

MARTIN *Arts*

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

**RIPPLE... As a Drop of
Water Becomes a River**

PAGE 4

**Treasure Coast Dance
Community is *En Pointe***

PAGE 30





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A Vision for 2023

“The future’s so bright, I gotta wear shades!”

It’s so amazing to be back in the historic Court House Cultural Center, and to see her looking better than ever. Martin County has done a tremendous job rehabilitating the building and making her stronger with impact windows and doors. The successful conclusion to this project early in 2023, began our year off with a good, clean start!

We are honored to kick things off with the colorful works of Dorothy Gillespie. What a joy to learn more about the impactful life she lead, mentoring and coaching female artists in an age where men dominated the stage. (more on Dorothy’s life on pages 26-27.)

Adding to our list of celebrations in early 2023, was a 5-0 vote by the Martin County School Board to approve a request to expand the property line to allow us add a new structure (housing mechanical equipment and a stage tower) to the back of the historic Stuart High School. Design work and planning is back on track, and we are moving full steam ahead.

Sadly, the year did not start off with smiles and laughs. Instead, it brought with it a shower of sadness as we lost two individuals who meant so much to this organization and to many of us who are involved: Betty Brain and Hank Gonzalez. Our hearts ache with the loss. We send our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones. On page 24, you’ll learn more about Hank’s legacy.

The amazing Betty Brain was a volunteer and arts patron whose presence will be sorely missed in our circles. After several months of suffering, Betty passed away in early January. Betty could always be relied on to help where needed and was truly an unsung hero, preferring the background to the limelight. Betty’s life passion was travel but she truly loved the arts.

My challenge to you as we celebrate milestones and the memories of those we loved, is to live each day like it may be your last and spend your time, talent, and treasure on what matters most to you!

Yours creatively,

Nancy K. Turrell, CEO
MartinArts

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On the cover: Courtney Jones

RIPPLE...

as a drop of water becomes a river



As a fortieth generation Floridian, dating back to the original Spanish settlers of St. Augustine, Lucy Keshavarz has witnessed many changes to her home state over the years.

Her parents were born in the 1920's and lived through the devastation of the cotton boll weevil, the Great Depression and WWII. Her father was a citrus grower and served in India during the war and her mother, a teacher, then homemaker. Keshavarz believes the rich history shared by her parents and grandparents had a great influence on her perspective in life.

Lucy's love and wonderment of the earth, natural sciences and the arts has given her a true purpose in life. Keshavarz recalls as a child always playing in the woods and building things. She would construct items from outside materials including palm fronds and soil. She learned to sew at a young age and had many artistic pursuits including choir, ceramics, and dancing. She balanced her love of arts by taking as many sciences classes as possible and graduated college with a BFA in theatre and technical production.

Until the birth of their second child, Lucy worked with her husband, Maziar, at his engineering firm, Keshavarz & Associates. She stayed involved in the arts by working in various positions in arts administration for performance and visual arts organizations. In 1999, Lucy incorporated Art & Culture Group, Inc and served as its president and as a member artist. Keshavarz says, "having a background in theatre, knowledge of civil engineering and self-study in natural sciences, made it an easier path into public art and Ecological Art (EcoArt). For more than a decade,

Lucy has educated herself on the subject of sustainability. She believes that planting native plant species to promote biodiversity is key and this has become a part of her artistic palette.

Since 2014, Lucy has served as the lead artist with the *Ripple* Project since its inception. This entails collaborating with Martin County staff on the design budget and grant funding. *Ripple* is a stormwater treatment area. Its purpose is to manage and clean the area's stormwater before entering the St. Lucie River. Having worked on other EcoArt projects with her husband's engineering firm was extremely beneficial throughout this project. Lucy led the community engagement and participated as a creative along with the other design professionals such as, civil engineers and landscape architects to integrate the community's desires. The trail reconnects the Old Palm City neighborhood with the St. Lucie River at four distinct sites along SW 28th and 29th Streets. Not only will people be able to view nature at its finest, but there will also be educational panels, plant identification, open air shelters, rock sculptures and more information throughout the trail. Lucy will be working with her own construction contractors to install art elements in a few months.

"This project illustrates the connective nature of art and the artist in our society," says Keshavarz. "EcoArt is not solely about creating art objects, it is about the artist being the conduit for the creative process throughout and with all entities the project will touch."

Lucy's passion for EcoArt has enabled her to use her sense of wonder and creativity with the community to create something truly remarkable. She looks forward to the completion of this project in the hopes of inspiring people to reconnect with nature and understand how one can live a sustainable life.



Photo: Lucy Keshavarz with students from Bessey Creek and JD Parker schools

the Highwaymen

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TO THE SMITHSONIAN

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MartinArts Awards

Celebrating the Arts in Our Community

At 7PM on November 3 in downtown Stuart, the stage was set, the lights lit, and curtains rose again at The Lyric Theatre to unveil last year's recipients and honorees of the 2022 MartinArts Awards. In traditional, anticipated form, the 2022 MartinArts Awards provided an exciting evening with top entertainment by student-nominees, and a showcase of revered, award honorees, and recipient artists.

The community showed its support for the artist community by attending the 2022 MartinArts Awards and were entertained by Wings to Fly, Lorrianna Colozzo and the student nominees. It was a tremendous showing of talent and togetherness.

Professional Artist and Student Artist were awarded in the categories of visual, literary, performing artistic excellence and those who helped the arts flourish in our community. The awards, fondly known as the "Marties", were presented to individuals in each category with a proven record of artistic excellence, outstanding civic responsibility, and whose leadership has improved the quality of life in our community through the arts. To qualify, Student Artist nominees must be Martin County residents entering their senior year of high school.

In traditional and exceptional community recognition, MartinArts bestowed a series of Honorary Awards. These awards are not "judged," but appointed by the Board of Directors and event committee, for outstanding support and commitment to growing the arts in Martin County.

Since 2003, the MartinArts Awards, hailed by the community as 'the premier celebration of the arts,' has awarded more than \$25,000 in scholarships.

The MartinArts Awards Committee looks forward to the Fall 2023 event to be held at the historic Lyric Theatre on November 8.



Scan the QR code to nominate an artist through April 15.



