



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## October Gallery Night Pensacola Event - Celebrating the Blues of Belmont DeVilliers

Featuring Jay Wilson, Gussie Streeter, Belmont All-Stars

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On Friday, October 19 from 5pm-9pm followed by an after pARTy starting at 9pm-midnight, Gallery Night Pensacola will celebrate the history of blues music in Pensacola with a “Blues of Belmont DeVilliers Celebration” themed event. Art, music, food, hands on activities and more surprises always await patrons at each month’s event. This month’s theme highlights creativity through music in the Belmont DeVilliers neighborhood. This intersections has incredibly rich and important history as related to being a hub of the blues community in Pensacola from the 1920’s though to the 1970’s. The neighborhood was an entertainment Mecca and a prominent stop for many of the biggest names in blues music in the 50s, 60s and 70s. Artists who performed in Pensacola included, Aretha Franklin, The O’Jays, James Brown, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Ray Charles, Etta James, B.B. King, Percy Sledge, Sam Cooke, and Ike & Tina Tuner, just to name a few. A dedication, a blues jam from local blues musicians, as well a special guests, are slated to enhance this month’s event.

Gallery Night Pensacola will also include the work of artist Jay Martin in the Featured Artist Tent, sponsored by Stevenson Klotz. Jay Martin is a Pensacola based artist who creates drawings and paintings inspired by people. As a youth he created enumerable drawings and explored the world from a visual perspective. Upon graduating from PSC with an Associate's of Arts, he moved to New York City where he studied with various artists in workshop settings. Some of the world renowned artists include Steven Assael, Hongnian Zhang, and Dan Thompson. He also worked as a painting assistant to Jeff Koons, who represented an antithetic perspective to artists he studied with.

Inspired by figurative artists past and present, he has continuously made an effort to visit museums both in the states and abroad. Fascinated by chiaroscuro and color, he's spent countless hours studying the works of the Old Masters.

While earning a Bachelors of Art from UWF, he continued painting and drawing the human form. Upon graduation he began residing at 309, a historic punk house in Pensacola where he developed documentary paintings of transient punk rockers who would stay at the house as a respite from traveling around the country on trains. His interest in documenting the world around him is still at the core of his work, spending countless hours drawing and painting from life.

Experimentation with new approaches and embracing traditional ones, Jay is an explorer of the uncharted worlds of the art frontier. But more than colors and materials, human life drives his work. His ultimate goal is to capture the experience of others, visually. He desires to create conversation and empathy.

Gallery Night events bring "Art To The Streets" with 30 fine artists, craftsman, five food trucks, and live music venues—including performance artists and guest musicians, like the Warrington Middle School band, who will be marching and playing blues tunes all along the streets of Downtown Pensacola. Artistic mediums to include glass, paint, woodworking, jewelry, and mixed media. In addition to arts and activities, downtown restaurants, galleries and shops will be open extended hours encouraging patrons to come and explore our award winning downtown.

Participating Downtown Pensacola merchants and businesses: Al Fresco, Badlands, Beef O' Brady's, Artel Gallery, Indigeaux, Blend Lounge, Blue Morning Gallery, Dog House Deli, CoWork @nnex, Urban Swinery, Hopjacks, Intermissions, Jackson's Steakhouse, Play, O'Riley's Irish Pub, One Palafox Place, Seville Quarter, Shux Oyster Bar, Jeweler's Trade Shop, The Tin Cow, V Paul's, Wild Greg's, World of

Beer, Jordan Valley Restaurant, Legal Graffiti sponsored by Zarzaur Law, P.A., Cigar Factory Pensacola, The Wine Bar, Casks and Flights Wine Tasting Room, and Nom Sushi Izakaya.

Gallery Night Pensacola is made possible by the following sponsors: Stevenson Klotz Law, Escape Wellness Spa, Emmanuel Sheppard and Condon, Regions Bank, McMahon and Hadder Insurance, Lewis Bear Company, Highpoint Hotel Corporation, Levin-Rinke Realty, Coca-Cola, Republic National Distributing Company, First Community Mortgage, YMCA of Northwest Florida, East Hill Medical Group, Spotless Logistics, Sports Clips, CoWork @nnex, The Sign Shop of Pensacola, DR Horton, and The Shoppes at Palafox Place.

For more information visit [gallerynightpensacola.org](http://gallerynightpensacola.org).

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#### **About Gallery Night Pensacola**

The mission of Gallery Night Pensacola is an engaging cultural event that takes the "Art to the Streets" where visitors can connect with the unique Culture of Pensacola.

Through this non-profit organization, individual artists will have the opportunity to showcase their talent, area arts organizations will host public performances and demonstrations, downtown businesses will enhance the downtown experience and other community non-profits will add to the Gallery Night experience.