



# MARTIN *Arts*

*Inspiring Participation and Passion for the Arts in Our Community*

## Annual Report

**Year ending September 30, 2025**





# *Reflecting on a Fast-Paced Year*

It feels as though we've been in "fast forward" mode all year long! Unfortunately, there's no indication that things will slow down anytime soon for us to catch our breath.

As we experienced last year, we continue to face challenges in addressing rising expenses; however, we are also uplifted by new opportunities. I am inspired to broaden our horizons and excited to collaborate with new partners who can guide us toward dreams we never thought possible.

At times, I am truly amazed by the remarkable legacy we have built within this community. Earlier this year, a family visited us, whose late sister had collected works from an artist we showcased back in 2011! That was 14 years ago! Thanks to this connection, over 100 pieces of art have been generously donated to us by the family, Rex and Cheryl Allen, to support our mission. This experience is leading us to provide more guidance and support to families navigating what to do with a loved one's collection, as well as how to plan ahead in estate documents for passing along those cherished items.

Advocacy is a quieter aspect of our mission, yet it seems to be stepping into the spotlight. Arts education in our schools is under threat due to declining enrollment and funding cuts. Ongoing support for Art in Public Places is vital, as we must remind our officials that our public art defines our community, fosters pride, and makes Martin County the vibrant and special place we cherish.

Please consider how you can participate and engage in the upcoming year. Now, more than ever, I eagerly anticipate your involvement as a donor, volunteer, and advocate so that together, we can nurture the arts sector and pave the way for a bright future!

Cheers to the new year! Let's hope we can raise a glass together in celebration soon!



Executive Director/CEO

MartinArts



# Arts Education

Arts education is more essential than ever, helping students build creativity, resilience, and critical thinking skills. MartinArts has long served as an advocate and partner to Martin County schools, bringing artists into classrooms, supporting student showcases, and ensuring equitable access to the arts for all children. Our past year's outreach and support of arts education included:

- Marvin S. Cone Annual High School Juried Art Show
- Arts Day
- Sunset Concerts at the Gallery
- Women Supporting the Arts Grants
- Ronald L. Corbin Scholarship
- Art Club Booths and Student Performers at ArtsFest
- MartinArts Awards Student recognition and scholarships,
- Partnership with Congressman Mast's office for the annual Congressional Art Award



## Arts Day 2025

75 students from local high schools assembled for an immersive art workshop at Memorial Park in downtown Stuart to collaborate with artists who not only shared art techniques but also insights into life as professional artists. The workshop spanned across five media categories with the following artists:

- Indigo & Shibori Dyeing – Suzanne Connors
- Abstract Acrylic & Collage – Alice Laputka
- Field Sketching & Perspective – Philip Mosciski
- Photography – David Bence
- Pastels – Nancy Mich

*Save the Date to Celebrate...*

**Celebrating 40 years of the High School Juried Arts Show with an Alumni Retrospective at the Court House Cultural Center.**

**Exhibit dates: June 30 – August 22, 2026**

*Pictured above, "The Distinguished Ram" by Brayden Thomas from The Pine School, awarded the 2025 Best of Show*

# Court House Cultural Center Highlights



## Last Year's Exhibitions at a Glance:

**It's Not All Black & White**

**34th Annual All Florida Juried Art Show**

**The Real Deal - New Old Masters**

**Marvin S. Cone 39th Annual High School Juried Art Show**

**4th Annual Members Showcase - Timeless Martin: A Centennial Celebration**

**Uncommon Threads: Contemporary Fiber Exhibition**

## Sunset Concerts at the Gallery

Now in its eighth season, this series continues to celebrate exceptional musicians! Each concert highlights the individuality of the artists, presenting a diverse mix of talent—from young students just starting out to accomplished professionals of all ages.

## *Thank you to our volunteers and committee:*

Jennifer Brand

Kimberly Everman

Sharon Hagin

Ken Hooper-Capozzi

Jane Kiehart

Tina Kraft

Maria Miele

Sheryl Odza

Tom Prestopnik

Donna Rich

Roni Rottner

# Public Art Makes a Community Vibrant!

Art in public places—a tradition that is deeply rooted in the American story, and one that has shaped Martin County's identity since we first wrote the ordinance and advocated for its adoption by the County in 1997.

From historic monuments to contemporary murals, public art has long been how communities tell their stories, share their values, and bring meaning to the places where we live, work, and gather. In Martin County, our public art reflects our natural beauty, our coastal culture, and our shared pride in this community.

