



# MARTIN *Arts* AWARDS

*Shining a Light  
on the Arts!*

November 2, 2025



## Upcoming Programs & Exhibits

### Will it Go Round in Circles

Three Artists. Three Paths. One Reunion. A bold exhibition uniting three acclaimed artists whose journeys come full circle.

November 11–December 20, 2025

Opening: Thursday, November 13, 5:30–7PM

### 35th All Florida Juried Art Show

Celebrating a 35-year legacy, this exhibition showcases recent works by Florida artists across a wide variety of media.

January 9–February 28, 2026

Opening: Friday, January 9, 5:30–7PM.

### The Florida Artists Group - Everglow

Celebrating Florida's light and textures.

March 10–April 18, 2026

Opening: Friday, March 13, 5:30–7PM

### Marvin S Cone 40th Annual High School Juried Art Show

Celebrating creativity since 1987, this annual exhibition features works by students from five local high schools.

April 28–June 20, 2026

Awards Night: Thursday, April 30, 5:30–7PM

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

A contemporary fiber art exhibition that is woven together in a rich variety of diverse materials.

June 30–August 22, 2026

Opening: Friday, June 26, 5:30–7PM

### 5th Annual Members Showcase

Featuring the diverse works of MartinArts' talented Member Artists.

September 8 –October 31, 2026

Opening: Thursday, September 10, 5:30–7PM

### Sunset Concerts at The Gallery

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

Featuring local music groups, youth, and adults.

November 11–Annual Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Concert under the direction of Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish.

December 9–Annual Holiday Christmas Concert with the Treasure Coast Flute Choir directed by Alfred and Lindsay Hager.

January 13–An Evening of Jazz with pianist Tom Servinsky.

February 10–Valentine's Concert with the glorious voice of soprano Lorianna Colozzo singing favorite songs of love with pianist Marie Jureit-Beamish.

### Art Out of the Closet

**Saturday, March 21**

An annual sale featuring donated artwork, art supplies, and creative equipment. Donations are accepted year-round.

Visit our website to learn more about exhibitions and events!



### Court House Cultural Center Gallery

80 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34994

772-287-6676 | MartinArts.org

Gallery Hours: Tuesday, 10AM–6PM and Wednesday–Saturday, 10AM–4PM

A donation of \$5 in support of our exhibitions and programs is requested.

# Welcome to the 2025 MartinArts Awards!

Tonight, the spotlight is yours to share as we walk the red carpet together and celebrate the brilliance of the arts in Martin County. Our beloved "Marties" honor not just talent, but the passion and dedication that allow creativity to bloom—like roses opening to reveal their beauty.

As the curtain rises, let yourself be swept up in the performances, stories, and artistry that make this evening unforgettable. We hope you feel the joy, pride, and connection that the arts bring to our community. But more than that, we hope you'll leave with a renewed commitment to nurture the arts all year long. Like roses, the arts require care and tending—your applause, your advocacy, your presence at performances and exhibits, and your belief in their power to transform lives.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, board members, staff, community leaders, teachers, parents, and especially the MartinArts Awards volunteer teams. Most of all, we honor the nominees whose creativity, passion, and commitment make this celebration possible.

Together, let's keep planting seeds for the future of the arts—ensuring that what blooms in Martin County today will inspire generations to come.

With gratitude and joy,

*Duncan Hurd*  
Chair

*Nancy K. Turrell*  
CEO

## *Thank you for making the arts shine tonight!*

### **Volunteers:**

Production Team led by: Dr. Anita S. Caswell and Kristal Wion-Eckhardt

Nominations & Judging Team: Sharon Hagin, Faith G. Paul and Barbara Wells

### **Judges:**

David Bence, Jennifer Collins, Tony Gonzalez, Ken Hopper-Capozzi, Joyce Milligan, Sherri Paradis, Tom Prestopnik, Ginger Shannon, Rebecca Tozzie

# MARTIN Arts

## AWARDS

**"Everything's Coming Up Roses" from Gypsy: A Musical Fable, Music by Jule Styne and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**

Hidden Oaks Middle School Bella Voce

Directed by Kerry Rocks, Director of Choirs at Hidden Oaks Middle School

Accompaniment by Peter Jones

### **Welcome**

Peter Jones, Host

### **Presentation of Arts Service Award**

Faith G. Paul

Presented by Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish

### **"Spectacular" by Mark D' Alessio**

Read by Michael Beecher

### **"Beauty" by Kennedy Goebel**

Read by Katie Dempsey

### **"Set Fire To The Rain" by Adele and Fraser T. Smith**

Blake Kershanick, Evan King, and Zane Price

### **Presentation of Corporate Leadership in the Arts Award**

Bank of America

Presented by Jennifer Powers

### **Presentation of Excellence in Arts Education Award**

Tami Conrad

Presented by Ashley Monks, Amanda Jones, Tom Prestopnik

### **"More than it Seems" by Taylor Imbert**

Read by Rebekah Madebach

### **"The Process of Creation" by Hannah Jones**

Read by Katie Eckhardt

### **Presentation of Arts Leadership Award**

Tammy Calabria

Presented by Nerissa Okiye

**"A Boy Like That" from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim**

Kamryn Zucker and Sabrina Zambrano  
Accompaniment by Peter Jones

**"A Red Rose for Everyone" by Leonel Alvarez-Lopez**

Read by Rev. Christian Anderson

**Presentation of Special Recognition Award**

The Lyric Theatre in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Presented by Nancy K. Turrell

