



Art wrapped in a party

By Joanna Smiley | joanna@thnews.net

On Saturday, more than 300 locals adorned in festive masks and 18th century Venetian attire will pour into Neimans Fine Dining and Entertainment for the Carlsbad Masquerade.

Sponsored by the Outdoor Art Foundation in association with the Carlsbad Village Business Association and the Museum Artists Foundation, the masquerade will feature more than \$400,000 worth of art for sale.

"Our goal is to place 30 pieces of art in Carlsbad Village," said Mikki Royce, executive director of Carlsbad Business Association and managing director of Outdoor Art Foundation. "Fifty percent of all proceeds on Saturday will go towards bringing art to the public where it belongs."

Royce has spent months working on the event, which will feature music from the San Diego Small Opera and the Bayou Brothers.

"The art on display is going to be full of variety and different mediums. ..." Royce said.

The Carlsbad Masquerade will be Saturday evening at Neimans Fine Dining and Entertainment. Carlsbad Village Business Association

"There will be representational art, modern art and stainless-steel sculptures. Something for everyone. This is going to be a beautiful event ... an art exhibit with a party wrapped around it."

Some of the featured pieces will include a piece that looks like three moving dolphins jumping and a copper sculpture of a little boy raising his arm out to a seagull.

Once the 30 pieces of art are sold Saturday, Royce's next job will be to negotiate with private business owners and the city of Carlsbad about where the art will be placed.

Royce is planning on wearing a special 18th-century costume designed by her mother.

"I'm really looking forward to Saturday. ..." Carlsbad City Councilwoman Ann. J. Kutchin, who is attending the event with her husband, said. "I'm excited to see the art on display. My husband and I are wearing masks we purchased in New Orleans a couple years back and we both love to dance."

Ted Owens, chief executive officer of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, can't make the soiree but said several of his employees are planning to attend.

"It's an interesting way of raising money and public awareness of the arts," Owens said. "This is a first for Carlsbad, so I don't know how successful it will be, but it's a great start."

Reach reporter Joanna Smiley at 760.752.6735.

Carlsbad Masquerade

WHAT A Venetian Carnivale of Art, Music and Dance

WHEN 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday

WHERE Neimans Fine Dining and Entertainment, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive

TICKETS \$60 a person in advance, \$75 at the door (includes two glasses of wine and hors d'oeuvres). \$10 valet parking available.

INFORMATION (760) 434-2553