

## Division of Arts and Historical Resources

**MISSION:** The Division of Arts and Historical Resources involves the community and its visitors with the arts, culture, local ecology and heritage by providing stimulating, entertaining, educational and engaging experiences, making Tarpon Springs an arts, heritage, nature, and cultural destination.

We accomplish this through numerous venues—the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, Heritage Museum, Safford House Museum, Railroad Depot, the local schools, and at many outdoor sites.

### NEW INITIATIVES

- The first annual *Summer Solstice Festival of the Performing Arts* (2009)—marketing made possible by a \$66,300 Convention and Visitor’s Bureau grant;
- New exhibit, *The Greek Communities of Tarpon Springs and the Bahamas: an Intertwined History*, 2/09 to present, on temporary loan at the Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, funded by a \$4975 grant from the Florida Humanities Council;
- New exhibit, *The Greek Community of Tarpon Springs*, 2/10 to present, a permanent interactive exhibit at the Heritage Museum with accompanying workshops and lessons, funded by a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts;
- *Night in the Islands, First Annual Gulf Maritime Festival*, as well as various Greek classical and folk cultural events, funded by a \$24,350 Culture Builds Florida, Department of Cultural Affairs grant;
- Received notification that we will be receiving a National Endowment for Arts Folklife Grant in the amount of \$35,000 to provide funding to continue the Night in the Islands, the Maritime Festival, cultural exchanges, and numerous folklife workshops, from 07/01/10 to 06/30/11.
- *First Annual Manatee Celebration Day*, 1/16/10, by funded in part by a \$500 donation from Sweetbay Supermarket, with the cooperation of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute;
- The *Public Art Committee* completed its Master Plan, (Design Guidelines nearly complete) for Mayor and Board of Commissioners (BOC) approval; approved and

received approval by the BOC for the City's first public art project, a \$100,000+ project for Meres Crossing to be funded by the developer;

- Provided assistance to the City Manager by the Department's Marketing and Communications Coordinator to produce professional quality quarterly calendar flyers and temporary signage;
- Developed cooperative programs at the Historic Train Depot with the Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society—Oral History Workshop (9/09); public lecture by the nationally renowned Stetson Kennedy (2/10).

#### **NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS GENERATED BY THE DIVISION**

- 2009: Florida Folk Heritage Award received by George Saroukos for traditional Greek boat building;
- 2010: Florida Folk Heritage Award received by Anastasios "Taso" Karistinos for his work as a sponge diver/captain.

#### **CONTINUING EVENTS**

- Ticketed Performances, 07/01/09—04/01/10: 187 performances/classes (50 different events) for the general public and 3 school shows;
- 5 changing exhibits at the Cultural Center;
- Income producing bus tours to the Cultural Treasures sites: The number of tour groups continues to grow. They include: Eckerd College Hostel Program, H.B. and Associates, Native Tours, Ship 'n' Shore Travel, Questers, Tarpon Springs Awesome Tours, Destination Tampa Bay, Events of Florida, Clearwater Christian College, Bay Shore Christian School, All Around Tours, and Destination Unlimited;
- Paid memberships continue to grow. We have 583 members, 293 of whom are Tarpon Springs residents.