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Arts festival moves to Estero park

By Jennifer Misthal
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Estero will restake its claim as an artistic haven March 28.

That's the date of Arts in Estero 2009.

"The goal is to expose the arts community and what's happening in Estero. ... A lot of things are happening in Estero that are positive additions to the arts and culture scene in Lee County," said Andrew Kurtz, music director of the Gulf Coast Symphony.

The event will move to Estero Community Park off Corkscrew Road, kicking off at 11 a.m.

"We're halfway between Fort Myers and Naples and we're the perfect place," said Bev MacNellis, chair of the committee planning the event.

She was appointed by the Estero Council of Community Leaders.

The symphony will be performing pops pieces at the event, mixing older tunes with newer ones, Kurtz said.

"It seemed like a win-win for everybody. We have a built-in crowd of a thousand people who come to those performances," Kurtz said.

"Anything we can do to be a part of the celebration of the arts in our community is something I and our board of directors want to be a part of."

The event will be a success if people leave with a greater appreciation for all forms of art, MacNellis said.

"The arts give life a quality that would be lacking," she said. Art is the breathing soul of the human experience."

MacNellis wants the community groups to line the park with tables, distributing information and fundraising.

Throughout the day, there will be art exhibits and demonstrations.

"We are looking for local talent to come and be on our stage - singers, dancers, musicians, whatever," MacNellis said.

This will be the third year for Arts in Estero. It started in 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Golf & Spa Resort and was moved to Coconut Point mall the next year.

There was no event in 2007 due to planning and organization issues.
