



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2014

THE GUARDIANS OF MARTIN COUNTY SPONSOR YOUTH DRIVEN FILM FESTIVAL

Hobe Sound, Fla. — The Guardians of Martin County, a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, is pleased to be one of the key sponsors of a new youth film festival focused on our environment, together with the Knopf Family Foundation.

The project, “Youth Driven Cinema” is seeking videos from Martin County students from elementary school through high school on any marine related topic. Jensen Beach High School environmental studies teacher Crystal Lucas and Benjamin D’Avanzo, owner of “Enviro-Force” in Stuart co-founded the project. Mrs. Lucas says there is a strong need for younger generations to get involved in our environment. Mr. D’Avanzo says, “it is not only my job to protect our natural resources, it is my passion. The idea of creating a new avenue for discussion through the lens of the next generation of stakeholders has inspired my commitment to this project.” The project comes on the heels of this past summer’s toxic blooms and bacteria in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River due to discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Mrs. Lucas and Mr. D’Avanzo encourage all teachers, principals, and community members spread the word about this unique opportunity.

The Guardians of Martin County President Peter H. Conze, Jr. says, “We are excited to support this project because it engages the youth in our environment. Combining art and the environment in this innovative manner will be fun and challenging. We look forward to seeing the results.”

All of the videos will be shared on the project’s YouTube channel. The maximum length for each video is five minutes and as many as four students can form a production team. First place winners will receive “Go Pro” video cameras.

The deadline for video entries is February 3, 2014. The top videos will be showcased and prizes will be presented at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart on February 28, 2014. To learn more about the contest, please visit: youthdrivencinema.com or email: youthdrivencinema@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE GUARDIANS OF MARTIN COUNTY

The Guardians of Martin County is a non-partisan organization supporting the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan of Martin County. Their mission is to educate others about the economic and environmental issues protecting our treasured “Martin County Difference.”

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For more information, please contact Sally Lewis Media at (561) 714-7185, email theguardiansofmartincounty@gmail.com or visit TheGuardiansofMartinCounty.com.