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ARTWORKS! raises \$23,000 to support Farragut's Arts Programs

Farragut Elementary School hosted their 6th annual art show and auction, ARTWORKS! on April 25 and 26 at the Walter Marks, Inc., Helms Bakery building, and raised \$23,000 to support the arts programs at Farragut.

Over 300 guests including parents, teachers, school district personnel and school Board Members, local artists, city council members and arts supporters enjoyed music by Andrew Pascoe's Jazz Quartet, hors d' oeuvres by Surfes, Caffe Roberto, and delicious desserts by Hotcakes Bakes, and a full bar by Joxer Daly's, sponsored by Councilman, Mehaul O'Leary.

Other local businesses that contributed to the success of the event were Culver Center Flowers who provided beautiful flowers and Josephson Academy of Gymnastics who provided 4 hours of gymnastics fun for the students Saturday night while their parents enjoyed the adult-only evening.

The most hotly contested live auction item was an animation cell of "Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny", donated by local resident and Warner Brothers "Inker", Martha Sigall. It sold for \$1250. Also very popular were the beautiful homemade quilts featuring "Picasso" like self-portraits of kindergarten students.

Sunday, families attended "Community Art Day" to see the 500 pieces of student created and selected art done by Farragut Kindergarten through Fifth grade children. Arts & crafts for all ages were available, special drama entertainment

games provided by parent Jonas Basom and kids' toys and silent auction items available for purchase.

"This has been a pivotal year for us. We have grown from making \$1200 at our first Artworks! 6 years ago to creating a community event that raises over \$20,000 today. Our new parent volunteers have created a whole new level of art event that is truly fabulous! The community looks forward to attending each spring!" said Bonnie Wacker, ARTWORKS! co -Chairperson. Kathleen McKernin, co-chairperson, added, "This year we added some wonderful high level artist's work to our professional art silent auction areas, an "Artworks! Bazaar" area by professional crafters, and featured children's artwork for sale in the "Kids Boutique" area. The cappuccino and dessert bar, the cocktail lounge area compliments of Sony Props, and full stage provided by Steeldeck all combined to make our event even more enjoyable. Our silent auction area had over 90 professional art paintings and 35 offerings of products and services from local businesses. Never before have we had such an extensive offering of art, products, gift certificates and Boutique items for sale. It made for a great shopping experience for our guests and added tremendously to our sales."

Barbara Brown, Farragut Principal, was given special accolades at this event as she is retiring in June. "She deserves recognition for guiding our school through our emerging "arts and technology" mission these last four years, as well as, for increasing parent participation and bringing Farragut to a whole new level. Without her support we wouldn't have achieved the level of success we now enjoy as an "arts focused" campus." said, Bonnie.

Barbara Brown added, "ARTWORKS! is Farragut's signature event of the year. Its success is largely responsible for funding both art and music classes. The enrichment classes known as F.A.A.S.T. (Farragut's After-School Arts and Technology) give students the opportunity to take after-school classes in art, music, dance, drama, cheerleading, computer video making, science and soccer.

This year we added a musical theater component to our after-school programming and plan to enjoy our first Farragut musical, "A Wizard of Oz", on June 4 and 5. Thanks to the support of our parents, staff, and community we are realizing our mission at Farragut to become an outstanding technology and arts focus school."