



Picture: OKEECHOBEE COUNTY Photography Competition

Okeechobee Main Street's Arts & Culture Alliance will host its 3rd annual juried photography exhibit at the Historical Okeechobee County Courthouse as a part of their Artist Series. The show will run in the Spring 2021. The competition is open to only local photographers, including youth (under 18), from Okeechobee, Buckhead Ridge and Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation. The theme for "Picture: Okeechobee County" is *People of Okeechobee*. Photographs must be submitted for the consideration for this juried exhibit, which will be selected by a first round of blind judging. Photographers will be notified in a timely manner as to whether your work will be accepted. Enough time will be given to allow for printing of the selected image(s) and framing. An Opening Reception is tentatively planned for the Spring 2021 from 5-6:30 pm where final awards will be announced.

To Enter:

Applications are available at the Okeechobee Main Street (OKMS) office, 55 S Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL or online at www.okeechobeemainstreet.org (Go to Arts & Culture Alliance - Artist Series Exhibits)

Along with the application, send /deliver the following to the Okeechobee Main Street Office:

- ▶ A CD, DVD or Thumb Drive of digital images. (Preferred method)
- ▶ The title of the photo and short description of each in space provided on the application.
- ▶ Artist's statement
- ▶ **Application, Images and payment must be submitted by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- ▶ Requests to submit via email must be approved by Arts & Culture Director & guidelines must be met.
- ▶ Editing of photos is acceptable. Digital special effects for artistic purpose are also acceptable.
- ▶ Digital images must be submitted as **HIGH RESOLUTION JPEG files (300 dpi)**
- ▶ Digital images submitted must be sized no smaller than 5" x 7" on disk.
- ▶ Digital files that do not follow these specifications will not be considered.
- ▶ No more than 12 images per person will be reviewed.
- ▶ Any supporting text, such as artist's statement, application, etc. should be saved on the same CD/DVD/Thumb Drive as a WORD or RICH TEXT doc. (not jpeg).
- ▶ If younger than 18, a parent or legal guardian must submit for you.
- ▶ **Winning photography for the main show must be properly framed work, in accordance to the Framing Guidelines (on page 3 & 4). OKMS will not pay for framing.**

Entry Rules and Guidelines:

All photos must have been taken by a photographer in Okeechobee County. We are looking for images that capture the charm, appeal and beauty of Okeechobee County.

This year's theme is **PEOPLE OF OKEECHOBEE**

Criteria and Description:

People of Okeechobee in live-action:

Looking for photographs of local people doing what they love or proud of.

It can be in their line of work, recreational, volunteering, civic, school or family life.

We want to show people in motion that represents our way of life in Okeechobee.

NO portraits or posed photos, including wedding, family or group photos.

ALL PHOTOS SHOULD BE CURRENT. Only photos taken in 2018 - 2021 will be accepted.

Awards:

- ▶ The top 20 - 25* photographs will be selected for the **main gallery and final juried show**. You will be notified and will be given instructions of when to deliver your framed work.
- ▶ Other photos will be selected for the general collage, which will be displayed in the display window at the main exhibit. We plan to show as many of the submitted entries as possible.
- ▶ The final judging of the top 20-25 will be judged by two qualified judges. This will be a blind-judging process. Final awards be announced at the opening reception in June.

Awards will be presented as follows:

- ▶ **BEST OF SHOW** (any age) - winner will receive a ribbon and \$ (TBD)
- ▶ **First place, Second Place and Third Place** -winner will receive a ribbon and \$ (TBD)
- ▶ **Award of Merit and Honorable Mentions**
(Note: Student Division will be seaprte if 6 or more enter)

* The final number chosen may change due to the number of entries and final framing sizes. Please note that types of awards and prize amounts will be determined by the number of entries and category entries. OKMS reserves the right to add or change awards.

Judging will be based on the photo composition, the essence and substance of the person(s) photographed in Okeechobee County

Entry Fees:

Up to 4 images may be submitted for a non-refundable fee of:

Adult: \$25.

Youth: \$10. (Must be 17 or younger)

Additional images may be submitted for an additional \$5/per image.

(no more than 10 images per person)

Additional Information:

Selected main gallery winners will be notified and sent a detailed informational packet, which will guide you in framing and provide you with the delivery date. We will also contact you to determine the overall size of your final framed work.

All other work not selection for the main gallery hanging, will go through a second round of judging and photos will be selected for display in a collage at the gallery. The number of photos selected will be determined by the number of entries and space. Our goal is to include photos from all who entered in the competition. No printing or framing is required for this selected group.