**Presentation of Lawrence A. Sanders Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award**

Jim Dirks  
Presented by Duncan Hurd

**"Flower Duet" from 'Lakme' by Leo Delibes**

Mallory Goddard and Natalia Caraballo  
Accompaniment by Peter Jones

**A Message from Duncan Hurd, Board Chair**

**Recognition of Professional and Student Artist Nominees**

Awards Presentation | Literary, Performing, Visual

**Celebrating the Arts – Together!**

Nancy K. Turrell, Executive Director / CEO

**Closing Medley Performance**

"Let Me Be Your Star" from the album The Music of Smash, Bombshell  
"I See Stars" from Mean Girls on Broadway, Music and Lyrics by Jeff Richmond & Nell Benjamin  
"Everything's Coming Up Roses" from Gypsy: A Musical Fable, Music by Jule Styne and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Hidden Oaks Middle School Bella Voce  
Directed by Kerry Rocks, Director of Choirs at Hidden Oaks Middle School  
Accompaniment by Peter Jones

**Epilogue – Peter Jones**

# Honorary Awards



## **Lawrence A. Sanders Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Jim Dirks**

Born in Washington State and raised in Maryland, Jim Dirks discovered his passion for art at age five with a Jon Gnagy art kit—completing it before the New Year! In high school, he and a fellow student taught themselves to use the ceramics tools and kilns at their new school, sparking a lifelong love of creating. In 1977, a three-week vacation to Florida turned into a permanent move. Over the years, Jim worked on boats, installed solar systems, and served as a lifeguard.

After a melanoma diagnosis in 1982, he turned to stained glass—a hobby that became a 43-year career alongside his wife, Tess. Together, they have created stunning art glass for homes, churches, and businesses throughout the Treasure Coast.

Beyond his studio, Jim played a key role in revitalizing Downtown Stuart, helping secure the Main Street Program that brought new life to the community. After 25 years on West Ocean Boulevard, Jim and Tess recently moved their studio to a new location on Federal Highway, beginning an exciting next chapter in their artistic journey.



## **Excellence in Arts Education Tami Conrad**

Tami Conrad has dedicated 35 years to teaching art in a high school setting. She earned her Master's Degree in Education from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania and discovered her love for art as a middle school camper, traveling to local attractions to draw and returning to the studio to critique her work.

Throughout her career, Tami developed lesson plans and curriculums for students from kindergarten through 12th grade and established the IB Art Program at South Fork High School. She recently introduced a ceramics program, expanding opportunities for students to explore new mediums. Her greatest joy has always been watching students create, experiment, and grow—building meaningful relationships along the way.

Now retired, Tami looks forward to focusing on her own painting and ceramics, traveling, teaching yoga, and spending time with family.



## Arts Leadership **Tammy Calabria**

For over two decades, Tammy Calabria has led The Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast, serving as CEO for 17 years and transforming it from an abandoned building into a vibrant hub of learning, creativity, and discovery. While not an artist in the traditional sense, Tammy's admiration for the arts and the courage to share one's talents has shaped both her personal passions and professional mission.

Growing up in sports, leadership and public speaking came naturally, while painting, performing, or composing remained a mystery she deeply respected. "If I could play a sport, speak to a crowd, and perform at the same time, I would," she jokes. This perspective fuels her appreciation for artistic individuality—every painting, song, or performance carries the artist's energy and personality. Her personal creative outlet is photography, capturing moments that, like art, are uniquely irreplaceable.

Under Tammy's leadership, the museum has become a community cornerstone, offering hands-on exhibits and programs that inspire imagination and lifelong learning. She has woven the arts into every facet of the museum—from exhibits to STEAM programming—championing creativity as essential to developing well-rounded young minds.

Her achievements include leading the \$5 million campaign that opened the museum in 2008, expanding programs and exhibits, building community partnerships, and securing grants. In her words, "The arts inspire creativity and spark imagination—and that is what transforms a building into a place where dreams begin."



## Arts Service **Faith G. Paul**

Dr. Faith, a PhD from the University of Chicago, is passionate about all forms of art and the universal connection they create between artists and audiences. She believes the arts are inclusive, offering moments of reflection, joy, and inspiration to everyone, everywhere.

Seventeen years living in Hawaii's rich and diverse cultures, along with her experience as a professor and researcher in the social sciences and history, have deepened her appreciation for the ways humans think, feel, and express themselves. Dr. Faith celebrates this shared humanity through her engagement in the arts and the arts community.



## Corporate Leadership Bank of America

### BANK OF AMERICA

At Bank of America, we believe in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, educate and enrich societies, and create greater cultural understanding. That's why we are a leader in helping the arts flourish across the globe, supporting more than 2,000 nonprofit institutions each year.

Our arts support is wide ranging. We believe the neighborhood playhouse can be as important as the world-class museum or orchestra in its value to the community, in the lives of its citizens and in the education of its young people. A key component of our arts program is to help nonprofit institutions illuminate varied cultural traditions and to help the arts sector create pathways for more diverse employment and engagement.

The Bank of America Art Program is part of the company's commitment to grow responsibly while bringing value to economies, society and the communities we serve.

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## Special Recognition The Lyric Theatre in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Weaving together the history of The Lyric Theatre, over the past 99 years, is a story of community, commitment, and creativity. Built in 1925 by Judge John Hancock and his wife, Mamie, as a 900-seat silent movie house with a small stage and retail storefronts. The Lyric opened March 15, 1926, and quickly became Stuart's cultural heart and served its residents.

