League requests approval of the street closure to begin at 10am on Friday, February 15, 2008, to allow for set-up of participating vendors until 9pm Sunday, February 17, 2008 to allow for tear down and packing up by participating vendors.

The Art League of Marco Island, established in 1969, has been hosting outdoor art shows for 37 of its 38 years. A non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, the Art League membership, staff and volunteers are well trained in hosting professional outdoor shows. The dedication of the Art League to our community has been seen throughout its history in outreach programs such as Art Talks and the Miracle Project for elementary students, annual Scholarships and continuing scholarships for high school students, the development of an art education program for Home School Children, free demonstrations and exhibits, free weekly plein air painting sessions, and a multitude of educational opportunities for adults and children.

1010 Winterberry Drive · Marco Island, Florida 34145 · 239/394-4221 · Fax 239/394-7812

By allowing the closure of Winterberry Drive for a short, preplanned period of time, the Celebration of the Arts will provide a cultural event for the entire community encompassing many of the arts. Due to our experience in the arena, the Art League has the skill and plans in place to operate this fun and exciting event with the utmost professionalism that will add to the positive lifestyle of its residents.

The plan is for the Celebration of Arts to include:

- 38<sup>th</sup> Marco National Juried Fine Art and Craft Show
- Auto Show
- Children's Discovery Area
- Performing Arts
- Food and Drink

These combined activities take into consideration the population at large appealing to their interests as well as provide community awareness of their art center. To provide this type of diversity, the street closure is required. This will allow for approximately 98 artist booths, 18 autos, space for street performers as well as a stage area for performances, a children's discovery area consisting of up to five different arts activities, and of course a designated area for food and drink. In addition to the outdoor activities, acoustical entertainment will greet the visitors as they enter the facility where the Annual Children's Exhibit, featuring artworks by the students of Tommie Barfield Elementary School, and the Grand Tour Art Exhibit, featured in the Lauritzen/Rush Galleries, will be on display. Instructional art demonstrations will take place in the art studios and sculpting deck, and the Gift Shop of Original Arts & Crafts will be open.

It is the intent of the Celebration to continue with the involvement of service organizations and other cultural organizations on the Island to participate. The vision is to provide awareness of our community and to provide a cultural awareness of the arts to our community. We envision participation of the youth of our community in kicking off our event with a flag raising ceremony and band performances.

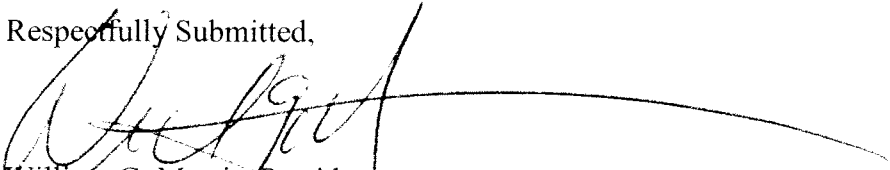
Our office staff and volunteers provide the following to ensure the show is coordinated for the benefits of all artists, patrons, and community.

- Professional Applications are direct mailed to all potential participants and available on our website.

- All applications are reviewed and juried by a panel of qualified representatives of the Art League to ensure top quality artists and work that falls within the stipulated categories. Applications include all rules and regulations and will stipulate maximum tent stake length and no driving on the grass area under any circumstances.
- The layout for the celebration is prepared by a staff of volunteers with years of experience to ensure public safety and adequate space for the varied activities. A map of the area is created for use in assigning booth spaces.
- The Art League contracts with the City of Marco Police department to provide traffic control for the public. A crew of experienced Art League volunteers manages and supervise the traffic control and parking for the vendors during set-up and tear down.
- The Art League contracts a security guard for the two evenings of the event, the Friday prior and Saturday.
- The Art League handles all communications with surrounding businesses and property owners to ensure that use of their property is available or to ensure no parking is permitted at a specific location.
- The Art League will contract all necessary vendors for facility needs such as portable restrooms and dumpsters.
- The Art League staffs a janitor to maintain the grounds during show hours and to ensure all property clean-up after the show ends.
- The Art League provides liability insurance for all properties that are utilized for the shows as well as all bonds (clean-up, performance, etc.) required by City.
- The Art League applies for all appropriate permitting required by the City of Marco Island and Collier County.

To aid you in envisioning the improvements we have made to our event, we have attached a proposed schematic of our vision. Please take into consideration that in addition to all that is outlined, closing the street will allow for safe access to the event by pedestrians. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your support of such a worthwhile event.

Respectfully Submitted,



William G. Morris, President  
Art League of Marco Island