

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MELBOURNE ART FESTIVAL, INC. RECEIVES EBAY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR ART SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MELBOURNE, FL, October 9, 2013 – Melbourne Art Festival, Inc., an organization committed to supporting art education in Brevard County, announced today that it has been awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from the eBay Foundation's employee-volunteer led Central Florida GIVE Team. Funds will be used to provide scholarships to local Brevard County students majoring in art, as well as further promote the arts in various ways.

As part of the ongoing efforts to encourage art education and appreciation of the arts, the Melbourne Art Festival offers art class scholarships to Brevard students in grades 7-12. The Melbourne Art Festival has given over \$98,000 to support art education in Brevard County over the past 12 years, with the majority (\$47,200) distributed in the form of scholarships to local students for college and local art classes, and a large portion (\$23,150) donated to Brevard County middle and high school art teachers to buy art supplies. To further support scholarship funding, the Melbourne Art Festival holds a biannual Silent Art Auction Fundraiser where hundreds of pieces of outstanding artwork is donated by participating Melbourne Art Festival fine artists and sold through a silent auction bidding process. This year's Silent Art Auction Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at the Melbourne Realtor Conference Center, 1450 Sarno Rd., Melbourne. The preview begins at 6:30 and the auction starts at 7:00 pm. Further information and tickets can be found on the website at www.melbournearts.org.

This year's Melbourne Art Festival Scholarship Fund will be made possible in part through eBay Foundation's GIVE Team program, which empowers employees of eBay Inc. to support their communities through volunteerism and employee-sponsored grants. In 2012 alone, GIVE teams worldwide recommended 200 nonprofits to receive grants totaling more than \$863,000.

"eBay Foundation was established to reach beyond the boundaries of eBay's virtual village to develop strong communities that bring people together," said Lauren Moore, President of eBay Foundation. "Through our GIVE Teams, we've been able to identify and support a wide variety of outstanding programs, programs that feed families in the San Francisco Bay Area, educate children in India, assist seniors in Germany, mentor at-risk youth in Omaha, and serve the homeless in Austin- to name only a few. We couldn't be happier to add to our list of beneficiaries by supporting the Melbourne Art Festival, Inc. in its efforts to encourage art education and appreciation of the arts in Brevard County.

ABOUT MELBOURNE ART FESTIVAL, INC.

The Melbourne Art Festival is a nationally recognized event held each year on the fourth full weekend in April in historic Downtown Melbourne, Florida. Over the two-day event 250 juried artists compete for cash and prizes. Family fun features KidsWorld entertainment and hands-on art and crafts, student art competition for 7th – 12th grade Brevard County residents, and art workshops led by participating professional artists. Live, professional entertainment is scheduled on the main stage both days. The mission of the Melbourne Art Festival is to organize, promote, and encourage artistic endeavors, education and appreciation; to advocate and support the improvement and betterment of the quality of life in our community; and to sponsor an annual art festival in furtherance of both of these ideals. Admission is free.

ABOUT EBAY FOUNDATION

eBay Foundation was established by eBay, Inc. in 1998 and, reflecting eBay innovation, was the first corporate foundation to be endowed with pre-IPO stock. Since inception, the Foundation has contributed more than \$25 million to nonprofit organizations worldwide. The Foundation engages eBay Inc. employees and supports their pursuit of charitable giving and volunteerism through its GIVE Team program. In addition, using a unique combination of foundation funding, employee volunteerism, and other resources, eBay Foundation has created The Opportunity Project to extend the company's commitment to global citizenship. By scaling social innovations that create economic opportunity, The Opportunity Project gives people in need the chance to participate in the global economy, provide for their families, and build stronger communities. For more information: www.theopportunityproject.org. eBay Foundation GIVE Team grants are awarded by the eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

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