Throughout the decades, The Lyric was used for a variety of purposes, including movies, newsmagazines, traveling vaudeville shows, presentations, and weekly church services.

In 1987, visionary realtor Roy Laycock saw The Lyric as an anchor for the revitalization of downtown and a much-needed entertainment center. Through the years, dedicated teams of volunteers, donors, patrons, board members, and staff have raised funds, secured grants, and led grassroots efforts to preserve and protect this historic gem and cultural resource.

The thriving Lyric we know today is a testament to the community, and The Lyric remains dedicated to providing access to the arts, inspiring creativity, and enriching the cultural life of the Treasure Coast for generations to come.



# MARTIN Arts

Since 1980, MartinArts has been the driving force for arts and culture in Martin County. MartinArts is the umbrella over the Arts Council, the local arts agency, and the Arts Foundation for Martin County. Our shared mission is to inspire participation and passion for the arts in our community.

## Foundation

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Jennifer Powers

## Council

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Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish  
Nerissa Okiye  
Nicki van Vonno

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## Stay Connected with MartinArts

Discover events, programs, and resources at [MartinArts.org](http://MartinArts.org). Scan the QR code to visit our website, subscribe to our free monthly e-blast, become a member, and more!



# Professional Nominees

## Barb Bucci | Visual

*Nominated by: Lynn Morgan*



Barbara tells us that her creation of The Mermaid Boxes (300 so far) are the sum of everything she has seen, studied, or lived. "The name Mermaid Boxes was inspired by the spirit of the mythical creature who I believe represents wild, free, clever, bold, creative, and compassionate living. Each of the boxes is a little world I explore and then create by combining patterns, colors, textures, and images from unconventional sources to make something beautiful and useful. The themes are widely varied and often take inspiration from nature, history, literature, or places. Each box tells a story and makes room for its owner to add to the story, interactively becoming part of the creative process."

## Laura Kay Whiticar-Darvill | Visual

*Nominated by: Barbara Wells*



About 10 years ago, I took a short jewelry class, making a necklace and earrings. The seed was planted, and I decided to pursue wire wrapping and later work in silver clay. I realized immediately that this was something I wanted to pursue; in fact, I was "hooked." Over the next ten years I learned techniques and forms for creating jewelry and other objects from silver clay. I also expanded my interests and learned to appreciate sculpture, glass, jewelry, and a variety of painting techniques and forms. The more different types of art I see, the more I want to explore. I believe that art should be seen everywhere. Developing the creative side of a person enriches his or her life.

## Mike Faurot | Performing

*Nominated by: Jeff Dubuque, Casey Hack, Jeremy Jenkins*



Mike's area of expertise is in Blues and Folk music. He sees them providing unique looks in the cultures at the time of their writing providing a way of looking into the eyes of culture throughout history. He says some of his biggest achievements in music include receiving the Ronald Corbin Scholarship, opening for the Original Wailers, singing a mass at the Vatican, reaching over 21,000 listeners on his personal blues music program, having a top ten song on A1A Radion, and going from a sidewalk busker to a touring paid musician.

## **Lindsay Garritson | Performing**

*Nominated by: Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish*



"I have dedicated my life to sharing beautiful music with audiences here at home, nationally, and internationally. I am also passionate about teaching the next generation of musicians as well as visiting schools in Martin County, and wherever I can when traveling, to perform to share music with those young students who may not have access to classical music or be able to attend a concert. When I see what the healing power of music can do in connecting each of us as human beings, it inspires me to continue performing. This past year I embarked on a project to visit as many of the public schools in Martin County as possible to perform as a pianist, violinist, and violist for young students ranging from elementary through high school. The level of excitement was palpable."

## **Sarah Maxwell | Visual**

*Nominated by: Jennifer Collins*



Sarah is a Connecticut native who now resides and paints in Jensen Beach, Florida. Heavily influenced as a young girl by the 19th century and Hudson River School of artists she studied art and sculpture at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. She particularly likes to paint water, waves, boats, and all types of landscapes with oils, acrylics, watercolor, or pastels. She has her own home studio and has had two solo shows in Jensen Beach. She is often commissioned by residents for specific pieces. She has also created the covers for books currently in print.

## **Sean McGraw | Visual**

*Nominated by: Family & Friends*



"Visual art is what I have devoted my life to. I have facilitated foundational artistic training for many wonderful young people at the high school level. Sharing my knowledge of art history and the technical representations of artistic methods and materials feels like I am helping keep the torch lit for future generations of realist artists. As I have grown older my desire for knowledge and practice in my artistic area has only deepened and broadened. When I am in the studio I still feel like a kid, excitedly experimenting and making. Helping others on their artistic life journey and the joy of seeing their faces when something clicks, or an epiphany is had is very rewarding. I have recently welcomed students into my studio to help work on large projects. I have also conducted part of the annual Martin County public art inventory."

## **Suzanne Mogavero | Literary**

*Nominated by: Debbie Butler*



"Recently my poem FIRE was published in an impact magazine for nonprofits, which was an incredibly meaningful moment for me as it bridged my creative voice with my passion for advocacy. The poem reflects resilience and transformation – core themes that run through my work. Additionally, while the children's books I write do not focus directly on trauma, they are deeply rooted in themes of community, courage, diversity, and empowerment. I believe in the importance of planting seeds of self-worth, imagination, and belonging at an early age. My goal is to use story telling as a joyful, uplifting tool that helps children see themselves as powerful and important – no matter their background. I aim to create work that is emotionally honest, accessible, and capable of making a positive impact on individuals and communities alike."

