



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Blue Ridge Arts Council President Melody Davis prepares one of many baskets to be auctioned Saturday during BRAC's largest fundraiser. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the public to enjoy a wine tasting and silent auction and to view the 21st annual Juried Show, "Recession Proof."

BRAC wine tasting, auction Saturday

BY LADONNA BEEKER
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SENECA — Enjoy wine while bidding on unique items in an effort to raise funds for one of the city's well-known art galleries.

The Blue Ridge Arts Center in Seneca will host its annual gala fundraiser Saturday with wine tasting and a silent auction. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"For The Love of Art" is the title of this year's fundraiser, which BRAC Executive Director Lisa Kiser said highlights the center's mission statement and acknowledges the purpose of the fundraiser — to continue the arts in Oconee County.

"People who are interested in making a donation can come to the event, which will be a benefit for BRAC," Kiser said. "It is our largest fundraiser."

Attendees are encouraged to wear cocktail attire for "a dressy night out."

The wine will be poured by Palmetto Spirits and include a variety of high-end wines served with refreshments.

Items up for auction includes a variety of baskets, such as South Carolina Gamecock and Clemson University themes;

artwork; regional foods, such as grits, biscuits and cornbread; pet-lover; lover; kitchen; and wine baskets.

Other must-bid items include a Clemson football signed by Coach Dabo Swinney, a mosaic bistro table on a black iron stand, a 6-foot wooden picnic table with two benches, a golf package to an area course and a three-month session with a nutritionist valued at \$500.

"All items were donated by businesses, artists and members of our organization," Kiser said.

Also, while attendees taste wine and bid on their favorite items, Kiser said they also have a chance to view the 21st annual Juried Show, "Recession Proof," which has been on display since January and features 80 pieces. Artwork from the show is also for sale.

"It is going to be a very nice evening, and these baskets and prizes are very nice quality," Kiser said. "It's just one way people can come and show support for the Blue Ridge Arts Center."

Tickets are \$20 in advance and can be purchased at Palmetto Spirits and BRAC (864) 882-2722. Tickets are \$25 at the door.