

Showcasing local artists

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CORNWALL — A total of 26 participants — including sculptors, photographers, painters, and actors — have been booked for Cornwall's first Pitt Street Artfest event.

Culture Days, in its second year, is a national celebration of arts and culture. Cornwall was extended an invitation to this event, and the Cornwall Regional Art Gallery jumped at the opportunity.

"The gallery decided it was a great cause (and that) we should do something on that weekend," explained art gallery director Sylvie Lizotte. "No one in town (was) doing anything. There was nothing organized for the national celebration of the arts, (and) the gallery decided to take the leadership and organize something."

So the gallery put out a call to artists in early August. The response was overwhelming.

"We received a very great response from local artists, local performers, and so we, at first, we thought we would do just a one-day event," she said. "And we got so many artists and performers willing to participate that we decided to extend it to a two-day event."

The weekend will feature face painting, poetry, live music, live

painting, and musical performances. There will also be a live play rehearsal performed by Vagabond Theatre.

"Just to show people how it's done, how much work is involved," explained Lizotte.

Amanda Marini-Rohde will be on hand, performing interpretive dance, while Jane MacMillan will be leading a ballet demonstration.

Reality television actress Jackie Gordon, of *The Bachelor*, will also be at the event, showing off her paintings and sitting for local portraitist Deborah Kerr.

Lizotte said this event will showcase Cornwall's downtown.

"It will be very exciting — a lot of our artists will be seen," she said. "It's just to prove to the world that Cornwall has a lot to offer, and that we have a lot of talents, and that we are very, very creative and we're all working together to make Cornwall a better place to be."

The event is taking place between First and Second streets on the first weekend of October, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The gallery has submitted a request for a temporary street closure to the city. The request is currently under review.

The event is all ages, and free to the public.

For more information visit www.cornwallregionalartgallery.ca





Staff photo/Di Costanzo

Cornwall Regional Art Gallery director Sylvie Lizotte is excited about Cornwall's first Pitt Street Artfest event. The event is taking place between First and Second streets.