## **Pete Morello | Performing**

*Nominated by: Heidi Condon*



"Improv is the discipline that inspires me the most. I regularly perform with the Julian Theatre Group, as well as at ACT and TCT theatres because I love the energy and creativity that comes from thinking on your feet. The 'yes, and' mindset keeps me focused on making strong, positive choices and on lifting up the people I share the stage with. I was voted Best Actor of the Year at the Pineapple Playhouse in Fort Pierce for I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Two of my other favorite roles are Mr. Franklin Hart Jr in 9 to 5, and Glen Gulia in Wedding Singer the Musical. I just try to bring good energy, connect with the audience, and help make the experience fun and memorable."

## **Margaret (Peggie) O'Neill | Performing**

*Nominated by: Joanne Wetzel*



"At age five my parents let me study violin in New York City under Judith Koch Hagen who inspired me to perform, and to teach. I later studied violin, viola, and music theory under her father, the renowned teacher Howard Koch, and piano with his wife, the concert pianist Ruth Koch. After high school, I attended Hart School of Music in Hartford, CT and Mannes School of Music in NYC. I have founded two music schools. The first was Spring Lake Music School in New York, and the most recent is Bach's Children Music School in Stuart, Florida. No interested student will be turned away regardless of ability to pay. We offer instruction in cello, bass, piano, harp, acoustic guitar, classical guitar, music composition and theory. I am one of the founding members of the Indian River Pops orchestra. And I am very active in the Irish folk music band, the Rowdy Micks. These endeavors are also at the core of my life."

## **Carol Paul | Performing**

*Nominated by: Doug Jewett*



Carol is currently working at Jensen Beach High School as an Assistant Secretary after retiring from the Martin County School District after 22 years. She has used her musical talents in local churches, schools, and community choirs, serving as a Church Organist for 41 years. She has been Choir Accompanist for Treasure Coast Community Singers for 21 years and currently is accompanist for the choir at Trinity United Methodist Church in Jensen Beach, Florida. Many know Carol for her dedication to the students, serving at four of the middle schools in Martin County and all three Martin County High Schools, at solo/ensemble festivals as an accompanist for South Fork High and Jensen Beach High choral, and band programs. She was the accompanist for Martin County High School's OPUS program for 20 years, which included concerts, district, and state adjudication, traveling throughout the USA, and internationally from Hawaii to London, for choral competitions.

## **Brooklyn Quintana | Literary**

*Nominated by: Jeanna Quintana-Jones, Daniel Tracy, Dorothy Vinci, Victoria Vinci*



Brooklyn quietly notes, "I hope I was nominated for this award in recognition of my dedication to the arts, and literature in particular. I take any opportunity, whether on a professional or personal level, to encourage everyone to explore reading, regardless of genre. I truly love sharing my passion for words, storytelling, and reading. Music has always been a driving inspirational force behind my work. Having grown up playing classical piano. I find there is something emotive about music that's always helped me craft my stories and characters. Speaking to students is something I always enjoy."



# Student Nominees

## Leonel Alvarez-Lopez | Student Literary

Nominated by: *Don Hessler, M.Ed.*



Leonel is a student at Martin County High School with talent in creative writing. The desire to be meaningful drives Leonel's desire to be creative. Leonel says, "I write in my free time, and I guess that's how it will be into the future as well. All the seventeen years of my life has led up to this moment."

## Natalia Carabello | Student Performing

Nominated by: *Alexandria Gribble*



"While there are many things that spark my credibility, what inspires me the most is the idea of representation and the people I have the privilege of connecting with through music. I've always been drawn to the human voice, not just in how it sounds, but in what it can do. Our voices carry emotion, history, culture, and connection. They're tools for storytelling, healing, and empowerment. Being able to use mine to share a message, to offer a glimpse into someone else's experience, or to bring joy or comfort to another person is something I don't take for granted. We all know what it feels like to be happy, heartbroken, scared, excited, hopeful. Music, to me, is one of the few things that can reach across those divides and remind us that we're not alone."

Natalia is a student at South Fork High School.

## Mark D' Alessio | Student Literary

Nominated by: *Don Hessler, M.Ed.*



Mark is a student at Martin County High School. He says, "My teacher and my classmates have told me that my writings take them out of the classroom and to another setting in their minds, and that this has had a positive impact on them. What inspires me to be creative is when I look at different stories, like horror stories, or just by looking at different images of beautiful scenes of nature. I think to myself, 'if only I could make my own version.' If a book I am reading or a show I am watching emotionally affects me, I question myself, can I do that to someone too."

## **Victoria Fenimore | Student Visual**

*Nominated by: Alicia Jones*



Victoria's area of interest in high school is painting. Computer animation is her goal for college and career. People and animals inspire much of her 'creativitsophy'. She is not yet sure of the specific area of animation she would like to pursue.

## **Mallory Goddard | Student Performing**

*Nominated by: Amy James, Jennifer Goddard*



Mallory is a student at Martin County High School. Mallory says, "What inspires me most is the emotional connection that music creates – both with the audience and within myself. Opera, especially, allows me to step into someone else's story and express feelings that words alone can't capture. I'm inspired by how music can move people, such as bringing them to tears or making them feel joyful. I also find creativity in the details – how a phrase is shaped or how a character's journey is told through sound. Watching other artists, performing for audiences, and diving into new repertoire constantly remind me why I fell in love with this art form."