Courtney Jones and Owen Vincent

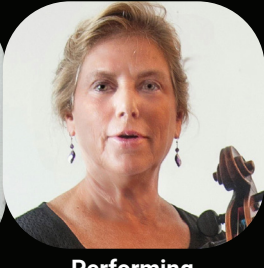


Wings to Fly and Lorrianna Colozzo

2022 Professional Award Recipients



Visual
Jane Lawton Baldrige



Performing
Jackie Robbins



Literary
Kristal Wion-Eckhardt

2022 Student Award Recipients



Visual
Sophie Araque-Liu



Performing
Andrea Martine



Literary
Julian Heidelberg

2022 Honorary Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement in the Arts
Elmar Oliveira

Excellence in Arts Education
Amanda Jones

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ARTIST *Profiles*

Billy Cofrances

William (Billy) Cofrances has been playing the saxophone since he was 10 years old. Growing up with jazz musician parents, music was a huge part of his life. Billy attended ACES Educational Center for the Arts magnet high school in New Haven, CT, where he met his wife Maria Cofrances, a classically trained opera singer. He then continued his musical education at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. Billy has played all over Connecticut and New York City with the Billy Cofrances Jazz Quartet and he has had the privilege to play with incredible musicians throughout his career. A major philanthropist in the arts, Billy and his family moved to Florida in 2020, and are looking forward to immersing themselves into the Martin County arts scene.

You can catch Billy every Wednesday night at Cork'd Wine Bar, 6:30PM-9:30PM.

Terry Barber

Past member of multiple Grammy winning, Chanticleer, Terry Barber has been a soloist for the best venues around the world, from the Metropolitan Opera to Moscow's Svetlanov Hall and can be heard on recordings with artists from Madonna, Jewel, Chaka Khan, Cyndi Lauper, to the London Philharmonic. Terry's most recent solo album was considered for eight Grammy nominations and according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "Barber has star quality."

In addition to educational outreach into schools at every level, Terry Barber works to support communities through the nonprofit he founded, Artists for a Cause Inc. The organization's first home office was on the Treasure Coast.

Kerry Rocks

Having begun private lessons at nine years old and professionally contracted by Palm Beach Opera at the age of 16, Kerry has been studying voice and performing for most of her life. A dramatic soprano, as a versatile artist, from Bel Canto to Broadway, she is equally at home singing operatic, sacred, art song, sacred music and musical theatre repertoire ranging from renaissance to contemporary music. Rocks is a vocal instructor and acting coach with 14 years of vocal teaching experience and a music teacher at J.D. Parker Elementary School. Rocks believes, "I have honed my technique in discovering each artist's true voice and helping them work to set it free."

Her goal as a teacher is to promote healthy and natural singing while communicating true artistry through story-telling.



Douglas P. Jewett

Dr. Douglas P. Jewett has been the inspiration and driving force behind TCCS. In 2003, shortly after moving to the area, he founded Treasure Coast Community Singers with six other members with the idea of 'keeping people singing' by inspiring singers of all ages along the Treasure Coast. The organization has since grown to encompass more than four choirs, two additional directors and over 150 singers in active membership, not including all of the non-singer and volunteer involvement needed to produce multiple performances each season. Recently added to his list of accomplishments, Doug was a 2023 Sage Award Honoree for Arts & Culture. Doug continues to serve as the primary conductor, CEO and founding artistic director for TCCS, the only Community Chorus on the Treasure Coast.

Jingyu Xu

New MartinArts member, Jingyu Xu was born in Shandong, China, in 1981. She studied sculpture at Shandong University of Art and Design and graduated in 2004. From 2004 to 2012, she taught at the School of Modern Handicraft at Shandong University of Art and Design. She resides in Beijing, China, and the United States of America.

In 2004, Jingyu Xu's works won the bronze prize at the 10th National Fine Art Exhibition in China. In 2007, Jingyu went to the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, where she was a visiting scholar. She was invited by the Hilger Gallery in Vienna, Austria, in 2012, to create and participate in the Chinese contemporary art exhibition entitled *Shuffle Reloaded* in Europe. In 2020, her short film won the Outstanding Work Award at the 1st Yage Literary and Art Awards in the United States.

Sonja Mongar

A late blooming author, Sonja Mongar now is surrounded by words. She has facilitated local writing workshops in fiction and memoir locally through the IRSC Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning. She serves part-time as a teacher for Western Connecticut State Low Residency MFA program in creative and professional writing, specializing in fiction, creative non-fiction, memoir, and journalism.

Her novels include *Two Spoons of Bitter* (2018) and *A Suitcase Full of Harmonicas & the Lynyrd Skynyrd Effect*, which was accepted into the 2022 Jax by Jax Literary Festival. Her essay "The Last Spike" can be found in the 2022 photography book by Glenn Rudolph entitled *Ghostline*. Mongar's short story "Extinction" was published in the December 2022 literary magazine *Saw Palm*.





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SCULPTING OUR ARTISTS.

We're proud to support
those who dream of a brighter
tomorrow through the arts.



NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Martin County's First Community Theatre Sees a Bright Future Ahead

As The Barn Theatre wraps its wildly successful 52nd season, it continues to expand upon the realm of possibilities for live, community theatre in Martin County. The Barn Theatre's impact on the greater arts community in Martin County cannot be denied and MartinArts recently spoke with a few key members of The Barn Theatre team about their spring musical, *La Cage aux Folles*, the history of the theatre, and what the future holds.

La Cage aux Folles, the winner of the 1984 Tony Award for Best Musical (and Best Musical Revival in 2005), was also the inspiration for the 1996 Academy Award-winning film *The Birdcage*. This iconic musical brings all the flash and glamour of the French Riviera's cabaret scene with a story that leaves audiences embracing what and who truly matters in love and family.

For an insider's perspective, MartinArts sat down with three key members of The Barn Theatre for their experiences with Martin County's first community theatre and its latest production.

Kyle Patrick Weber who portrays one of the lead characters in *La Cage aux Folles*, also serves as Theatrical Vice President of The Barn Theatre's Board of Directors.

Kyle, what is it about playing the character Albin/Zaza did you enjoy most?

Playing Albin is a dream I've had for quite some time. Growing up my favorite movie was, and still is, *The Birdcage*; getting to jump into the source material has meant so much to me.

How has your experience in *La Cage aux Folles* differed from previous productions you have been a part of at The Barn Theatre or elsewhere?

The major difference would be the drag; it has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. Albin (Zaza) is different than any other character I have played before. While Albin is the comic relief, as most of my roles tend to be, he has such an arc of emotions on stage and tapping into them all has been a journey.

What do you hope audience members take with them after watching this show?

That truly "we all are what we are", and while some may not accept that, it's important that we accept that in ourselves.

What is it about theatre, and The Barn Theatre in particular, that inspires you to devote your time and talents to the greater arts community in Martin County?

The Barn Theatre gave me something that I didn't think I'd ever find: a place to be as weird and as unapologetically "me" as I can be. I had always been worried about how people would take me, so I hid away from the world. Then one day by chance, my good friend Bryan Childe invited me out to the theatre. Since then, I've made amazing friends, gotten to do wonderful shows, and performed on stage with my family which was a highlight of my acting career. This is also the place where I met my amazing fiancée, Brittany Hooper. It's an incredibly special place for me.

