

Arts in Medicine

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For immediate release

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Representatives from the Shands Hospital Arts in Medicine Program will be in Apalachicola on January 24 to host an informal reception announcing a new Arts in Medicine program at George E. Weems Memorial Hospital.

The Apalachicola Arts in Medicine (AIM) Program, is a collaborative effort between the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Shands Arts in Medicine and George E. Weems Memorial Hospital.

The reception will be held Jan 24 at 5:30pm at That Place in Apalachicola. During the informal meeting, leaders from the Shands Arts in Medicine Program will speak about the impact of the Arts at Shands Hospital and about how the public, as well as professional artists, can become involved in this new program. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Apalachicola is the latest community chosen by Shands and the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs to develop and arts in medicine program such as has been in place at Shands Hospital since 1990, according to Jill Sonke-Henderson, assistant director of the Shands Arts in Medicine Program in Gainesville.

Shands Arts in Medicine (AIM) was founded in 1990 at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida. AIM is a multidisciplinary organization, with programs in the visual, literary, musical, and performance arts. AIM serves inpatients and outpatients of all ages, their families, visitors, health care providers, the Gainesville and statewide communities. The program is focused on transforming healthcare environments through the arts, and providing leadership for hospital arts programs throughout the nation.

AIM has active programs in three hospitals and numerous out-patient clinics, and is known internationally as one of the leaders in the field of arts in healthcare. In 2006, AIM for Africa, a project sponsored by the University of Florida and Shands Healthcare, established the first-known formal arts in medicine program in Africa at the Mater Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.