## **Kennedy Goebel | Student Literary**

*Nominated by: Don Hessler, M.Ed.*



Kennedy is a student at Martin County High School. She says, "I feel I was nominated for this award because of my ability to be very emotional and intentional. With this I am able to paint a scene with words in ways that allow the reader to imagine very well what I am saying. I love to use analogies and metaphors in my writing. It helps both me and my reader gain a better explanation and understanding of situations, as I paint my picture verbally."



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## **Madison Gutierrez | Student Literary**

*Nominated by: Don Hessler, M.Ed.*



Madison is a student at Martin County High School. Responding to the nomination Madison says, "I think I was nominated for this award for my open-ended thinking and creative ideas. What inspires me to be creative and pursue writing, or anything creative, is the books I have read that can bring stories and worlds to life on a page. One of my school projects that I am particularly proud of is scripts I wrote for digital videos as a part of one of my classes. I do not intend to major in writing in college but to always use it to facilitate all of my work."

## **Taylor Imbert | Student Literary**

*Nominated by: Don Hessler, M.Ed.*



Taylor is a student at Martin County High School. Taylor says, "The world around me gives me inspiration to be creative. From an early age I have used the environment all around me to express beauty and of things that are in my mind. Inspiration can be found all around us in the world we live in. This can be the physical world we see, or in the most simple interactions

we have with the people we come into contact with. If you can be creative and inspire others to do the same in their own way then it is a win for everyone."

## **Katharyn Johnson | Student Visual**

*Nominated by: Shelby Hart*



Katharyn is a student at South Fork High School. Her particular interest is sculpture. She says that what inspires her to be creative "is the world around us. Nature always gives me new ideas. I really get into my creative zone when I'm near the water or walking through the woods. The colors, textures, and peacefulness of nature affect how I see the world and what I create. One project that I'm especially proud of is a mural that I helped paint for the ROTC program at my high school. We came up with ideas and designs that represent the values and spirit of the ROTC program." Katharyn is looking forward to a career in interior design.

## **Hannah Jones | Student Literary**

*Nominated by: Jaquelyn Caroll*



Hannah is a student at Jensen Beach High School. She says, "my creativity stems from a passion to convey and see the sights of my mind come into reality. It is a form of both fulfillment and self-expression. When I read the stories or see the art of others I want nothing more than to create great works like them. I want to drive myself to make works that I am truly proud of. Works that others can enjoy as I adore the works of countless others. My intended major is not in the fine arts, but I would love to continue to grow in my creative passions and continue in my writing."

## **Blake Kershanick | Student Performing**

*Nominated by: Michelle Hance*



Blake is a student at Jensen Beach High School. His focus is musical theatre. Asked what inspires him to be creative, he said "to be humble and never feel as if you have to compare yourself to other people who are also very talented, and to be welcoming and inspired." He is particularly appreciative of the opportunity he had to play Pinocchio in a group thespian

performance. He would like to continue his education in musical theatre.

## **Evan King | Student Performing**

*Nominated by: Thomas Dougherty*



Evan is a student at Jensen Beach High School. He says, "I believe I was nominated for this award because of all of the work I have put in to my craft, the ways I have helped others both at my school and in my community, the fact I have taken my talents to the world call level with STRYKE Percussion, and my passion to not only thrive, but to bring others with me. With drumming experience over ten years, I have been drumming for the majority of my lifetime. My passion for what I do has only grown more and more, making me want to work harder to become truly great. I also give lessons to multiple students at local high schools and middle schools, and I go to as many percussion clinics as possible to expand my knowledge."

## **Sophia Leach | Student Visual**

*Nominated by: Emily Faehnle*



Sophia is a student at the Pine School. She says, "I spend most of my free-time sketching, thinking of projects, and looking for inspiration. When I watch TV for example, I will either draw or contemplate what I could take from the show/movie into my own art. When I'm idle or even engaged in other tasks I imagine my characters interacting with the world around them, their literary motifs, and the way their choices affect their plot. When I am with friends or by myself, I draw. I usually spend up to three hours drawing per day. I let myself focus on art as a means of making a living, which is my dream."

## **Kaya Lund | Student Visual**

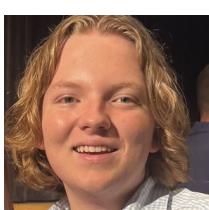
*Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble*



Kaya is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center. She says, "My interests are in painting and drawing and exploring different art medias. I have found that art brings me joy in creating original ideas that can be loved by others. I feel at home with being able to express my love of creating in general. This ties in with how I wish to pursue film; I am able to do all these things in one. I want to make films, cartoons, comics, movies, video games, and anything underneath the art umbrella, using art and stories to create films that many can be inspired by and love. I plan to focus on art in college."

## **Zane Price | Student Performing**

*Nominated by: Cindy Kessler*



Zane is a student at Jensen Beach High School. He says, "I believe that no force is as powerful as music when it comes to inspiring a feeling. My biggest motivation for making music is the opportunity to share performances with others. As a piano player and band drum major, I strive to use music to inspire positivity in all, whether that be when performing for senior citizen at Grand Oaks Assisted Living or for my peers in high school. For me, the arts are not just about the music played; they're about the way music brings people together."

## **Ella Smith | Student Visual**

*Nominated by: Laura Dervin*



Ella is a student at Martin County High School and her focus is on photography. She says, "what inspires me to be creative is the constant need to express myself – often in ways words can't capture. Photography, in particular, allows me to reflect emotions, ideas, and parts of myself that I don't always fully understand until I see them in the image. One of the favorite uses of my time is to volunteer, especially at elementary schools. As a photographer I have gone to school events like track meets and celebrations of graduation. I enjoy capturing these moments of celebration and love in the community and sharing them. I would like to pursue a professional career that allows me to utilize photography in a direct career or as a side passion."

