

Artesian Arts Festival to attract over 10,000

Native American artists to be featured during Memorial Day weekend

By Ryan Horton

Over 100 artists from a variety of Native American cultures will gather in downtown Sulphur May 25.

The sixth annual Artesian Arts Festival will draw in visitors from around the state and beyond from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The 2019 Artesian Arts Festival continues to expand and is becoming one of the most celebrated Native American art markets in the United States.

Open to the public, more than 100 artists from a variety of Native American cultures will be displaying a diverse array of art media and more than 21 art disciplines will be represented at the event.

Paintings, basketry, jewelry, sculpture, metalwork, beadwork and

textiles will be included.

Various art demonstrations and discussions will take place within the ARTesian Gallery & Studios. These will include such famed artists as Oklahoma and Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductee Mike Larsen.

Entertainment provided at no charge during the Artesian Arts Festival will include a children's tent for make-and-take items and a senior arts and crafts area with several offerings from elder artists. Two stages will provide a myriad of live performances.

Opening ceremonies will include a demonstration by the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe, with other tribal dance troupes performing throughout the day.

More than 15 food vendors will offer varied culinary delights.

Shuttles will be available to transport patrons to and from the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, the Artesian Arts Market spotlights prominent Native artists from across the country. The event celebrates all types of art, with an emphasis on Native American works and artists.

Open to artists from all federally recognized tribes, organizers accepted more than 100 artists representing 19 Native American tribes from eight states.

A wide variety of musical entertainment, tribal dance demonstrations, artist talks and food vendors accentuate the Artesian Arts Festival.

This free and public event grows each year as the festival

welcomed more than 10,000 to downtown Sulphur last year.

The Artesian Arts Festival takes place at the Artesian Plaza, located adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First St., Sulphur.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or email ArtistInfo@Chickasaw.net.



The view from the Artesian Hotel, Casino & Spa during the Artesian Arts Festival offers a glimpse of multiple event attractions, including the dancing area, stage, as well as the row of artist tents down Muskogee Ave.