



International Festivals & Events Association

PRESS RELEASE

July 20th, 2010

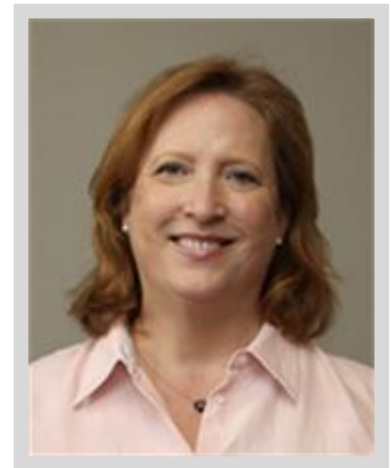
For Information, Contact:

Nia Hovde, Director of Marketing & Communications
Phone: +1-208-433-0950 ext: 3 - nia@ifea.com

For Immediate Release

International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) and Zambelli Fireworks, Announce Mary Jo Sartain from Tulsa International Mayfest as the 2010 Volunteer of the Year

Boise, Idaho – The International Festivals & Events Association and Zambelli Fireworks are pleased to announce Mary Jo Sartain, from Tulsa International Mayfest in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the recipient of the 2010 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award. As this year's winner, Sartain will be the guest of the IFEA and Zambelli Fireworks at the IFEA's 55th Annual Convention & Expo, September 15-17, 2010 in Saint Louis, Missouri, where she will be recognized and presented with her award during the IFEA Hall of Fame Awards Dinner on Thursday, September 16, 2010.



Mary Jo Sartain stood out among the other outstanding volunteer nominations for her enthusiasm and dedication as a volunteer for the Tulsa International Mayfest. She has been an integral part of the festival's success since 2002, helping in various aspects over the years, including headquarters, Co-Chair for visual artists, and currently Festival Chair, a position she has held since 2007. While in these roles, she has also served on the Board of Directors since 2003. In addition, Mary Jo coordinates insurance and tax needs, selects the poster artist, solicits sponsors, and much, much more.

The past three years that Mary Jo has served as the festival chair, Mayfest has seen incredible growth and has benefited financially, even during these tough economic times. The board of directors did not hesitate to ask her to chair the event again as they knew if she was at the wheel, Mayfest will be smooth sailing.

The impact Mary Jo has made on Mayfest will be felt for years to come. For the past several years, Mayfest had paid Downtown Tulsa Unlimited (DTU) to produce the festival. Mayfest used DTU's office and logistic/maintenance staff, office space, equipment, etc. to ensure the festival's success. In the summer of 2009, DTU lost its major funding source and closed its doors, just a month after a successful Mayfest. Mary Jo rallied the board of directors to put a plan in place so that Mayfest could continue. To say she has been instrumental in carrying the torch would be an understatement. Mary Jo volunteers so much time for Mayfest that she now has her own office in the Mayfest offices.

Mary Jo is also very much the cheerleader for the festival, working to build the morale of the volunteers, steering committee and the board of directors since the beginning of her involvement. She truly loves Mayfest and wants everyone involved to have a blast, all while producing a quality festival. She has brought a group of 25 very different personalities together so they work well collaboratively and think of each other as their extended family. There cannot possibly be a chair as dedicated and as hardworking to the Tulsa International Mayfest as Mary Jo Sartain.

For a more in depth look at Mary Jo Sartain, [Click Here](#).

Steve Rosenauer, Executive Director of the St. Mary's University Alumni Association/Fiesta Oyster Bake in San Antonio, TX and Chair of the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Committee for IFEA, said *"It is volunteers that most often determine an event's success. Festivals and events rely heavily on the dedication of volunteers. Without their spirit of involvement and commitment to their communities it would be difficult to pull off any event, large or small."* Rosenauer added that *"While ultimately only one person is selected for this high honor, hundreds of volunteers are recognized by IFEA's member organizations and affiliated associations. All of us in this industry recognize that volunteers are the backbone of our business."*

The late George Zambelli, Sr. of Zambelli Fireworks and sponsor of the award since its inception in 2001, summed it up well when he said *"imagine a world without the great blessing of volunteers; it would be a far different place. God bless them all."*

Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) is *The Premiere Association Supporting and Enabling Festival & Event Professionals Worldwide*. In partnership with global affiliates under the umbrellas of IFEA Africa, IFEA Asia, IFEA Australia, IFEA Europe, IFEA Latin America, IFEA Middle East, and IFEA North America the organization's common vision is for *"A Globally United Industry that Touches Lives in a Positive Way through Celebration,"* The Association offers the most complete source of ideas, resources, information, education and networking for festival and event professionals worldwide. Visit the IFEA website at www.ifea.com for additional details.

###

IFEA Association Partners

