

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board Arts Awards recognize those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in our community; and

WHEREAS, John Moran, *The Fest* and its organizer Tony Weinbender and Randy Batista have each made a significant impact in our community through important, influential and lasting contributions to the arts and culture, through a body of work, over a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded the Individual Arts Award to John Moran. One of Florida's great nature photographers, Mr. Moran's work has been featured in numerous books and magazines. Locally, he has been a longtime participant in both the art and environmental communities and is generous with his time and energy. After years of documenting their great beauty, he could no longer ignore the degraded state of Florida's springs and aquifer and committed himself to a role in advocating their protection. Mr. Moran has lent his talent, dynamic photography and considerable force as a voice for conservation to increasing public awareness of our precious water system's precarious state. During 2013, in a series of innovative creative partnerships using art as a vehicle for activism, his work was featured in a popular exhibition at the Florida Museum of Natural History, on the sides of RTS buses, on the annual commemorative poster for the Downtown Festival and Art Show and on the cover of the Yellow Pages directory; and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded the Business Arts Award to *The Fest* and its organizer Tony Weinbender. Inaugurated in 2002 with the idea that Gainesville musicians deserved a larger audience, *The Fest* has become an internationally recognized annual music festival which now runs for four days and features more than 300 bands at 12 Gainesville venues with over 10,000 in attendance. *The Fest* brings music fans from around the world, having a significant, direct impact on musicians that call Gainesville home. It provides a powerful economic impact for the City and our local businesses, with more than 70 percent of ticket sales coming from out of state and 17 percent from other countries. Under Mr. Weinbender's conscientious, civic-minded direction, *The Fest* strives to give Gainesville-based non-profit organizations a platform to promote their causes to the festival's audience; and

WHEREAS, the Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded the newly-renamed Jennie Kest Lifetime Arts Award to Randy Batista. An artist rightly proud of his Cuban heritage, Mr. Batista has demonstrated a standard of excellence in his roles as a photographer, gallery director, businessman and humanitarian that has rarely been equaled in the history of our community. A force in Gainesville's arts and business sectors for nearly four decades, Mr. Batista opened his studio/gallery next to the Hippodrome Theatre in 1981. Until its recent closing, the business served as an incubator for his superb professional and personal photographic projects, as well an anchor to the cultural evolution of our community and current renaissance of the downtown area. In addition to showcasing many important exhibitions, he used the space for numerous fundraising initiatives that generated thousands of dollars for local charities. Mr. Batista's passion for art, not only in creating it himself, but in encouraging other aspiring artists to create with equal spirit and dedication, is strong and unending.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 6, 2014 as

*John Moran, The Fest and The Fest organizer
Tony Weinbender and Randy Batista Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing John Moran, The Fest's organizer Tony Weinbender and Randy Batista and expressing our appreciation for their overall dedication to the arts in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 16th day of January, A.D., 2014.



Edward B. Braddy
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Mayor