

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blues Festival Names Event Producer for 2016 Show



LONGVIEW, TEXAS, September 23, 2015 – The Board of Directors of the non-profit T-Bone Walker Blues Fest, Inc. announced today that it has named Longview resident Marcus Welch as Festival Producer for the 2016 music event.

The festival, now in its eleventh year, will be held June 3-4, 2016 at Maude Cobb Activity Complex in Longview, Texas.

As Festival Producer, Welch will be responsible for overseeing the work of approximately 14 volunteer committees leading up to and through the event, said Board Chair Marcus Wren III.

Marcus Welch is a co-owner in his family's 100 year old business, Welch Funeral Home. During a thirteen year involvement with Longview AlleyFest, Welch was responsible for bringing many blues musicians to that festival. For the past seven years he has produced Trick's Synthetic Podcast, a twice weekly podcast featuring all types of roots music.

The announcement was made during a Wednesday meeting that included members of the organization's volunteer corps. The primary purpose of the meeting was to finalize committee assignment responsibilities.

Committee assignments and committee chairs were confirmed in the following areas: Finance, Terri Hodge; Marketing, Gary Krell; Sponsorship, Gai Bennett; Hospitality, Chelsea Cace; Grants, Cynthia Hellen; Entertainment, Russ Wright; Car Show, Don Schaetz; and Vendors, Jason Baros.

According to Wren, additional committees are expected to be formed for other functional areas as the organization moves closer to the event date.

"We know that putting on an event of this size ultimately takes hundreds of volunteers," said Wren. "But leading up to the event, most of the work will be done by a few dozen committed volunteers working on these committees. We are lucky to have a group of very talented and competent individuals on the team and are confident that

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through our joint efforts we will continue to grow this event into one of National scope and recognition."

In other business, the Board received status updates from existing committees, discussed strategies to involve volunteers from other towns and communities, and set dates for quarterly board meetings as required under the organizations by-laws.

A November 1 date was set for a Planning Retreat and work session for Board and Advisory Board members, Committees and other volunteers.

The T-Bone Walker Blues Fest is named for the iconic musician Aaron Thibeaux Walker, who was born in 1910 near Linden, Texas, and was a transformational figure in blues and other genres. He was inducted into both the Blues Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The festival is a fund-raiser for the non-profit corporation whose mission is to showcase contemporary blues musicians, promote a strong future for 'The Blues' genre, and to help local 501(c)3 organizations provide blues music education, youth music education, and music therapy.

The two-day 2015 T-Bone Walker Blues Fest featured internationally recognized blues artists performing on two stages.

Information on the festival, as well as news of blues music and blues artists, can be found on the [festival's Facebook page](#) and the [festival website](#).

Press Contact: Gary Krell: 903-738-3121, gary.tbonewalker@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.tbonewalkerbluesfest.com>

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)