Katelyn Anne Johnson who in addition to performing and serving in various production roles, is the theatre's Communications Manager.

Katelyn, the Barn Theatre has been a fixture of the Martin County arts community since 1971. What can you tell us about how the theatre came to be, what it is now and what is in store for its future?

The Barn Theatre is truly an example of what the Martin County community can accomplish when we collaborate. In December of 1970, "the Renegade Players" (previously known as "the Martin County Players", founded in 1967) purchased an acre of land and an old barn that was part of the Bussert Rose Farm in a good faith agreement with Mr. Bussert. Without any working capital to make the necessary renovations, it was the donation of land, labor, and resources by members of the Martin County community that ultimately made everything possible.

As you've said, The Barn Theatre has undergone a lot of growth over the last fifty-three years. Can you tell us more about how the productions themselves have evolved?



Over the last decade alone, The Barn has been able to increase the number of musicals produced in house alongside some of the best in plays. We have been able to include live bands in many of those productions and we do not intend to slow down. Upgrades to our lighting, sound, set designs, and overall productions have allowed us to bring higher quality shows to Martin County's first community theatre. Higher caliber shows draw higher caliber performers and Martin County is packed full of truly incredible performers. We are lucky that so many of them choose to lend their talents to our productions.

To anyone unfamiliar with The Barn, or maybe has not visited The Barn in years, what would you like them to know?

I would encourage them to grab tickets to an upcoming show and pay us a visit soon. It is truly incredible how vibrant the arts community is in Martin County. In addition to all the brilliant opportunities to take in the visual arts, Martin County has much to offer in the performing arts. The Barn Theatre, I'm proud to say, stands firmly in this community and regardless of whether you are a theatre enthusiast or a casual attendee looking to enjoy something different than what you may normally do, The Barn Theatre has something for you.

Bryan Childe Executive Artistic Director, oversees all aspects of each production, and in particular, the tech requirements. Additionally, Bryan has directed most of The Barn Theatre shows since 2015.

Bryan, a show like La Cage aux Folles brings together a lot of incredible elements: a beautiful musical score, dazzling costumes, intensive choreography, witty humor, and heartwarming relatability. How do you ensure these aspects come together to deliver a high-quality production?

Like you said, *La Cage aux Folles* is a large production with so many moving parts. From set design, to costumes, to our actors and orchestra, it takes an entire team to put on a show like this. Before we even hold auditions, the production team and I have multiple meetings where we discuss what we think is best for everyone. By the time the patrons see the show, we want to ensure they are in for a wonderful evening of theatre.

Without the dedicated work of production team members like our costumers, set decorators, lighting and sound team, and master carpenter, none of this would be possible. This production, we are particularly grateful to our wig mistress, Jennifer Bradshaw of Bradshaw Studioz, for taking over 70 wigs in atrocious condition and revitalizing them with impeccable skill.

What would you consider to be the most challenging components to conquer

throughout the rehearsal and production process, for La Cage aux Folles or any given show?

The most challenging part of any production is getting everything and everyone on the same page. We only had a 5 1/2-week rehearsal period for this show, so getting everyone prepared, the set built, lines learned, blocking, etc. takes a lot. *La Cage aux Folles* is the first time we have had an entire orchestra with us; ensuring everything blends between the actors and the musicians requires attention to many details, including timing. Getting the musicians and actors in sync is challenging.

What can you tell us about how lighting and sound enhances the overall production of a show and what is seen for La Cage aux Folles?

With *La Cage aux Folles*, I went with a more simplified, vintage look, reminiscent of the old big band look of past eras like the 1920's and 30's.

How do you feel The Barn Theatre contributes to the greater arts community in Martin County?

The Barn Theatre prides itself in community. Our actors come from all over South Florida (some even as far north as Melbourne) but most are based right here in Martin County; many, having received their training and experience locally. Our wonderful volunteers are our neighbors and our production team members are all part of the local community.

We also have a wonderful high school program where kids from three local high schools in Martin County can come work on any show. Whether it be lights, sound, backstage, props, wigs, spots etc., we teach these students how to program and run these technical elements which gives them the experience as they continue with their theatre education paths. Our high school program currently has over 14 students volunteering for us.

March 9 – March 26, 2023 | La Cage aux Folles
May 11 – May 28, 2023 | Songs for a New World
July 13 – July 30, 2023 | The Wedding Singer

Tickets can be purchased by visiting barn-theatre.com or by calling the box office: 772-287-4884.

The Barn Theatre's 53rd Season begins in September. Season tickets will become available this summer with individual show tickets to follow.





WOMEN SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Growing and Thriving

This past Fall, members of Women Supporting the Arts (WSA) gathered to discuss the merits of the thirteen grant applications received. At the end of the discussion, WSA selected nine organizations to receive grants, an investment of more than \$25,000, and plans to allocate funds toward future investments in public art.

Due to exceptional membership growth, WSA increased its investment in the arts sector by nearly 20%. Missing from this year's list of grants are projects proposed by individual artists. In prior years, the list included several of those ranging from an investment in a children's book to a multi-media immersive arts experience.

"The impact WSA has on our arts community is strong and growing," stated WSA chair Linda Prange. "We love hearing from our grant recipients at our meetings to learn and become more engaged with each of their projects. Most of all we enjoy each other's company and have fun celebrating the arts."

Members of WSA gather monthly (taking summers off), and for 2023, plan to change meeting times to the evening to accommodate the growing number of women in the workforce who are participating. The discounted membership for women who are 40 or under has expanded the base and allows the group to cover several generations of women who share a passion for the arts.

