

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

MEDIA ADVISORY: This is a REVISED press release and this copy should replace press release sent 6/9/06. Please note entry deadline has been extended to Friday, June 23rd, and exhibit location has been moved to Marblehead Museum and Historical Society's Lee Mansion garden this year.

Media Contact

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Window Box Competition in Full Bloom for MFoA

Boxes in Bloom Exhibit "House" to be Located in Lee Mansion Garden

Submit your Entries by Friday, June 23rd

Marblehead, MA (June 10, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts has announced plans for its annual Boxes-in-Bloom competition—an annual celebration of window boxes and entryways in Marblehead. This annual window Boxes-in-Bloom competition is a judged exhibit of floral and botanical window boxes and entryways, for both business and residential categories.

Boxes in Bloom not only visually enriches the Festival, but also the entire town of Marblehead, and allows local gardeners to join in the fun of sharing their creativity. Many Boxes-in-Bloom entries also designate a special theme, which further adds to the public's enjoyment. With a record number of 38 entries last year, Boxes in Bloom made for a fabulous walking tour for Marblehead Festival-goers. Many also enjoyed the new "exhibit house" in Abbot Hall, which gave a pictorial overview of all the competing window boxes.

Through the generosity of the **Marblehead Museum and Historical Society**, the Boxes in Bloom "exhibit house" will be located in the Lee Mansion garden this year! The Marblehead Festival of Arts is thrilled to collaborate with the Museum, and knows the Lee Garden will provide a beautiful backdrop for the display.

All Marblehead residents and business owners are encouraged to enter their window boxes and entryways, regardless of gardening prowess or previous experience. Judges will be looking for how well the specified window box theme has been executed, as well as personal touches that make a unique statement. If you are interested in participating, **all entries must be received by Friday, June 23rd**. The judging date will be scheduled the following week, allowing plenty of time for your plants to mature and blossom.

An awards ceremony will be held at Abbot Hall on June 30th at 6 pm. Awards for Window Boxes are \$125 for Best of Show and \$50 for Outstanding Works, in both Business and Residential categories; and for Entryways, \$125 for Best of Show. All entries will be featured at Abbot Hall on display during the Festival, July 1st – 4th, as well as on a walking tour map for Festival-goers, with winners will be designated by their award ribbons. Walking maps, available at the "exhibit house," will also be distributed to all area garden centers and participating businesses.

Entry forms and instructions for submitting them are available online at:

www.marbleheadfestival.org/artists/boxes/. After all the rain we've had, this should be an amazing year for flowers. Consider this your official invitation to bloom!

Photo Caption:

Grab your trowel and head for the nearest garden center! The deadline for your Boxes in Bloom application is Friday, June 23rd.

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer's World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisan's Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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