Crowds Enjoy Art and Culture Walk Throughout Town

Tuesday, 04 September 2012

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Brianna Gibbs/KMXT

The Kodiak Arts Council hosted the second annual Art and Culture Walk last Friday. Various businesses and organizations kept their doors open late to give community members a chance to view local art in all its many forms. While gray skies and drizzles may have kept some spectators from walking to the nine different businesses displaying art, it certainly didn't bar them from attending completely.

Kate Helligso is the event coordinator for the Kodiak Arts Council and played a major role in organizing this year's walk. Helligso stood on the main stage of the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium Friday evening and beamed at community members browsing the dozens of art works on display. The stage was one stop along the walk, and home to the End of Summer Art Show.

Helligso said her passion for art began in Kodiak, and organizing an event like this seemed like the right thing to do.

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(Art Walk 1 : 31 "You know I grew up in Kodiak and I saw all these amazing artists and inspired me to major in art in college and I just wanted to bring back some of the stuff I learned in school and just provide a community venue for art. And it's great, we have artists, the youngest artist we have is seven, and then we have artists that are really well known in the community like Antoinette Walker and Mary Jane Longrich. So we kind of have art from across the board. So I'm really pleased with the turn out for art as well of the turn out for visitors, we've had about 90 people so far.")

Tom Quass is now the former executive director for the Arts Council. His last day was Friday, and he said the art walk was a fitting finale for his three years with the organization.

-- (Art Walk 2 : 39 "So, is this like a great send off for you or what? Oh this is awesome, are you kidding me. These types of shows are great because a lot of people come out. People may not come to anything else, but at least they may come to these. And because it's community wide, you get people going around from the different ones, so you know it's kind of neat because those people come around, they come here, they've been to the other ones, they get to see different art, different things and compare it, and there's a lot of nice, great dialogue. That's the most important thing. All these

people talking about art. That's what the vision is, is that people come to these things to talk about art. It creates dialogue and then people, then we just get more interest and it continues to rise that way.")

As for those participating, people seemed to love the opportunity to see the art, if not the art itself.

-- (Art Walk 3 : 56 "Vox Pop: We've been to the gallery...oh yes we'd like to hit all of them. ")

While the official event wrapped up on Friday, many of the locations will continue displaying art much longer. The end of summer art show will move into the display cases at the auditorium for public viewing throughout September.

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