Women Supporting the Arts Grants (FY 2022-23)

- Atlantic Classical Orchestra
- Bach's Children Music School
- Florida Arts and Dance
- Historical Society of Martin County
- Martin Artisans Guild
- Stuart Community Concert Band
- Treasure Coast Classical Guitar Society
- Treasure Coast Community Singers
- Treasure Coast Youth Symphony

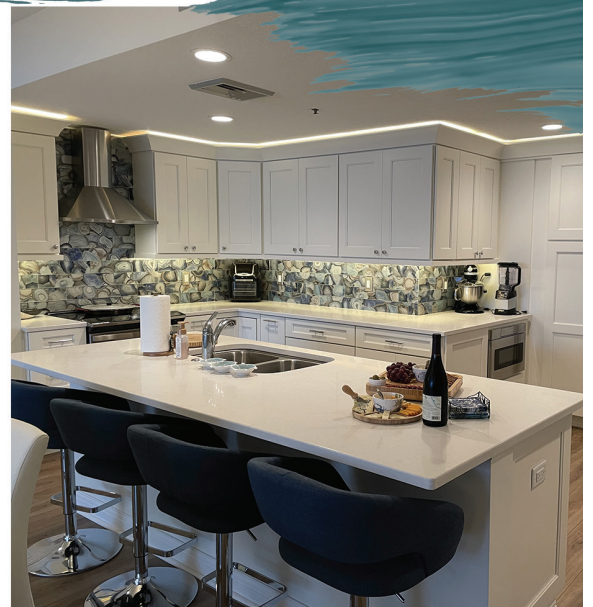
Members of WSA

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- Nancy E. Balow
- Mallo Bisset
- Polly Campenni
- Ethel F. Christin
- Sarah Coleman
- Mary Laub Cowan
- Diana R. Dean
- Sherry Dunn
- Sharon Dvir
- Cheryl French
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- Sandi Steensma
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- Jackie Vitale
- Nicki van Vonno
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To learn more about WSA visit martinarts.org/support_us/women-supporting-the-arts/. Annual membership is \$1000 which can be paid in a single gift or monthly with a recurring donation. For women 40 & Under, membership is discounted to \$500.

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CREATIVE SCEN

Dorothy Gillespie "Works in Living Color" Opening Reception

February 24, 2023

Court House Cultural Center

1. Katelyn Johnson, Shawn Keil and Shelby Cofrances
2. Neena Schneider and Annie Viens
3. Pat Pendergast
4. Group



32nd Annual All Florida Juried Art Show Opening Reception

October 14, 2022

Court House Cultural Center

1. Cheryl Cote' and friends
2. Torenzo Gann and Laura Kay-Whiticar Darvill
3. Dolores Coe (Juror), and Ken Hooper-Capozzi
4. Michael Knapp





MartinArts Awards VIP Event

November 3, 2022

Geoffrey Smith Gallery

1. Al and Lindsay Hager 2. Lauren Shepherd, Marney McKee and Christine Nisa Mulrooney 3. Vianne Nichols and Sharon Coffy 4. Elmar Oliveira, Sandra Robbins and Jackie Robbins



ArtsFest VIP Party

February 11, 2023

Court House Cultural Center

1. Billy Cofrances 2. Suzanne Northcutt, April Terborg and Jeanette Mueller 3. Donna DeFalco and Jane Kiehart 4. Bud Skiles



The Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast

By **KATIE MAKEMSON**
Project Manager

2023 is going to be a BIG year for The Children's Museum. First, the museum is in a design and fundraising phase for a new Air Exhibit in the Explorer's Gallery. This new exhibit will be fun and interactive, showing the region's local aviation history and industry. The goal is to begin construction of the exhibit this year.

The Children's Museum recently hired Dayna Miller as the Events Coordinator who is working with numerous community connections to develop and offer visitors education classes, programs, workshops, and guest speakers. The Children's Museum envisions a wide variety of programming to take place on weekdays and weekends. Check the museum website calendar to keep up to date with activity offerings.

The Purse Party annual fundraiser for educational programs returns for a 12th year. Money raised this year will go to the Marti Huizenga Scholarship Fund which provides schools

and individuals financial assistance for field trips, outreach programs and camps. The Purse Party will take place March 27, from 11AM to 2PM at Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club. Tickets are \$125 and include a delicious lunch and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased on our website childrensmuseumtc.org

We can't wait to blast off into space with our new Science Museum and Planetarium. Brent A. Wood has joined the museum's creative design team as head architect on the project. Everyone is looking forward to seeing his vision become a reality. Updates to this project will come throughout 2023.





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Court House Cultural Center

Marvin S. Cone 37th Annual High School Juried Art Show

April 25 – June 3, 2023

Awards Reception: Thursday, May 4, 5:30PM

The annual high school juried art show is one of the most treasured happenings of our year. This showcase of student art is a legacy that goes back to 1987 (even before we had the galleries in the Court House Cultural Center). This is a capstone educational experience for the participating artists.

Student artworks are exhibited in the professional gallery of the Court House Cultural Center and, just like the professional juried shows, artworks are selected by experienced judges for ribbons and cash awards in several mediums. Student artworks are selected by their teachers at South Fork, Martin County, and Jensen Beach High Schools, The Pine School and Clark Advanced Learning Center and then are displayed in our galleries for the community to enjoy.

The impact of this show on the student's future is immeasurable. For some it's the first time their work has been framed and exhibited, and for others, it is the spark of their life's work. Since its humble beginnings in 1987, we have impacted more than 1,500 students.

During the awards reception, notables from across the community present their "purchase awards" along with the presentation of the judges awards by category (painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, among others). The evening celebration gathers the who's who in arts education across the community and truly celebrates the accomplishments of our young visual artists. Save the date, and plan to join us.

Sponsorships for the exhibition are available and are used to enhance artist awards and framing for the artwork. Your generosity ensures the legacy that the unique educational experience we offer to aspiring young artists continues and thrives.



Photography 1st Place "Jesus" by Sarah Lykins, MCHS



Mixed Media 1st Place "Two Lives" by Madi Boudreau, JBHS



Drawing 1st Place "One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure" by Lily Cave, JBHS

Upcoming Exhibits and Calls to Artists

Infinite Possibilities: A Members Showcase

June 13 – July 29, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, June 16, 5:30PM

Deadline to Submit: May 1

A new tradition in our annual line up of exhibitions, the Members Showcase gives us all an opportunity to revel in the diversity of our local artists – their styles, media, subject matter, and inspirations. To qualify, an artist must be a MartinArts member of good standing.

Playing on the success of last year's "Be Squared", the entry fee is completing the additional submission of a 9"x6" rectangular canvas (provided by Stuart Art Supply). These submissions are sold to benefit the arts education programs MartinArts offers to enhance K-12 arts education in the community, such as the annual Plein Air Arts Day field trip for high school students.

All Florida Juried Art Show



2022 1st Place "Phobos"
by Martin Dunn

Watch your email for details about the upcoming deadlines for the 33rd Annual All Florida Juried Art Show and the announcement of our juror.

This highly anticipated exhibition and competitive exhibition is a showcase for contemporary working artists in all media from every corner of the State of Florida.