Sales:

Photographers may offer their work for sale. OKMS will have your information on file and the public will be notified to contact us if interested in the photography and we will give you the contact information. All sales will be a private between you and the buyer, and you will be responsible for the collection of Florida Sales Tax. OKMS will not take any commission of art sales.

Rights:

Photographers retain all rights to their work. However, photographers will grant Okeechobee Main Street Inc. the right to use their images to promote the exhibition and for display on OKMS website, social media and promotional print materials.

Framing Requirements:

Framing will be required **ONLY** on the photography chosen for the **main gallery competition**. Your work will be shown in a professional gallery setting and these requirements must be followed.

All selected photos must be printed in high-resolution, on quality stock and we recommend using a professional lab. If you have been selected for the final competition then you will want your work to look professional. **PLEASE DO NOT POST YOUR NAME ON THE FRONT OF THE PHOTO.** You will be given photo credit on a tag mounted next to your work.

Selected photo “print” size must be no smaller than 8” x 10” and **MUST BE MATTED AND FRAMED** with final framed piece no smaller than 11” x 14”

All work must be delivered ready-to-hang, with a **tight wire** attached to the frame between one-third and one-quarter of the way down the sides of the piece. Stainless steel braided picture wire works best for smooth hanging. No strings or taping of any kind should be used.

Do not attempt to add a wire hanger to a frame that is not designed for it or that the frame is too thin for a wire hanger. Do **NOT** try to drill a tiny hole, twist in an eye-hook and attach a wire. Inevitably that will come loose or break and your work will crash to the ground.

Do not use sawtooth hangers. They are not strong enough to support the weight of a frame safely and does not work well with the ceiling hanging system used for this exhibit.

Framing should be done in a contemporary style. Contemporary frames are minimalist in design with clean lines and little to no decorations. Avoid over-powering your photo with brighter, bolder or busier framing materials that distract from it visually, look amateurish, cheap or out-of-place. Frames must be in good condition (no scratches or loose corners) **Do not use “snap on” frames, corner-clips with glass or “easel” frames designed for tabletop use.**

Photographs should be matted with neutral tones (white, gray or black only) and covered with clean, scratch-free glass or Plexiglas. Again, your photo should stand alone and not compete with an elaborate mat or frame.

Mat size should be appropriate to the piece. A wide mat is better; it expands the work and makes it appear larger. Narrow borders visually reduce the artwork and look cheap. A three to four-inch mat with an extra half-inch on the bottom gives a nice visual feel to a finished piece.

Float-mounting the photo over the mat, so that the edges are seen, is an option when an artwork has a deckle or decorative edge. A spacer within the frame should be used to keep the photo from touching the glass.

Photos on canvas are acceptable as long as they are gallery wrapped and ready to hang with wire hangers. When choosing to wire a canvas artwork, please place the hanging hooks on the inside of the stretcher bar or use D-rings. This way your artwork will hang flush to the wall. The canvas should be stapled on the back and the edges should be a clean finished.

Please inspect your works prior to sending them. Are there fingerprints on the inside of the glass? Is there dust or dirt caught between your art and the glass? If possible, please use archival materials in making and presenting your artwork.

OKMS will communicate closely with selected photographers to assure a smooth process in the hanging of the exhibit. Sizes must be submitted and approved by OKMS before framing is started. There will be size limitations. Enough time will be allowed for the framing process. OKMS will provide guidance on use of standard size mat and framing to aide you in an affordable and professional looking process of framing.

OKMS reserves the right to not hang your artwork if you choose to not frame or wire it appropriately and you will be disqualified from awards. If framing guidelines are not met or final photos not gallery ready, the hanging coordinator may request a change to your framing, with notice, or work may not be hung for competition.

Final Thoughts:

Okeechobee Main Street's Artist Series takes place in a beautiful location and your work will be shown in a professional manner. Whether your photos are shown in the main gallery competition or on the collage presentation, your images will be representing the wonderful community you live in. Your work will be seen not only by the Okeechobee Community but also outside visitors.

The OKMS Arts & Culture Committee looks forward to the entries and thank you for your participation.

If you have any questions, please email Bridgette Waldau, Arts & Culture Director at art@okeechobeemainstreet.com For easier identification please put "OKMS Photo Contest" in the subject line.

You may also call Lynda, OKMS Executive Director a 863-357-6246.

Entries can be mailed or drop in person to
Okeechobee Main Street - c/o Arts & Culture Alliance Director
Drop off location TBA

**Application, Images and payment must be
submitted by 3:00 PM on Friday, January 8, 2021.**

