



Place of honor: Artist in residence Danguole Jurgutis, with her paintings hanging nearby, greets her friends, Kazys and Lola Kizlauskas, during the Starry Night Preview Gala Saturday at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

Many drawn to art fest's Starry Night

More than 200 people shared a "Starry Night" Saturday.

The Farmington Festival of the Arts kicked off with its first-ever gala preview party - with music, food, drinks and, of course, plenty of art on display at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

"Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and be impressed by the exhibits and paintings," said Nan Reid, co-chair of the gala.

Many committed volunteers made the night happen, she said. And many businesses donated food, drink, services or money to help make it happen. In total donations topped \$12,000, including in-kind.

And next year? Well, planning won't really begin until a meeting May 12.

"One of the things that has been suggested is to incorporate more interactive experiences for people, like the poetry board this year," Reid said.



Entertaining: Above, Christina Ackerman (right to left), her fiancé, Chris Samartino, and Eddie Delbridge enjoy the "magnetic poetry" board. At left, Matt Michaels Trio members Jerry McKenzie, drums, and Dan Jordan, bass, entertain with flair.

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