



BRISTOL
RENAISSANCE
FAIRE®
Where Fantasy Rules!

Media Contact:
Bonni Pear or Carol Vesely
Miller-Pear Public Relations
(312) 674-4566
info@millerpear.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Thou Coming to the Faire?

**'Ren Plein Aire' Attracts Top Artists to Bristol,
Benefits Variety Children's Charity of Wisconsin**

KENOSHA, Wis. (July 22, 2010) ó The Bristol Renaissance Faire will be transformed into a 16th Century artists colony, July 31 and Aug. 1, when artists from across the region converge on the Faire for its inaugural *Ren Plein Aire* celebration. Paraphrasing the French *en plein air* (literally *in the open air*) used to describe the act of painting outdoors as popularized by the French Impressionists, visiting artists will draw upon the colorful palate of Bristol's wooded, 30-acre village as the inspiration for a weekend full of artistic expression, and the opportunity to help children with physical disabilities throughout the state of Wisconsin.

More than 20 artists will position themselves throughout the bustling Faire site on Saturday and Sunday, providing patrons with the opportunity to watch them at-work as they create original renderings of the sights and characters of Bristol. As eclectic as the Faire itself, guest artists will include: veteran portrait artist Linda Kollacks of Libertyville, Ill., who has painted with impressionist masters in the South of France and Brussels; Susan Hong-Sammons of Riverside, Ill., whose still life compositions in oils, charcoal and pastels have been exhibited in New York City's Institute of Contemporary Art and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum; muralist Ram Rojas of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., whose work is among that featured in the historic Walls of Wittenberg Project; Lee Radtke of Lake Zurich, Ill., whose award-winning landscapes and cityscapes are on display in private and corporate collections across the country, and Sally Keller of Gurnee, Ill., who attracted international attention with her series of graphite portraits commissioned to commemorate the victims of the Sep. 11 hijacking of United Airlines Flight 93.

(more)

REN PLEIN AIRE ó ADD ONE

All of the works created will be available for purchase at live-auction on Sunday afternoon, with proceeds benefitting Variety, the Childrenø Charity of Wisconsin. The auction will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception with the artists and favorite Faire characters, beginning at 2 p.m. at Bristolø Globe Stage. Tickets for the reception, auction and dayø Faire admission are \$30 and available on-line at renfair.com and at the Bristol gate on the day of the event.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010, Variety, the Childrenø Charity of Wisconsin, provides life-enriching assistance to Wisconsin children challenged by physical disabilities. In addition to funding cutting-edge technology and equipment for the *Variety Orthopedic Clinic* and Epilepsy Clinic at Childrenø Hospital of Wisconsin, Variety maintains a *Kids On the Go! Mobility Grant Program*, providing anything from wheelchairs and gait trainers to assistance in constructing home ramps for families in need, and organizes special outings for children with disabilities through its *Variety Kids Dream Experience Series*. For additional information, visit varietywi.org.

The Bristol Renaissance Faire, which opened for its 23rd season on July 10, welcomes more than 200,000 guests each summer with an unparalleled collective entertainment experience, including 16th Century games, rides, arts, crafts, food, music, and one-of-a-kind encounters with a colorful cast of period characters. Located just west of I-94ø Russell Road exit, near Kenosha, Wis., this yearø Faire will run for nine weekends, through Labor Day Monday, Sep. 6. Additional information is available online at renfair.com or by phone, (847) 395-7773.