It also delivers real, measurable benefits. The nonprofit arts and culture sector generates over \$31 million each year in economic activity in Martin County. That's jobs, tourism, local business spending—and public art is a visible and vital part of that ecosystem. It attracts visitors, sparks curiosity, and adds character to our built environment.

These are not just beautification efforts—they're opportunities to invest in our community's cultural identity and economic future.

## New Public Art Unanimously Approved by the County Commission

- At The Patio at Palm City Place, a site with growing community engagement will be home to a sculpture by internationally recognized team of Gillie & Marc. The sculpture stands 7 feet tall and weighs 800 pounds.
- At the Port Salerno Mooring Field upland site, a space for a glass mosaic tile mural will enhance the neighborhood. Jim Dirks, 43 year owner at Stuart Stained Glass, was awarded the contract.



Jim Dirk's stained glass mosaic wall panel to be placed here.



Conceptual placement for Gillie & Marc's "It Was a Very Windy Day They Would Never Forget"

# Promoting the Arts

As the local arts agency, our mission includes promoting the arts by engaging today's audience and sparking the imagination of tomorrow's.

Through our presence on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, we strengthen community awareness and engagement across the arts. Our website, MartinArts.org, along with email, text, and traditional print outreach, works hand in hand to expand visibility and support this mission.

**Monthly Arts Sector calls with member organizations to discuss calendars, issues and collaborations with the following organizations:**

A.C.T. Studio Theater  
The Atlantic Classical Orchestra  
The Barn Theatre  
The Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast  
Environmental Studies Center  
Florida Oceanographic

Florida Arts & Dance Company  
The Historical Society of Martin County  
The Lyric Theatre  
Martin Artisans Guild  
Martin County Libraries  
Martin County Office Of Tourism  
Treasure Coast Community Singers

*Join us on social...*



**Artist Talk - The Art of Cultivating featuring the owners of Kai-Kai Farm in Indiantown**



**In our partnership with the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, we create a meaningful resource for art patrons throughout the region and connect our communities through the arts.**

# The Arts Make a Community Vibrant!

## MARTIN Arts AWARDS

The Marties celebrated the "Making Connections" – a tribute to the power of art in connecting us to each other, our communities, and the world.

With the generosity of the Kiplinger Family a scholarship funds has been established that will nurture young artists well into the future. Donations are still accepted to support this fund as we strive to reach our goal of \$100,000.

### Honorary Award Recipients

Lawrence A. Sanders Lifetime Achievement in the Arts: Joanne Raulin

Excellence in Arts Education: James Paul

Arts Leadership: Ron Rose

Arts Service: Paul Nunley

Corporate Leadership in the Arts: Masterpiece Design | Build

Special Recognition: Ripple EcoArt Project led by the Martin County

Office of Community Development and Artist Lucy Keshavarz

### Nominated Award Recipients

Visual Artist: Michaelann Bellerjeau

Performing Artist: Amy Clark

Literary Artist: Myriana Merkovic

Student Visual Artist: Mattine Jensen

Student Performing Artist: Samuel McCulley

Student Literary Artist: Tetiana Bilokon



# ArtsFest

FINE ART • MUSIC • COMMUNITY • FUN

ArtsFest 2025 celebrated 100 years of Martin County. As the longest running arts and cultural festival in Martin County, ArtsFest celebrated the county's centennial year the only way we know how – with our hometown pride shining bright. From community booths in Memorial Park to local performances on stage, guests found themselves in the heart of our area's diverse cultural scene.

Highlights of the arts-filled weekend of 2025 included:

- Introduced Chopped Jr in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs
- Live mural competition, a public art installation centered around the theme: "A Vision of Martin County 100 Years from Now"
- The vibrant rhythms of the Santana tribute band, Smooth STB

# Rhapsody in Blue Gala



Held on March 28 at the St. Mary's Pittenger Center, our annual gala celebrated MartinArts' 45th anniversary. Inspired by George Gershwin's groundbreaking composition, the Rhapsody in Blue gala included a spectacular performance of the piece as the final act by the gala orchestra, conducted by Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish with piano soloist Dr. Lindsay Garritson.

The gala's Honorary Chair, Vianne Nichols, was recognized for her long-standing support of MartinArts and her role as one of the co-founders of the women's giving circle, Women Supporting the Arts.



