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about leading such a course last year, she agreed with one stipulation: only if she could bring the best pastel artist she knows.

In the Friday night class, Cordova and Wallace will lean on their years of teaching experience to alleviate any intimidation students might feel and help their visions feel scaleable onto the sidewalk.

“I talked to people about pastel techniques, like shades, shadows and highlights and drawing things that look like they’re actually three-dimensional,” Wallace said. “Then we take them outside and practice.”

The concrete canvas of the following morning is both well-trafficked and — at least last year — hard-earned. Volunteers swept wet sand off a stretch of the Prom for two hours to render it smooth and usable for the artists.

“We learned that people washing their feet off in front of the hotels creates a torrent of

water coming straight toward the art,” Wallace said, laughing. Cordova added that sandbags will shield the art from such runoff this year.

While the outdoor elements may add some stress, Cordova and Wallace hope the exposure to a live audience of passersby will be a helpful learning experience, especially for younger artists.

“It’s a great way for them to learn that (being watched) doesn’t matter,” Wallace said. “You start to shrug it off after a bit.”

By mid-afternoon on Saturday, that audience may choose to vote in the contest’s People’s Choice category, which saw 173 votes last year. Other categories include Best Representation of Marine Life, Best Representation of the Spirit of Seaside and also delineate between youth and adult categories for best overall pieces.

This year’s judges include Steve Wright, a Seaside city councillor; Katie McCloud, interim chief executive officer at the Seaside Chamber of Commerce; and Ken Heman, board member of the Seaside Downtown Development Association.

The chalk art contest is made possible through a grant from the Juan Young Trust, which Ousley said has already provided funds for the contest’s possible third installment in 2023.

“May and Bev are both amazing teachers,” Ousley said. “It’s really festive.”



ABOVE: A chalk scene features a bright yellow sun and blue ocean waves. **BELOW:** Chalk artists create scenes along the Seaside Promenade.



Bob Weidman creates a piece of chalk art at a previous event.



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