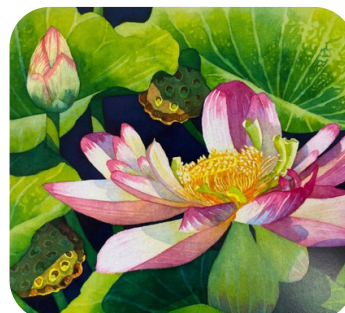
Art in the Garage

August 8 – September 30, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, August 11, 5:30PM

Featuring artists: Kathy Saigh, Molly Potter-Thayer, Patrice Scott, Roni Rottner, Jane Keihart, Cheryl Ritland, Gail McCarthy, May Wong, Maggie Griner, Judi Bettendorf, Kim Roden and Karen McCrory

Art in the Garage was established by a small group of women artists with deep roots in Martin County. The ladies meet weekly in a negative-free communal workspace to celebrate art for its own sake. The space is well-outfitted with hand and power tools and stocked with pooled resources for projects collected from their own studios, area thrift shops, dumpsters and back yards. It's an opportunity to propose 'what ifs', to try new directions incorporating new materials and to stretch their collective imaginations. This exhibit will showcase the resulting works and more traditional pursuits in the hopes that it inspires the viewer to seek a similar path of creativity and friendship through your own sharing and 'what ifs'.



Water Lilies Watercolor - Maggie Griner



Kim Roden



Scrap Wood Sculpture - Molly Potter-Thayer

Remembering *Hank Gonzalez*

By **NANCY K. TURRELL**

If you know anything about the vision for an arts center at the historic Stuart High School, then it's more than likely you've met Hank Gonzalez. This project was a pure passion for Hank built on his personal and professional experience in the arts and in real estate.

Hank joined our board of directors in 2010 and honestly, I knew his brother, John, but didn't know him. John encouraged us to engage Hank because of his passion for music, experience with Young Singers of the Palm Beaches and involvement with the building of the Kravis Center. He was one of a few parents who banded together to create the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches which is housed at the Kravis Center. Hank's first "gig" with us was as backstage manager for the "Dreams" concert which celebrated our 30th anniversary at the Lyric Theatre. Hank continued to help support the arts by coordinating entertainment stages at ArtsFest for several years, and even took the stage with his band, The Coachmen."

During Hank's tenure on the board, we engaged in a strategic planning exercise which established a goal to "explore the creation of an arts center providing new spaces and venues for artists and arts organizations, while providing opportunities for cost saving programs, shared services and spaces."

This project vision for Stuart High School had been Hank's mission since we first walked through the building in 2017. He knew from personal experience the power arts can bring to a community and the benefits offered to people of all ages. Hank wasn't afraid to get on his soap box about those benefits. He was a eloquent spokesperson on all facets.

Hank's passing has left us with a hole in our hearts but through his passion he has built a team that will ensure that his legacy carries on without him. I am devastated that he did not live to see the doors open and the vibrant programming changing the face of arts and culture in our community. Although we are heartbroken by his death, his legacy will live on in the fruition of the arts center at Stuart High School.



Creating an Arts Center for the Treasure Coast at the historic Stuart High School

Project Update

In the second half of 2022, MartinArts engaged in a planning study with the assistance of Kennari Consulting to explore a campaign to transform the former Stuart High School into an arts campus to include artist studios, performance space and offices for local arts non-profit and businesses. We interviewed dozens of community members and received valuable feedback. This has enabled us to map out a process to follow to ensure the success of the project from fundraising through to development.

As reported through the study, the community members interviewed believe the arts center can transform access to the arts and provide much needed infrastructure within the arts community. Our consultants reported overwhelming interest in and support for the preservation of Stuart High School. Further they noted: "Respondents are excited about the building reuse and agree that the existing design supports the proposed project well. They also generally felt that the building location was advantageous to the project."

As a result of the study and the community input, MartinArts has decided to move forward with the project, and we are continuing to work with the design team and others to refine the vision for the center, establish letters of intent for partnership and continue to design the space.

We believe that a combination of private and public funding coupled with in-kind donations will deliver a successful project. In fact, we have secured support from Senator Gayle Harrell and Representative John Snyder to request \$500,000 from the Legislature this session which would bring us through to completion on the design process.

Currently, the staff and board are engaged in the next step of the work, which includes finalizing the plans and sharing more information with those who have expressed interest in the project. This Fall will mark the building's 100th anniversary, and we hope at that time to reveal more definitive plans. For more information about the project, contact MartinArts CEO **Nancy Turrell** at **772.287.6676 ext 4**.



Dorothy Gillespie

THE BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK OF AN AMERICAN ARTIST

American artist Dorothy Gillespie was described by the New York Times in 1966 as a “one-time abstract artist whose works hang in museums from Tel Aviv to Miami Beach.” From February 21-April 15, her bold and colorful paintings and sculptures will be on display in Stuart, Florida at the Cultural Courthouse on East Ocean Drive.

Born in 1920, Gillespie’s body of work can still be found in many museums, institutions, universities, and public places, including Epcot Center, Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Mayo Clinic, Lincoln Center and Court House Square in Roanoke, VA.

An artist spanning seven decades, Gillespie won dozens of awards and grants, served as a professor at Radford University in Virginia and as an artist in residence at the feminist Women’s Interart Center in New York City. A valued member of numerous boards of trustees, by the 1980s Gillespie was known internationally, and was a sought-after commission artist for her aluminum sculptures made from ribbon-like strips and covered in bright enamel.

Before her death in 2012, Gillespie established a foundation to continue her work and the women’s art movement.

This exhibition was made possible through the generosity of Phyllis Rappaport, Stuart Art Supply and members of the Court House Cultural Center Gallery Committee, including Ken Hooper-Capozzi, Jane Kiehart, Roni Rottner, Sharon Hagin, Maria Miele, Kimberly Everman, Rickie Leiter and Jennifer Brand.

Local artist Jane Baldrige recalls the summer in 1989, when she was introduced to Gillespie through a mutual friend. At the time Baldrige recalls, “I was living on a shoe-string budget” with a young son and was unsure of how to market herself in New York galleries.

Gillespie loved sharing her knowledge and art business acumen with a struggling young artist. She advised Jane to stay away from “pay for play” galleries that could injure her career.

“It was very kind of her to give me great counsel and I have carried her words with me ever since,” said Baldrige. Familiar with Gillespie’s work, Baldrige recalls her “awe-inspiring work in Thalian Hall, a lovely historical Theatre in Wilmington, NC. The sculpture is two stories tall and magical with color and form, giving you a rainbow waterfall cascading down.”





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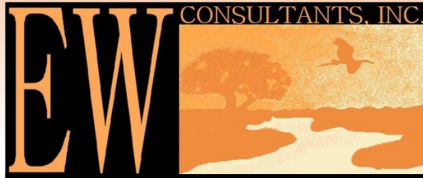
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Treasure Coast Dance Community is *En Pointe*

An integral part of early human civilization, the emergence of dance dates back before written language evolved. At first, dance was used in religious ceremony, and later to tell stories and pass on cultural history. In the Renaissance, more recognizable forms of dance appeared, including ballet. As an art form, dancing remains one of the most expressive means of communication.