Main stage performances were comprised of The Jazz Age's melodies like "Summertime" with Lorrianna Colozzo and Peter Jones, "Embraceable You" piano performance by Braeden Shizume, and "All the Things You Are" vocal ensemble with Marguerite Krull, Mark Sullivan, Jimmy Paul and Sydney Carbo.



# Harvesting the *Arts*



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Harvesting the Arts event was on March 5 and brought together a vibrant mix of art lovers, local patrons, and community leaders. Guests enjoyed a farm tour with owner Diane and shopped fresh produce at the pop-up market before gathering for a beautiful lunch.

Nearly half of the contributions came from first-time donors, giving us exciting momentum to build on with the welcome of new supporters. Together, we can strengthen this movement and ensure arts and cultural offerings continue to thrive in our community.

**As members, you play a vital role in this vision - If you'd like to take an even more active part, consider hosting your own table at next year's event!**



MartinArts stands at a crossroads—and so does the future of the arts in Martin County.

Our vision for the Stuart High School Arts Campus is shovel-ready. The plans are drawn. A business plan is drafted. The need is urgent. But without your immediate investment, this transformational project risks stalling before it can begin.

The truth is this: our arts community is already stretched to its limits—organizations are struggling, artists are leaving, and young people are missing out on creative opportunities that shape futures. We cannot afford to wait.

It's more than a vision—it's a vital investment in what comes next.

If we fail to act now, we risk losing not only momentum, but the very heart of our creative community. The window is narrow, and we need partners who believe in the power of the arts to step forward—immediately.



**Martin County needs  
a space where the  
arts don't just  
survive—they flourish!**

# What we're excited about...



Growing up in Martin County and as a past participant of the Marvin S. Cone High School Juried Art Show, I'm proud to support arts education through initiatives like ArtsDay, ArtsFest, and the MartinArts Awards, and I'm thrilled to continue seeing the arts alive and thriving in our community.

Our Artist Talks continue to showcase creativity in all its forms - from visual to literary. Thank you to Brooklyn Quintana for sharing her journey as an author last month!



We reached 300 members (and growing...) this year! I'm thrilled that our members are enjoying our new benefits, including access to thousands of NARM-partnered institutions around the country. I would like to thank both the Council and Foundation Boards for using their connections to help us reach this milestone – especially their work in increasing our Business & Organizational membership!



The Charleston Cultural Excursion was amazing! Everyone should go to Spoleto at some time in their life! And 2026 is bringing London! Marie Jureit-Beamish, thanks for your passion and leadership to get us there



I'm excited for upcoming exhibits and the chance to see new artists engage with our organization beyond showcasing their work. Whether it's volunteering or supporting in other ways, it's inspiring to watch the collective hard work evolve into a vibrant presentation of art.



# Membership

We're excited to announce we hit 300 members this year and membership revenues have increased by over 50%!

Last year, we introduced some exciting benefits to our memberships including our partnership with NARM (North American Reciprocal Museum). This provides members access to a network of over 1,300 museums, art galleries, botanical museums, children's museum, and more.



Thank you for your continued support! Whether you've been with us for years or have recently joined, your commitment helps us build a stronger, more vibrant arts community.

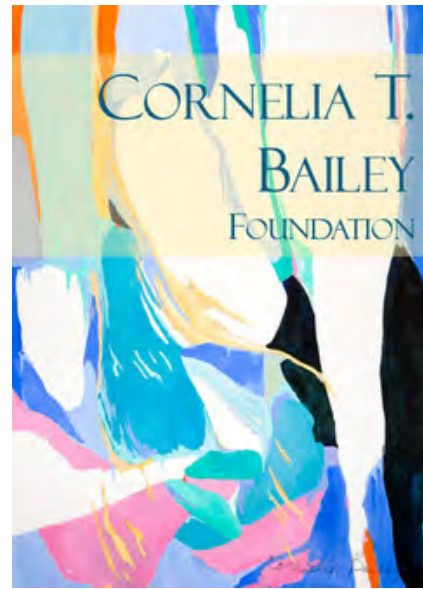


# Loyalty Card Year-End Raffle

The moment is here! We'll be announcing the winners from our year-end raffle at the end of the meeting. This is our way of thanking members for their amazing support all year long.



# Thank You to Our Community Partners



Jefferson Family  
Charitable Foundation



# Thank You to Our Annual Partners

Since 1980, MartinArts has been a leader in the arts community with the mission to inspire participation and passion for the arts. Annual Partners enrich the lives of local residents and our visitors by supporting events and education focused on the visual, literary, and performing arts. Thank you for making an impact on the success of our vibrant arts community!

