



WHILE IN Sedona Tuesday, Sept. 27, Gov. Janet Napolitano declared an upcoming local charity fund-raiser, Javelinas on Parade, an Arizona Treasure, a designation that puts the spotlight on the hottest attractions in the state.

The Javelinas are queuing up for fund-raiser parade

Gov. Napolitano declares event an 'Arizona Treasure'

*By Timothy Hurley
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You can dress up a pig, and it's still a pig.

But in Sedona, sometimes in the next few months, the pig-like javelinas actually will become works of art.

The Sedona Arts Festival and Sedona-Oak Creek Chamber of Commerce are preparing to launch Javelinas on Parade, a fund-raiser that will see artistically enhanced javelina sculptures placed in shops and businesses throughout Greater Sedona.

One might describe the event as the local extension of the "Animals on Parade" global art movement that started in Europe four years ago.

That's when Swiss artist Beat Seeberger-Quin persuaded city officials to display 815 hand-painted or decorated life-sized fiberglass cows along the streets of historic Zurich.

The contemporary craze soon landed in America, where dozens of cities have put on their own public art displays, including "Cows on Parade" in New York and Chicago, "Art on the Half Shell" in Tampa, Fla., "Horse Mania" in Lexington, Ky., and the "Big Pig Gig" in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Last year, chamber Chairman Joel Gilgoff thought it was time to bring the movement to Sedona, and Peggy Lanning suggested making the javelina the star.

Sculptor Barbara R. Brown was persuaded to create two life-size javelinas, a mother named "Mabel" and her baby, "Oscar." Replicas of her sculpture will become the canvases for local artists who have volunteered to dress them up with their own creations.

Eighty-six artists submitted ideas and a committee reviewed the proposals for adoption by businesses and organizations.

"It's been a lot of fun to see what each artist has created," said Debra Bodnar, executive director of the Sedona Arts Festival.

The official start of the parade hasn't been determined, but it should step off in the next few months.

In the fall of 2007, the sculptures will go back into an auction event, which will be the primary fund-raiser for the Sedona Arts Festival and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as other nonprofits.

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, Gov. Janet Napolitano honored Javelinas on Parade as one of her "Arizona Treasures," a designation designed to put the tourism spotlight on special events across the state.

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GOV. JANET NAPOLITANO checks out the handiwork of local artist Marianne Leahy in a piece called "Sedonamina and Tiny Tina." On Tuesday, Sept. 27, Napolitano honored Javelinas on Parade as one of her Arizona Treasures, a designation designed to put the tourism spotlight on special events across the state.

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