

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2015

OBELISK ART 450
Tour of Compassion
Compassion through the Eyes of Children
September 4 through 18, 2015

Compassionate St. Augustine, the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Flagler College, and The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida are pleased to present Obelisk Art 450 (OA450), commemorating the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine. This exhibition will be the only occasion in which all obelisks, both large and small, will be on view together.

The OA450 Tour of Compassion is a collection of twenty-five 8'6" tall obelisks embellished by professional artists and completed for a public art exhibition scheduled to be installed throughout historic St. Augustine later in the month of September, 2015. The OA450 Compassion through the Eyes of Children is a collection of twenty-eight 4' tall obelisks adorned by elementary schoolchildren from across St. Johns County.

The obelisks are replicas of the 30-foot Monumento de la Constitucion obelisk on St. Augustine's public square. The professional artists and schoolchildren have been encouraged to interpret the four foundational values of the monument, originally dedicated in 1813: freedom, democracy, human rights and compassion.

The 25 professional artists selected to participate in the Obelisk Art 450 Tour of Compassion are Cecilia Lueza, Debi James, Don Martin, Don Trousdell, Dustin Harewood, Heather Blanton and Xavier Brunet, Hiromi Moneyhun, Jahni Moore, Jan T. Master, Jeff Whipple, Jim Benedict, Joe Segal, Julia Morrisroe, Kevin Curry, Leslie M. Robison, Liz Gibson, Lucy Clark, Pablo Hugo Rozada Vena, Roxanne Horvath and Peter Rumpel, Sydney McKenna, Sylvi Herrick, Thomas Farrell, Warren Clark, Wendy McDaniel, and Yarn Bomb Jax.

Many of the artists selected through the Call to Artists have had extensive exhibition experience to include local, national and international museum and gallery shows. For additional information about these artists please see the website:
www.compassionstaugustine.org/artists.html

Dates for the Obelisk Art 450 Tour of Compassion public art project are:
Friday, September 4, 2015 5 - 9pm, Crisp-Ellert Art Museum to host grand opening of Obelisk Art 450.

Exhibition on view through Friday, September 18, 2015
Open to the public, free of charge.

The Obelisk Art 450 opening exhibition includes 25 *Tour of Compassion* obelisks and 28 *Compassion through the Eyes of Children* obelisks.

Friday, Oct. 2, 2015 through Sunday, January 31, 2016

Tour of Compassion open to the public, free of charge.
Obelisks will be on view at each site; some sites will have limited viewing hours.
Brochures and maps will be available at hotels, attractions and the St. Augustine Visitor Information Center.

Maps and information will also be available online at www.CompassionStAugustine.org

The initial and title sponsor is The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida which provided a \$30,000 Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert grant. Each Legacy Sponsor donated \$15,000 to the project and will receive a completed obelisk. Legacy Sponsors include: Fraser Family Heritage and Oldest Wooden School House, Glenmoor Resort Retirement Community, Mrs. Claudia Gordon, Herbie Wiles Insurance, Allen and Delores Lastinger, Leonard's, Ray and Linda Matuza, Old Town Trolley Tours, Petros Estate and Retirement Planning, Ring Power Corporation, Ripley's Believe It or Not! And Red Train Tours, St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park, St. Francis Inn, and the Compassionate St. Augustine advisory board. Sponsorships are still available.

More about Obelisk Art 450

Obelisk Art 450 (OA450) is a privately funded international public art project produced by Compassionate St. Augustine, a Florida 501(c)(3) and Florida's first official Compassionate City, to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine, Florida, the nation's oldest city.

Pablo Hugo Rozada Vena, a professional artist from Aviles, Spain visits St. Augustine, Fla. July 7 through 21, to complete an obelisk for the Obelisk Art 450 Tour of Compassion. Jan Master, an artist from St. Augustine participated in Aviles' version of Obelisk Art 450 during La Noche Blanca, a public art celebration in Aviles, on April 17, 2015, courtesy of Compassionate St. Augustine.

Compassionate St. Augustine and Compassionate Aviles are the first Compassionate Sister Cities worldwide.

The mission of Compassionate St. Augustine is to influence and inspire a culture of compassion through advocacy, awareness and action.

www.compassionstaugustine.org

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