



STEVE BARNES/TIMES UNION

MAYOR JERRY JENNINGS, center, announces Wine & Dine for the Arts festival results. At left are festival co-founders Donna Purnomo and Joe Culver. At right are representatives of groups benefitting: back row, Owen Smith of Park Playhouse; Brian Ritter of the Albany Symphony; Tony Iadicicco of Albany Center Gallery, and, front, Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill of Capital Repertory Theatre and Rachel Moore of the Albany Barn.

Festival's cup runneth over

By Steve Barnes

ALBANY — The third annual Albany Chefs' Food & Wine Festival: Wine & Dine for the Arts, held Jan. 12 to 14, raised \$80,201 — a 57 percent increase over 2011 and more than twice as much as in the inaugural year.

"It's one of the most successful (events) we've ever done," said Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings, who announced the results at a news conference Friday morning at City Hall.

"People are excited about the

arts and want to see them succeed," said Donna Purnomo, the festival's festival president and co-founder, who, with her husband, Yono, has owned Albany restaurants for three decades.

Over Wine & Dine for the Arts' three years, the festival has raised \$168,432 for Albany arts organizations. Proceeds from this year's festival will be divided among Albany Barn, Albany Center Gallery, Albany Symphony, Capital Repertory Theatre and Park Playhouse.

The festival was sold out before it started with a VIP reception at City Hall. Other events included a pair of grand tastings, a slider slam and a gala dinner, all held at Hotel Albany (formerly the Crowne Plaza). Between participants, chefs, beverage reps, servers and organizers, more than 2,500 people took part in the festival.

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