Here on the Treasure Coast, dance students and teachers continue the strong tradition of dance. From tiny tots to young-at-heart octogenarians, our region is home to numerous dance studios where teachers are passionate, knowledgeable, and eager to pass their craft to the next generation. In this issue, we've taken an inside look from a handful of students and teachers to find out why dance is such an important art form and is deserving of our community's attention.

From the Students' Perspective

When Harley Fleshner was a young girl, her mother took her to a dance performance at the Lyric Theatre. The show JOURNEY, by the dance company Wings to Fly, took hold of Harley's imagination, and never let go. Beyond the beautiful dancing, she felt a special energy when company members, including those with disabilities, interacted with one another. She was spellbound. After the performance, she turned to her mother and said, "I need to be a part of this." Today as a high school senior, Harley performs with the company Wings to Fly, plans to study dance at the collegiate level and wants to continue working and dancing with people with disabilities.

Dancing since the age of three at Florida Arts and Dance, and continuing at The Dance Academy of Stuart for the last 10 years, Courtney Jones cannot remember a time when she wasn't in ballet shoes. When asked how dance influenced her life, she said she loved the structure of the form which she found comforting while giving her the freedom of expression. "I find dance a stress reliever. It allows me to just focus on movement and form." The Jensen Beach High School senior plans to pursue a college degree in political science and pre-law and believes dance will continue to be a part of her life moving forward.



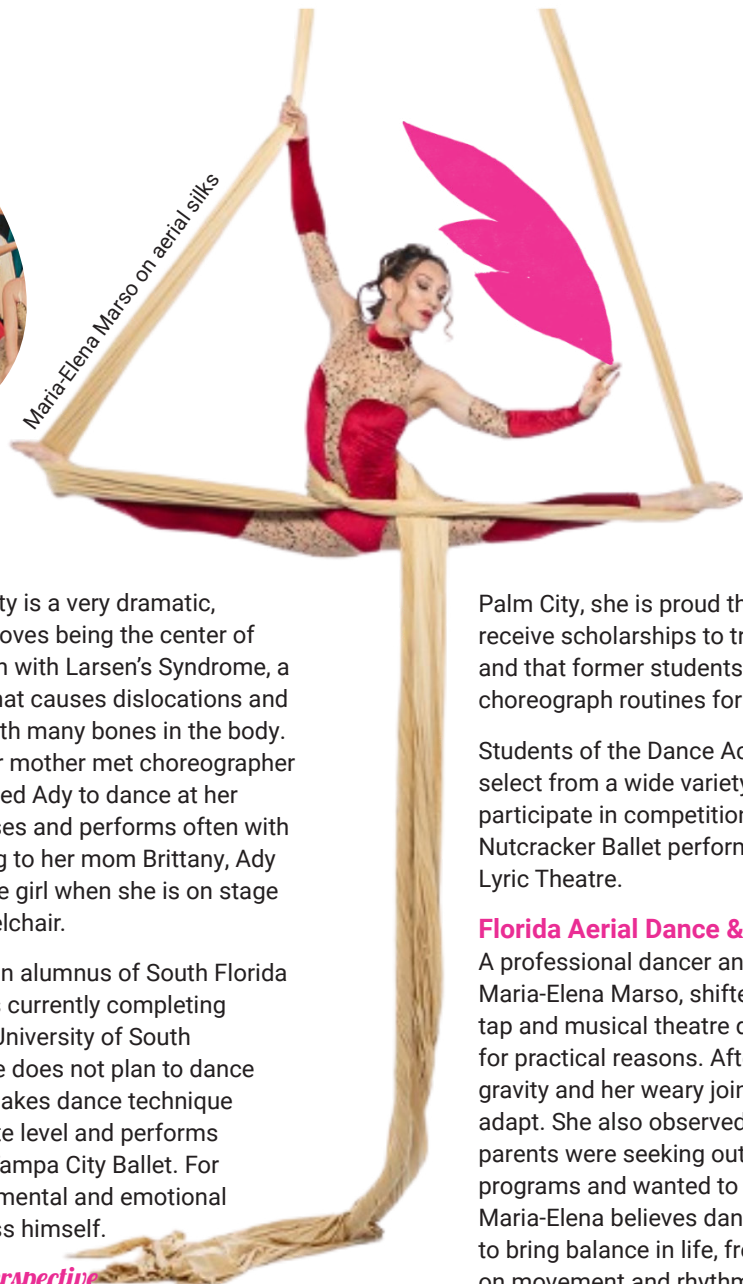
Courtney Jones



Florida Arts & Dance Company



Harley Fleshner and Ady Moriarty with Wings to Fly



Maria-Elena Marso on aerial silks

10-year-old Ady Moriarty is a very dramatic, theatrical person who loves being the center of attention. She was born with Larsen's Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that causes dislocations and development issues with many bones in the body. By chance, Ady and her mother met choreographer Tasha Shirley who invited Ady to dance at her studio. She takes classes and performs often with Wings to Fly. According to her mom Brittany, Ady gets to be a typical little girl when she is on stage performing in her wheelchair.

Gavin Michael Carr is an alumnus of South Florida Dance Company and is currently completing a degree in biology at University of South Florida. Even though he does not plan to dance professionally, he still takes dance technique classes at the collegiate level and performs occasionally with the Tampa City Ballet. For him, dance provides a mental and emotional outlet—a way to express himself.

From the Teachers' Perspective

Martha Graham once quipped, "Dance is the hidden language of the soul, of the body," and the many dedicated teachers on the Treasure Coast take Graham's idea to heart. The Treasure Coast is home to a wide variety of dance studios, offering everything from Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Aerial, Musical Theater, Lyrical, Acro, Hip Hop, Ballroom and Line Dancing—something for everyone.

Dance Academy of Stuart

According to Alicia Chodra who danced professionally as a ballerina for five years before opening the Dance Academy of Stuart in 1997, she sees more students who look at their study of dance as a possible career. Her philosophy, which she often shares with her students, is to "follow your heart and passion, and with discipline, success will follow." With two studios in Stuart and

Palm City, she is proud that many of her students receive scholarships to train at the collegiate level and that former students have returned and help choreograph routines for dance competitions.

Students of the Dance Academy of Stuart can select from a wide variety of dance genres, participate in competitions, and try out for the Nutcracker Ballet performed annually at the Lyric Theatre.

Florida Aerial Dance & Circus Arts

A professional dancer and teacher for 40 years, Maria-Elena Marso, shifted from traditional ballet, tap and musical theatre dancing to aerial arts for practical reasons. After decades of dance, gravity and her weary joints signaled it was time to adapt. She also observed that students and their parents were seeking out more specialized dance programs and wanted to offer something new. Maria-Elena believes dance has the ability to bring balance in life, freeing the brain to focus on movement and rhythm—a way to connect with yourself.

