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Spring for the Arts celebrates 25 years of arts education, raises record-breaking funds

The Cathedral Arts Project's 14th annual *Spring for the Arts*, presented by FIS, was held Friday, April 27, at The River Club in Downtown Jacksonville.

The organization's signature fundraiser honored Marisa Martire with the Guardian of the Arts Award and raised more than \$650,000 for arts education in Duval County this year. Since its inception, *Spring for the Arts* has generated more than \$5 million for arts education in our community.

The evening was a true celebration of the arts and CAP's impact on local students over the last 25 years. CAP strings students from Hogan-Spring Glen Elementary School welcomed guests in the atrium of the Wells Fargo building, and a special performance of CAP alumni who are now studying music at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts was the highlight of the program.

CAP President & CEO Kimberly Hyatt spoke of the importance of arts education and the need for increased support, especially at a time when impending budget cuts are threatening the future of arts programs and full-time arts educators in our schools.

"It is gratifying to see the community step up to the plate to make such a strong statement in support of ensuring an arts-rich education for our students," said Hyatt. "At CAP, we dream of a city, state and country where our leaders take to heart that there are serious consequences to continuing to shortchange the arts in education – lasting consequences for our children, our employers, and our civic life together."

CAP would especially like to thank Event Chair Beth Jennison, FIS and the 75+ sponsors who made the event possible; as well as The AutoValet, The Chris Thomas Band, Glenn Certain Floral + Event Designs, The River Club and numerous board members and volunteers for helping execute a record-breaking event.

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The Cathedral Arts Project is the leading nonprofit provider of quality, comprehensive and ongoing instruction in the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students in Duval County. The driving force behind all CAP programs is the belief that the arts matter – they provide essential skills, like creative thinking, perseverance, teamwork and self-discipline, that benefit all people in all areas of their lives.

Too often, certain populations of students do not have access to an arts-rich education because of limited access and resources in their schools, communities or homes. Yet these are the students for which the arts can have the strongest and longest-lasting impacts. CAP needs your support to accomplish its vision for every child in Northeast Florida to have access to a well-rounded, arts-rich education that endows his or her spirit with the imagination, self-confidence and strength of character that inspires great leadership and a will to succeed. Learn more at capkids.org.