

The Grand Opening of GALLERY BY THE GULF Was GRAND!



By Eve Bradford and Linda C. Elissalde

What happens when a lady starts an oil painting class, and a community pulls together? A group of determined individuals create a success story. Barbara Prenger offered an oil painting class in 2005. Don Cherry owned land and a building. The students in that class began to talk of forming an organization that would offer art, music and history to the community. Don's property had formerly been owned by his friend Hallie Wood Gibby who had a love and admiration of art. Bolivar Peninsula Cultural Foundation, a 501(c)(3) was formed, and the address became known as Hallie's Place. The main house was transformed into a museum and art gallery. Historical pieces collected from residents and family members were displayed, and an artist was featured each month. Hurricane IKE damaged the buildings, and BPCF became one of the homeless organizations on the peninsula. Did this mean the end of BPCF and a place for an art gallery? Goodness, No!

Using Bolivar Peninsula survivor "The Mother of Texas" Jane Long as an example, the community pulled together. BPCF took the new Jane Long Society under their umbrella organization. Everyone helped create The Jane Long Festival, The BPCF lectures, buy a stage, have Jane's picture placed in the Texas Capitol Building library, rename HWY 87 and produce a fine pavilion at Fort Travis Seashore Park.

What was left to do? Well, the peninsula still needed an art gallery to display the wonderful creations of beach dwellers and others. BPCF now has just such a building. GALLERY BY THE GULF celebrated its official opening on November 7, 2015. BPCF President Charlotte Stirling and Jane Long Society Founder Margo Johnson were joined by other supporters to cut the red ribbon.



A dream lives on. The Bolivar Peninsula Cultural Foundation, with help from our community, used the dreams of Barbara Prenger, Hallie Wood Gibby and Don Cherry to produce a new and wonderful show place. The GALLERY BY THE GULF had a grand, grand opening and will continue to survive and thrive with that great Bolivar spirit!



GALLERY BY THE GULF boasts myriad, delightful creations by resident artisans. Internationally acclaimed artist Patty Hagstrom will be the first featured artist in this fine new gallery located near the Post Office on HWY 87. Other artists currently in the Gallery include Margaret Lindow, Cheri Duggan, B. Bailey, Angela Travis, Dana Dekerlagand, Glenda Mastin, Sharon Rigsby, Charlotte Stirling, Alice Hurlbert, Zeb Hickman, Ron Venable, Scott Hanson.



Come by for a visit! Gallery hours are Thursday thru Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.