She finds that aerial dance, with its intricate movements, pulls her students away from excess stimuli of today's world and gives them a chance to connect with themselves and others. Dance enforces skill sets including patience, being a part of a team, and brain to muscle coordination.

Maria-Elena holds a certification from the prestigious New England Center for Circus Arts. She founded Florida Aerial Dance & Circus Arts, (FADCA) in 2011 and has two studios located in Stuart and Jupiter. Classes, dance competitions, and company performances keep her and her students busy. Check out her student performers at the Duncan Theatre within Palm Beach State College on April 29, 2023.

Fabulous Feet Dance Center

As a student of dance from a very young age, Robyn Boudreau was awestruck when seeing a live Broadway performance of Tap Dance Kid in 1984. One number dubbed “Fabulous Feet” made a lasting impression on the young dancer. Already a nationally ranked competitive dancer, Robyn was asked a year later to perform in the Dance Masters of America competition. The tap routine she danced was none other than Fabulous Feet, which is a passionate plea of a young boy who longs to break from his family tradition and become a dancer. She won the competition and \$5,000 and told herself if she ever owned a studio, she would name it Fabulous Feet. In 1993, Fabulous Feet opened in Jensen Beach, Florida. In business for 29 years, Robyn was the first teacher in the area to start taking children to dance competitions. Now with dance being so top of mind with shows like “So You Think You Can Dance,” “Dance Moms,” Robyn finds students are eager to try new things beyond ballet, tap, jazz and acrobatics. She also offers classes in Lyrical (dancing to lyrics) and Contemporary (dancing to a theme) as well as hip hop.

For Robyn fostering confidence in her students is key. She feels society pushes kids too much. At her studio she emphasizes practice—the more practice the more confident you are in a performance—and in life.

Treasure Coast Tappers

Eighty-five years young, Bette Cushman started dancing at the tender age of five and has never stopped. For her, dancing and music keep her young. Originally from Connecticut, Bette in 1986 was recruited at nearly 40 years-old to be a tap dance performer at the Statue of Liberty’s 100 Year dedication ceremony, sharing the stage with numerous luminaries in the arts and politics. After moving to Stuart, Bette still sought out opportunities to dance. She was a member of the Fabulous Footlites and the Encores. “Showbiz is in my blood—put me in a dance costume, and I am ready to go.” To her, dance is a joyful thing and something to be shared. She teaches adult beginners weekly on Friday mornings at a studio within Turn Up the Heat dance studio in Stuart and performs regularly with the Treasure Coast Tappers.

Florida Arts & Dance Company

Florida Arts and Dance Company was a major influence in Mina Hamilton’s young life. At age five, she started dance classes, then returned after graduating college to manage the studio. According to board chair Joann Gallagher, Mina is a perfect example of how dance teaches important life lessons including team building, commitment, training, and confidence. A nonprofit cultural art organization, FADC is committed to providing quality dance education to the community.



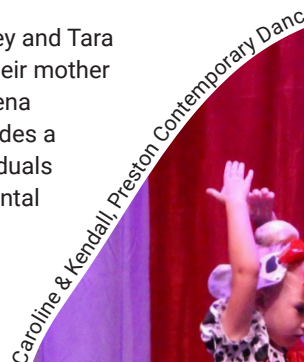
In addition to her duties at the studio, Mina organizes a community outreach program called Dance Inclusion, Dance into Health. When grant money allowed, the program reached numerous schools including Jensen Beach High School, South Fork High School, JD Parker Elementary, Stuart Middle, among others. The program invites students with disabilities to attend class weekly for stretching, cardio and basic dance movement. These students perform each May at the Lyric Theatre. FADC also offers classes to children with disabilities in their regular studio and modify class to suit their needs. Serving this community Mina sees a change in students’ behavior—they gain confidence, with even the most severely affected students benefiting from the outreach.

One student with Down’s Syndrome started at FADC at the age of eight—she continues to dance with the studio 17 years later and teaches, with assistance, other students who face physical challenges. Mina says the studio shares this belief: If you have a passion to dance, you can dance.

Annually the Florida Arts and Dance students perform the nutcracker at the Lyric Theatre.

Wings to Fly

Dancers and choreographers Tasha Shirley and Tara Anstensen were profoundly inspired by their mother Tena Patterson. A native of Vancouver, Tena worked with ARC of St. Lucie, which provides a comprehensive array of services to individuals with intellectual, physical, and developmental





disabilities. It was in this capacity that Tena formed a relationship with ARC students and the IRSC Visual & Performing Arts Center in Fort Pierce. According to Tasha and Tara, what happened between the able-bodied dancers and those with disabilities transcended dance and became a very spiritual experience.

Tena's practices influenced her daughters who both became dancers, choreographers and healing artists in massage, yoga, physical therapy, and meditation practices.

The three T's (Tasha, Tena and Tara) formed the nonprofit dance company Wings to Fly in the early aughts and have created several shows including EVOLVE, HOPE and JOURNEY that engage and continue to make lasting impressions on audiences. Tasha and Tara teach at South Florida Dance Company and continue to choreograph new shows.

Like Martha Graham, Tasha believes dancers dance from their souls. Wings to Fly creates magic for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are able to fly with a specially engineered harness strapped onto an able-bodied dancer and dance in wheelchairs specially designed to spin and move. Many original company dancers continue to share their experiences dancing with the disabled at the collegiate level and with dance companies around the globe.

Wings to Fly welcomes opportunities to perform at corporate, educational and cultural events.

Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre

What do a lawyer, children's author, chiropractor, marine biologist, and a kindergartner have in common? They are all students at Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Located off Cove Road, the Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre accommodates dancers from toddlers to retirees in their 60s. Anna Preston trains her students to first learn the mechanics of dance, then let the body become an outlet of expression. Their last performance had three generations performing on stage simultaneously.

Anna believes anyone passionate about dance, can learn. Anna started dancing at the age of 4, and never stopped. After dancing professionally, including a stint with Walt Disney World, she later became a dance instructor at Palm Beach State College and Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Her students regularly perform at public events such as ArtsFest, St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, and the Haunted Hayride at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Classes include ballet, tap, jazz, aerial arts, musical theatre, modern, lyrical and hip hop.