## **Ava Stark | Student Visual**

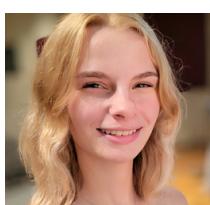
*Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble*



Ava is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center with a focus on painting. She says, "I believe that the thing that inspires me the most is my community of artists. Over the years I have met so many like-minded and talented artists that inspire me every day to go out and paint or draw and simply to just create something. This community of artists that I have met in many different ways from all around the world inspire me each and every day to be creative. My intended plans for college are to go into computer animation at the Ringling College of Art and Design in their computer animation program."

## **Madeline Van Zyl | Student Visual**

*Nominated by: Pearl Van Zyl*



Madeline is a student at Jensen Beach High School. She has been an avid musical performer with the Jensen Beach High School band for the last three years. "What inspires me to be creative is using new ideas to become a better artist. Trying to draw things I've never seen, or just trying to create something I've never tried. Like, in my recent drawings, cats doing only what humans can such as taking care of a home. My intended major in college is electrical engineering with the goal of working at Disney where I can help design, create, and program creative and innovative projects. Disney is all about creativity, fantasy, and the 'Magic'. I want to make the park come to life for everyone to enjoy."

## **Sabrina Zambrano | Student Performing**

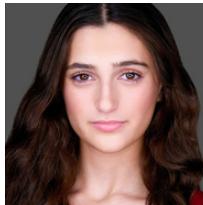
*Nominated by: Sherilyn Bryan*



Sabrina is a student at South Fork High School and her focus is vocal and musical theatre. She says, "musical theatre and music in general are my inspiration for life. I love, love, love being on stage and getting to share my passion for music with others. One of my favorite things about it is getting to put myself in different people's lives with each role. I love how I get to share their experiences and perspectives on stage and put my own life experiences into each performance I give. Also, seeing other people do that. I think performing is the best way to express yourself, and it is just fun for me."

## **Kamryn Zucker | Student Performing**

*Nominated by: Jennifer Yormak*



Kamryn is a student at Martin County High School. Kamryn says, "I am inspired by the idea of making people feel alive. Whether I am making them laugh, cry, or be excited, I know people come to the theatre to be changed and I have the privilege of making that happen. I feel most alive when I am performing because I can live vicariously through other characters while still relating in my own ways. I have volunteered at StarStruck multiple times to help teach young children about the beauty of theatre and the arts. I have assisted teachers with running the musical theatre class, teaching the kids how to sing and dance. I have also interned for summer camps. I am filled with joy each time I encourage a young child to be confident and express themselves without holding back."

## **Join Today & Save! Get \$10 Off Your *MARTIN Arts* Membership**

As a valued guest of the MartinArts Awards, we're delighted to offer you \$10 off a MartinArts membership—an invitation to join our vibrant arts community.

Membership comes with special perks, including a subscription to MartinArts Magazine, discounted tickets for select events, and invitations to exclusive programs like our annual ArtsFest celebration and Sunset Concerts. We've also partnered with the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) which gives you exclusive access to over 1,300 incredible venues, including museums, art galleries, botanical gardens, children's museums, and more!

Most importantly, your membership helps sustain our mission to inspire participation and passion for the arts throughout Martin County.

**Scan the code to redeem your discounted membership!** 



**Victoria Fenimore**  
"Times Square, Florida"



**Katharyn Johnson**  
"Beneath The Surface"



**Sophia Leach**  
"Something's Fishy"



**Kaya Lund**  
"Sequestered Blue"



**Ella Smith**  
"Winged Surfer"



**Ava Stark**

"Afternoon Slumber"



**Madeline Van Zyl**

"Pastel Avians"



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**We appreciate the support of 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!





# ELLA

# SMITH

Ella,

From the moment you first picked up a camera, we knew you had a gift for seeing the world in ways others might miss. Your photography captures not just images, but stories, emotions, and pieces of your heart. Watching you grow into the incredible young woman you are today has been one of our life's greatest joys.

We are in awe of your talent, your determination, and your kindness. This nomination is just one reflection of the light you bring to the world, and we know it's only the beginning of all the beautiful things ahead.

We love you endlessly and believe in you always.

With all our love and pride,  
Mom, Dad, and Sophia





## Celebrating over 20 years of the MartinArts Awards!

### What are the MartinArts Awards?

The MartinArts Awards were established to highlight the most creative individuals in our community and to support the talent of our emerging young artists. Since its inception in 2003, the event has evolved into a heartfelt tribute to our vibrant arts community. The award categories—Honorary and Nominated—were chosen by the founding committee to recognize the essential elements that contribute to a flourishing and sustainable arts environment. Over the past two decades, we have celebrated more than 180 former award recipients, showcasing an incredible amount of creative energy and commitment to community through the MartinArts Awards!

### And the recipients are...

#### Honorary Awards

Selected by the MartinArts Foundation Board of directors, these awards are an integral part of the MartinArts Awards program to represent a legacy of commitment to things such as leadership, service, arts education, philanthropy and lifetime achievement, that have allowed the arts to be a part of the treasures this community has to offer its residents and visitors.

#### Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

The individual has shown a lifetime of commitment to the improvement of the quality of life in our community through dedication, leadership and inspiration. They may be a professional artist or a lifetime advocate for the arts as an integral part of the fabric of our community. Recipients: Charlotte Clayton, Nancy O'Malley, Phil Kavanaugh, Janeen Mason, Marie Jureit- Beamish, Sandra Thurlow, Rita Vallis, Jane Davis Doggett, Jane Miller, John Whitney Payson, Dr. John Enyart, James Hutchinson, Guy Coheleach, Conney Dahn, Elmar Oliveira, Grace Linn, Joanne Raulin, Jim Dirks

#### Excellence in Arts Education

Recognizes an individual for a career in arts education and for being an inspiration to his/her students to aspire to greatness in the arts. Recipients: Ron Corbin, Tom Wetzl, Kristal Wion-Eckhardt, Karen Haines, Joe Flanagan, Tracy Canada, Marcus Raab, Bridget Glass, John Stiles, Lynne Barletta, William Lindner, Thomas Dougherty, Cindy Kessler, Ashley Monks, Amanda Jones, John Egan, James Paul, Tami Conrad

## **Philanthropy in the Arts**

An individual or family who has through significant contributions given to and enhanced the cultural life of our community. Recipients: Richard and Dana Kibbey, Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation, Women Supporting the Arts, OPUS Boosters, Vianne Nichols, Peter and Julie Cummings, Barbara Trimble, Frances Langford Foundation, Maureen O'Connor-Deighan & Family, David Smythe, Jerome and Phyllis Rappaport, Craig and Elizabeth Price, Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation

## **Arts Leadership**

An individual who has served as a consistent driving force to keep the arts alive in Martin County. This person is perceived to be constantly on the front line keeping the arts visible. A true passion for the arts is demonstrated in their every effort. Recipients: Ernie and Helen Berlin, Janet Hutchinson, John Loesser, Cecelia Serra, Craig Price, Ethel Christin, Bob Valle, Jeanette Mueller, Ron Hart, Tom Servinsky, Doug Smith, Tom Prestopnik, Karen Barnes, Neil Capozzi, Alfred and Lindsay Hager, Kia Fontaine, Ron Rose, Tammy Calabria

## **Corporate Leadership in the Arts**

A corporation with a commitment to funding, supporting and participating in the arts and cultural life of our community. Through their gifts, arts and cultural activities and events have been consistently enhanced. Recipients: Dunn Capital Management, Northern Trust, Massey Yardley, Palm Beach Post, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, UBS, Publix Super Market Charities, Wilmington Trust, Fox Wacken Dungey Beard Bush Goldman Waters Robison van Vonno & McCluskey, LLP, The Terrio Group, PNC Arts Alive!, Seacoast Bank, Palm City Art & Frame, Masterpiece Design/Build, Bank of America

## **Arts Service**

Honors an individual that participates in donating volunteer time to an arts organization/cause or is an unsung hero for the arts. An award recipient encourages support for the organization through action and is truly dedicated to the cause of the nonprofit(s) that benefit from their attention. This award may not be given every year. (Previously a nominated award category entitled "Volunteer in the Arts") Recipients: Margaret "Peggy" Meissner, Connie Bass, Ginger Baldwin, Rita Jenkins-Gaines, Graham Monk; Pamela Fogt, Karen Vaina, Francine Beckstead, Ethel Christin, Glenn Webber, Mary Ann Loomis, Pat Pendergast, Joann Gallagher, Sue Sokel, Paul Nunley, Faith G. Paul

## **Special Recognition**

Serves to recognize a special happening in the arts and cultural life of Martin County that is unique and deserving of special attention and thanks. This award may not be given every year. Recipients: Edward and Suzan Sellian, Mary Shaw, HCG, BOCC / Arts Tourism, Peggy O'Neill, Water Birds Project / City of Stuart, MCHS Visual Arts Team and The Prescription Shop for the Martin County Historical Mural, The Barn Theatre in honor of their 50th Anniversary, Henry "Hank" Gonzalez, Ripple EcoArt Project led by the Martin County Office of Community Development and Artist Lucy Keshavarz, The Lyric Theatre for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Nominated Awards

Nominated Awards are selected from nominations submitted from the community to recognize artists and student artists. The nominations represent a very important part of the arts community, and that is the artists themselves who are giving back, enriching the community through their creativity and expression of their talent.

### Literary Artist (new in 2017)

Kris Landry, Amika Devi, Betty Jo Buro, Gale Baker, Kristal Wion-Eckhardt, Jennifer Collins, Myriana Merkovic

### Performing Artist

Christina Burr, Cynthia Kessler, Gayle Mingledorf, Peter Jones, Constantinos Jaferis, Douglas Jewett, Jennifer Jones, Terry Barber, Alfred Hager, Karin Leone, Jeanette Mazzella, Rowdy Carlton, Tasha Shirley, Lorrianna Colozzo, Jackie Robbins, Brandon Glick, Amy Clark

### Visual Artist

Tom Prestopnik, Caesar Cirigliano, Margaret Gray, Brenda Leigh, Tom Winter; Ruthann Hewson; Cristina de la Vega, Jane Blatt, Dan Mackin, Geoffrey Smith, Mia Lindberg, Mallo Bisset, Suzanne Connors, Chris Kling, Jane Lawton Baldridge, Dot Galfond, Michaelann Bellerjeau

### Digital Media Artist

Jeff Younglove, Steve Martine, Mitch Kloorfain  
(no longer awarded – merged into Visual)