Visit our website to learn more about our Annual Partners: [MartinArts.org](http://MartinArts.org)

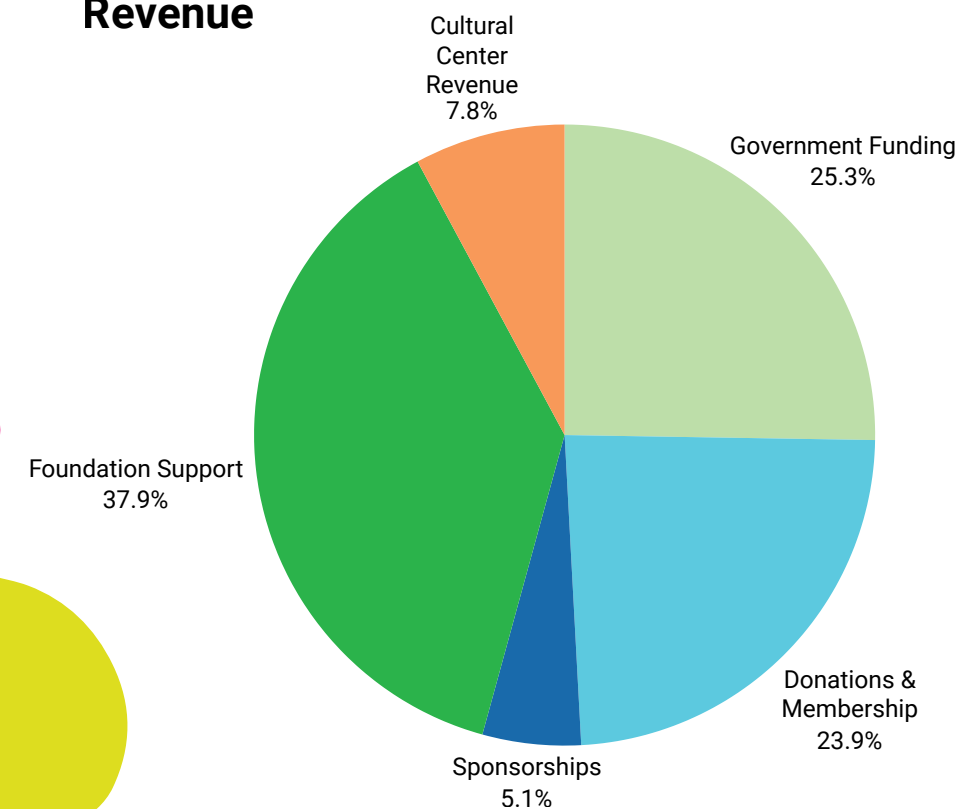


# Operating Income & Expenses\*

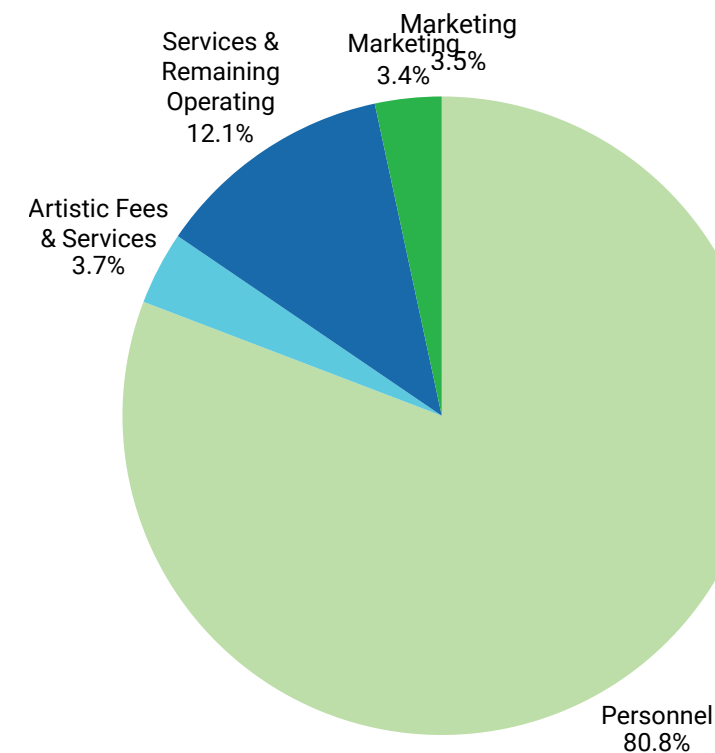
FY 2024-2025

Revenues declined by approximately 10% this year, largely due to the elimination of the Division of Arts & Culture Grant for general operating support. We've cut where we could, but it has been a challenge, all year long. The good news, we've kept our small staff in tact throughout!

