

12th Annual King Street Art Festival Success By Kristen Shifflett

In historic [Alexandria](#), Va., the 12th annual King Street Art Festival kicked off on Sept. 13 and 14, 2014 showcasing original artwork of local and national artists. The [festival](#) blocked off King Street from N Washington Street to the Waterfront and essentially became a seven block outdoor art gallery.



Out of over 600 applications by artists, **only 220** were chosen" said Malinda Ratliff, Communications Manager representative from Howard Alan Events. "**It's a super competitive festival,**" she added. "**Artists are willing to drive all the way across the country to be a part of it.**" The company partnered with local [Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association](#) to advertise and arrange the festival.

The artist's brought work that mainly consisted of:

- Original paintings
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Wood
- Jewelry
- Glass art
- Textiles



People crowded both sides of the street in droves to view and shop the artwork with expected foot traffic "in the thousands," said Ratliff. A constantly moving crowd of people bustled to tent after tent that lined the streets.

According to Jeff Herre, a staff member at Visit Alexandria, the local visitor's center, Alexandria's artistic roots started this festival.

There were "artists in town [who] decided to have an artistic event in town and it just got bigger and bigger," said Herre. Part of the draw for Howard Alan Events even partnering with Visit Alexandria was its "thriving art culture."

Sarah Buffaloe, a DC native, and her friend Erica Anthill from Maryland were first time visitors to the art festival. Buffaloe "found inspiration here among all the art" because there's "such [a] diversity of artists and work." She enjoys coming to festivals like this one because she "**appreciates makers**" and people who "craft themselves" and not "something corporate." Even the rain on Sept. 13 didn't affect the festival negatively as attendees still showed up and even though Buffaloe thought the rain might impact artist sales she told me that an artist said "that it wasn't the case."



Wendy Ryan, another attendee hailing from Herndon, Va., said this was her second visit to the festival and she just loved "all the artwork and photography" though she "didn't bother with the jewelry and clothing" because of personal preferences.

Annabel Foery has frequented art festivals "for a while now" and found it "**very inspirational that so ordinary people are blessed with so much talent**" and "**a joy to see and observe the talent of ordinary people.**" She wished the artists success as she found it a shame that they "don't make the money that they deserve for



the quality work they make" because "so much imagination" and work goes into making art. She feels "**the prices they charge in no way reflect the costs**" referring to the prices artists charged for their work especially because "they go to hundreds of events and spend hours" selling their artwork.

Each interviewee found something to buy.



Buffalo and Anthill found a "nice original painting." Ryan's companion found a Christmas present for his daughter. Foery found something nice based on the package in her hand.

There was even an interactive event, the "[Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser](#)" where your purchase of a handmade ceramic bowl goes to the Art League's Ceramic Department.

[Visit Pinterest](#) page to get a look at artwork by King Street Art Festival artists.