

# 2016 CHALK FESTIVAL

*Drawing an Appreciative Venice Island Audience*



Want To Know More?

For more information about this article or to purchase tickets, log on to [ChalkFestival.org](http://ChalkFestival.org), call 941.488.8877 or visit [Facebook.com/ChalkFestival](https://www.facebook.com/ChalkFestival). The Chalk Festival is produced by the Avenida de Colores 501(c)3 charitable cultural arts organization. Admission: \$10/adults; \$5/students; free for children 12 and under. Unlimited festival passes: \$25/adults; \$15/students.

Appealing to the most sophisticated art critic as well as the novice, the festival draws over 50,000 guests annually. Activities such as magic demonstrations, face painting, and dance add to the event's charm. Taking the stage for its second year, the Pavement Music Festival runs from Nov. 11–14, with performances by local and regional bands representing a variety of musical styles scheduled from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Food and beverage vendors, plus a dance floor with tented seating area and restrooms, will be available onsite.

This year's newest offering, the 5K Fun Run, debuts Sat., Nov. 12, with check-in opening at 7:30 a.m. and a 9 a.m. start time. Whether participants choose to walk, jog or run the onsite Chalk Festival course, they are welcome to don bell bottoms, tie-dyes or hippie wigs to tie in with the festival's theme. Upon completion of the race, folks will be photographed running over a 3D illusion created by the artists especially for the race finish.

Before the chalk dust settles, you will want to get out to the Island and take in all the artistry for yourself. Come for Viewing Day on Nov. 14, and you can tour all the fully realized images on display and have your photo taken within the 3D artworks, one of the festival's iconic experiences!



WRITTEN BY SAM SCHUNK-PLATENIK AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE CHALK

The International Chalk Festival will once again be bringing its creative energy to the streets of Venice Island! During this unique community celebration held from Nov. 11–14, local, regional and international artists of all ages and skill levels use their talents to make gorgeous, colorful traditional and three-dimensional pavement art.

Conveniently, all the fine art festivities are held at the Venice Municipal Airport, allowing you to park onsite and explore the sights to your heart's content. As you visit, you will be able to observe as the team of over 200 traditional pavement artists completes an array of beautiful, ephemeral masterpieces. Chalk Festival founder Denise Kowal notes, "In addition to hosting the largest number of 3D paintings produced in one location, each year we also host the largest gathering of renowned pavement artists from as far away as Australia, with over 30 countries being

represented. Through the complex images featured in these works, our talented artists create the illusion that the ground is rising above or dipping below, combined with other stunning effects. For example, visitors to our recent festivals have been able to jump into the paintings, finding themselves standing on the edge of a cliff or even in the jaws of a megalodon shark!"

In the Young and Young at Heart Fun Zone, guests of all ages are encouraged to get into the spirit of the event by creating art of their own on the pavement or chalk walls. Denise shares, "We provide the same kind of chalk that our professionals use, all in a colorful palette of bright, beautiful shades, for our guests to make their masterpieces. Since this year's theme is 'Love & Peace,' we invite you to draw a heart, peace sign, or whatever you choose. Just be creative and make your mark!"