## Revenue



## Expenses



\* Financial Data from the Council; does not include the Foundation's income or expenses or funding related to the Stuart High School Arts Center project. Estimated prior to year end.

## Board Members

### Council Board of Directors

Andrew Hammond, Treasurer  
 Suzy Hutcheson  
 Chandler Josie  
 Leslie Judd  
 Nerissa Okiye, Vice Chair & Secretary  
 Nicki van Vonno, Chair

### Ex-Officio Directors

Ed Ciampi/Stacey Hetherington  
 Martin County BOCC  
 Laura Giobbi  
 City of Stuart  
 Amy B. Pritchett  
 Martin County School Board  
 Nancy Johnson  
 Economic Council of Martin County  
 Liz Bonan  
 Arts Foundation of Martin County

### Foundation Board of Directors

|                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tony Anderson                     | Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish    |
| Liz Bonan, Past Chair & Secretary | Mary Ann Loomis             |
| Neil Capozzi                      | Marney McKee                |
| Dr. Anita Caswell                 | Nina Nicolosi               |
| Denise Ehrich                     | Tom Pence, CPA, Treasurer   |
| Lee England                       | Jennifer Powers, Vice Chair |
| Duncan Hurd, Chair                | David Snyder                |

*Mark your calendar for our Signature Events*

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**MARTIN** *Arts*  
AWARDS

Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 6PM

*ArtsFest*  
FINE ART • MUSIC • COMMUNITY • FUN

Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, 2026

*The Art of Food & Wine*

Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, 2026

# Upcoming Events...

## At the Court House Cultural Center

### *Programs & Exhibits*

#### **Sunset Concerts at The Gallery**

**2nd Tuesday, Monthly, 5:30PM**

Featuring local music groups, youth, and adults.

#### **Art Out of the Closet**

**Saturday, March 21**

Annual sale of donated artwork, art supplies and other equipment. Donations accepted on a rolling basis.

#### **Artist Talks**

New series featuring local artists sharing their artistic inspirations. Panels will be hosted by a board member.

February, April, June, August, October, December

#### **Will It Go Round in Circles**

Three Artists. Three Paths. One Reunion. A vibrant, thought-provoking exhibition featuring the work of three dynamic and widely recognized artists, each on a journey that's come full circle.

November 11–December 20, 2025. Opening: Thursday, November 13, 5:30–7PM

#### **All Florida Juried Art Show**

Celebrating a 35-year legacy, this exhibition showcases recent works by Florida artists across a wide variety of media. The collection highlights the diverse creativity and talent flourishing throughout the state, from traditional to contemporary art.

January 13–February 28, 2026. Opening: Friday, January 9, 5:30–7PM.

#### **The Florida Artists Group - Everglow**

Florida's textures and light inspire unforgettable experiences, celebrated in this Florida Artists Group (FLAG) exhibition. Visitors will encounter a diverse range of 2D and 3D artworks—from realistic to abstract—created in mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, fiber, and digital art.

March 10–April 18, 2026. Opening: Friday, March 13, 5:30–7PM

#### **Marvin S Cone Annual High School Juried Art Show**

Since 1987, this annual exhibition has featured the exceptional artwork of student artists from our five local high schools. It celebrates their creativity, skill, and unique perspectives, showcasing the next generation of talented young artists in our community.

April 28–June 20, 2026. Awards Night: Thursday, April 30, 5:30–7PM (tentative)

#### **Marvin S. Cone Annual High School Juried Art Show Alumni Exhibit**

Celebrating 40 Years of Creativity and Talent! From its beginnings in 1987 to today, this milestone honors the alumni and traditions that have made the show so memorable.

September 9–November 1, 2025. Opening: Friday, September 12, 5:30–7PM

#### **Annual Members Exhibition**

This exhibition highlights the diverse talents of MartinArts Member Artists, featuring a wide range of styles, media, and creative expressions that reflect the vibrant artistic community in Martin County.

September 8 – October 30, 2026. Opening: Friday, September 11, 5:30–7PM.



# MARTIN *Arts*

80 SE Ocean Blvd, Stuart, FL 34994

772-287-6676 | [MartinArts.org](http://MartinArts.org)