## **Student Literary Artist (new in 2017)**

Jillian Sechrist, Bianca Grosso, Julian Heidelberg, Jazmine Cratty, Tetiana Bilokon

## **Student Performing Artist**

Angelica Melilio, Michael Wood, Kendra Eaton, Megan Moran, Ryan Weiss, Martha Sturm, Kevin James Connor, Cory Jeacoma, Spencer Ballantyne, Kevin Paul, Savanna Webber, Ryan Cox, Victoria Bartolotta, Valerie Grau, Sophie McClung (theatre), Daniel Bentz (music), Eliza Levy (theatre), Brandon Gunter (music), Hannah Roebuck (theatre), Alexander Cooper and Sarah Spector (music) Katie Vitale (theatre), Ava Gunter (music), Andrea Martine, Logan Jacobs, Samuel McCulley

## **Student Visual Artist**

Tracy Cochran, Sara Brokaw, Alex Fogt, Ellen Krebs, Ashley Baldwin, Sarah Tranter, Ariana Martinez, Jordan Schulz, Cristina Perez, Madelene Wishart, Shelby Baillie, Ryan Chimelis, Theresa Legein, Jacqueline Rouse, Isabella Gallese, Alexandra Trejo, Christopher Carnes, Sophie Araque-Liu, Daphne Dalton, Mattine Jensen

## **Student Digital Media Artist**

Christopher Mennuto, Nicholas Lively, Jesse Forbes, Amanda Wind (no longer awarded – merged into Visual)

## **MartinArts Special Awards**

Given for unique circumstances and exceptional reasons. Innovo Award: Jesse Forbes; Sanders Award: Brett Taylor, Connor Hadel, Mika Fowler; and Recognition in memory of Debi Owens: Charlotte Strohl

*Now Accepting Nominations for 2026!*

**MartinArts invites you to nominate a professional or student artist in literary, performing, or visual arts for a 2026 MartinArts Award!**

All nominees must conduct the majority of their civic activities within Martin County. Student nominees must be Martin County residents entering their senior year of high school in August 2026. A scholarship will be awarded to the recipient in each student category.

Nominations for the 2026 MartinArts Awards will be accepted through April 1.

**Visit [MartinArts.org](http://MartinArts.org) or scan QR code for more information.**





# MARTIN *Arts*

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

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.

The vision MartinArts holds for transforming the historic school into a vibrant arts campus is deeply rooted in the belief that every child deserves access to creative opportunities, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. By establishing a dynamic, inclusive space dedicated to arts education, this campus will offer children—especially those who are historically underserved or financially challenged—a place to learn, grow, and express themselves through the arts.

We have a bold vision — and we need partners who will help bring it to life. This is your moment to be part of something lasting.

This is not just a building. It's the foundation for everything we hope the arts can be in our community — now and for generations to come.

### *Will you help?*

For more information about supporting the campaign and getting involved:

Nancy K. Turrell, CEO  
772-287-6676 (office)  
772-530-5437 (mobile)  
[nancy.turrell@martinartsfoundation.org](mailto:nancy.turrell@martinartsfoundation.org)

**Join us for a tour of the historic Stuart High School, our community's future art campus.**





# ArtsFest

FINE ART • MUSIC • COMMUNITY • FUN

**February 7 & 8, 2026**

**Saturday 10AM-6PM | Sunday 10AM-4PM**

**Memorial Park, Downtown Stuart**

**\$5 Admission | Kids 18 & Under, FREE**

It's all happening at ArtsFest! Dive into a full weekend of Fine Art, Food & Wine, Live Music, and the high-energy fun of Stuart CHOPPED and so much more. Bring your friends, bring your appetite, and get ready to celebrate the arts and community like never before.

**Learn more at [ArtsFestStuart.org](http://ArtsFestStuart.org)**



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# We invite you to Support the Fund for Student Scholarships!

To ensure that scholarships will always be a meaningful part of the MartinArts Awards experience for students, we launched a campaign in 2023 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the "Marties." This campaign will create an enduring source of funds to support students who excel in the visual, performing, and literary arts.

Each year, nominees are reviewed by a panel of accomplished artists and community leaders through a rigorous process that includes an application, artistic samples, and an interview. Those selected as recipients of a MartinArts Award currently receive a \$1,000 scholarship—an award that recognizes their talent while helping them take the next step in their education and artistic journey.

The impact goes far beyond a single award. Research shows that students engaged in the arts perform better academically, develop stronger interpersonal skills, and grow the creativity that is increasingly sought after in every career field. Our alumni are living proof of that promise: Kevin Paul is starring on Broadway in *The Outsiders*, and Kevin Connor is building a career in New York City with the Tony Award-winning Hal Luftig Company. Their success stories began with early recognition and support from MartinArts, showing how an investment in young artists can open doors to extraordinary futures.

At MartinArts, it is our mission to inspire participation and passion for the arts, build a strong sense of place, and cultivate a community that is deeply engaged in the creative spirit. Investing in young artists is a cornerstone of that vision—and a vital way to ensure our community remains vibrant for decades to come.

Contributions to the MartinArts Awards Scholarship Fund are 100% tax deductible and held in a board-restricted account dedicated to supporting students. We are well on our way to our \$100,000 goal—already 70% of the way there—and with your help, we can cross the finish line.

Join us in shaping the future of the arts by donating to the MartinArts Awards Scholarship Fund today. Together, we can ensure that future generations of student artists are rewarded, encouraged, and supported in their artistic pursuits.



80 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34994

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



@martinartsfl

