

From Sharry Morrison

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. In addition to being Event Coordinator for the Blairsville 2008 Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, I am an artist and have had a residence in Blairsville since 1974. I have always earned a living in the arts and followed my passion to be creative.

In addition to participating in this exciting and fun first time event in Blairsville I ask you and other artists and craftsmen to join together and work together with me in raising awareness in the arts and to work together to create a Union County Arts Council. With your help, enthusiasm and participation this vision can become reality.

In the same way that it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to nurture and support the arts. We as artists can give our community that opportunity by sharing our artwork, our craftsmanship, our talent, our minds and spirits. In addition we can and should participate in our own Community Arts and Crafts Gallery.

A gallery operated by a core group of artists and craftsmen will provide the community the opportunity to be continuously exposed to and support the arts. It is also a very cost effective venue and opportunity for artists and craftsmen to continuously display in the community, to show new works, or techniques and to sell or offer to commission works and venue to teach others.

I have secured space at 80 Court House Square to jumpstart this initiative. It is on the corner facing the old courthouse in downtown Blairsville. It is a great location to create a quality Community Arts and Crafts gallery. I believe, realistically, working together we could open the gallery around the first of May.

The Grassroots Arts Initiative has shown confidence in our efforts by awarding us grants for the Spring Arts and Crafts Festival. Let's work together to expand this initiative and go forward in the arts in Blairsville and Union County. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to have this happen.

Please contact me at 706-781-1473.