Upcoming Dance Events

Youth Arts Celebration

March 19, Lyric Theatre

St. Lucie Ballet Spring Gala

May 20, Lyric Theatre

StarStruck Academy & Theatre, MEAN GIRLS

April 20-23, StarStruck Theatre

Florida Aerial Dance and Circus Arts

April 29, Palm Beach State College

Dancing with Martin Stars 2023

September, Lyric Theatre

The Nutcracker

December, Lyric Theatre

Children Dance Studios

The Dance Academy of Stuart

Florida Aerial Dance & Circus Arts

StarStruck Academy & Theatre

Turn Up the Heat

Fabulous Feet

Dance 4 Life Academy

South Florida Dance Academy

Florida Arts & Dance Company

Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre

Treasure Coast Ballet

Aerial Elite Cheer & Dance

Just Dance, Inc

Adult Dance Studios

Craigs Dance Studio

Treasure Coast Swing Dance

Fred Astaire Dance Studio

Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre

Wings to Fly

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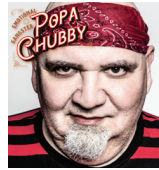
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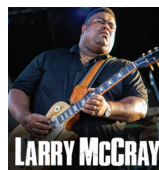
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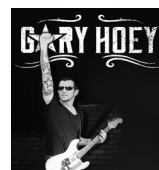
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ArtsFest

FEBRUARY 11 & 12
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ArtsFest returned to downtown on February 11-12 featuring a wide variety of visual artists, musicians, singers, and top area chefs.

Consistently named one of the area's Top 20 Events by the Southeast Tourism Society, ArtsFest continued its 36-year history with a diverse selection of art and entertainment. On the visual artist front, a juried art festival with submissions from across the nation featured top artists in the categories of painting, drawing, mixed-media, photography, ceramics, glass, wood, sculpture, and jewelry.

"ArtsFest is MartinArts' biggest fundraising event of the year, planned with intention to delight our guests and inspire passion for the arts," said Nancy Turrell, Chief Executive Officer of MartinArts. "We are so grateful to our staff, committee, sponsors, vendors, volunteers and guests who, because of their support and patronage, ensure that we have funds that support our community programming all year long."

Painting, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, glass, wood, fiber, mixed media, found objects and more, captivated attendees' attention. Awarded "Best in Show" was Candice Rodríguez-Adams, for her collection of Mixed Media works.

Not only did we have an incredible collection of artists this year, our entertainment was the best to date with two stages and a fabulous MC, Brad Brock and the entire team from Jams 'N' Cocktails Podcast. Gazebo stage, located



Chef Jose Peralta, Paul Nunley, Lorna Day, Chef Rosalia Di Fede, Chef Aldo Ramirez, Adrienne Gang and Mike McGann



Best of Show: Candice Rodríguez-Adams Mixed Media





Brett Staska

in the heart of Gazebo Park featured Brad Brock, Nouveaux Honkies, Brett Staska, The Barn Theatre, Victoria Leigh, Indian River POPS Orchestra, Jake Walden Band and Bashaum Trio. In addition, 2 Way Street feat. Joyce Milligan & Joe Gee, Andy Morejon, Mike Faurot, Stephen Mayer and Kevin Korman, Fabulous Feet Dance Center, and Cody Moral, performed on the Court House stage.

While listening to music, guests had front row seats to the Chopped competition. Four local chefs took the heat in a battle to be named Chopped Champion. Our all-star lineup included Chef Cody Harvey, Chef Aldo Ramirez from Spritz City Bistro, Chef Charles Harris, and Chef Rosalia Di Fede, owner and chef of La Forchetta. When one of our original competing chefs was unable to attend the event, with less than two hours to prepare herself, Chef Rosalia came to our rescue and joined the competition. After two rounds of intense, cuisine magic, Chef Aldo Ramirez was named our Chopped Champion winning over the hearts and stomachs of our panel of judges, Chef Jose Peralta, Adrienne Gang and Lorna Day.

Creating an added community “buzz,” were a host of local agencies and nonprofit organizations, which provided ArtsFest attendees with an arena of family-fun activities. Inside the Court House Cultural Center, the Martin County Library System created an immersive virtual reality experience. Birds and reptiles stayed cool in the shade at the Treasure Coast Wildlife booth and Visionary School of Arts provided painting stations to unleash your inner artist. With support from Martin County’s Art in Public Places, five custom made picnic tables were painted by local artists. The picnic tables, built by Project Lift with plans donated by the Treasure Coast Builders Association, were the subject of a people’s choice award. Pat Denuzzio was the recipient of the people’s choice. Artists included, Edda Davila, Gregory Dirr, Nadia Utto, Pat Denuzzio and Sam Nagel Eggert.

It brings MartinArts much joy to share ArtsFest with our community. This annual celebration helps to build audience awareness for the arts and boost the local economy. We hope to make each year to come better than the last.



People’s choice award recipient, Pat Denuzzio

ArtsFest 2023 Award Recipients

Best of Show

Candice Rodríguez-Adams *Mixed Media*

2D

1st Place: Erikan Ekefrey *Painting*

2nd Place: Dan Bi *Mixed Media*

3rd Place: Brenda Gordon & Magnus Sebastian *Mixed Media*

3D

1st Place: Mark Poole *Mixed Media*

2nd Place: Wayne Gao & Michelle Chang *Mixed Media*

3rd Place: Peter Smith *Sculpture*

Wearables

1st Place: Rachel Tygart *Jewelry*

2nd Place: Donna Harris *Fiber*

3rd Place: Andres Arango *Fiber*

Honorable Mention

Jorge Gil *Fiber*

John Vise *Sculpture*

Bud Scheffel *Sculpture*

Kimberly Beltrame *Mixed Media*

Jose Paternoster *Jewelry*

ArtsFest 2023 Committee

Jane Baldrige

Liz Bonan

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Move Over Wordle, Art Fans Now Can Artle Over Morning Coffee

Last year as the world fell victim to the addictive morning ritual known as WORDLE, the National Gallery of Art came up with its own version of the game based on its collection of art. To date, more than 6 million people globally have joined the fun to try and guess daily the featured art. Now more than 200 ARTLE's are archived to be discovered by new players. You can play more challenging "hard" games, or use its filter to sort out which kinds of artists you want to try and guess (American, Female, Century, etc.)

The game is a useful tool for educators, enabling them to share and create games for their students. Gamers have four chances to identify the artist based on his or her work of art.

Additionally, this past October, the National Gallery also began to include a weekly game with works from the

collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. In March, Artle will feature works from the National Museum of Women in the Arts every Friday, a collaboration with the #5WomenArtists campaign, which challenges people to name five women artists.

If inclined, you can also sign up to receive a daily email reminder to play.

Have fun!

WANT TO PLAY? HERE'S HOW:

- Log onto Artle at nga.gov/artlearchive
- A work of art will be displayed
- Fill in an artist's last name as a guess, you will get four chances
- The game starts with a lesser-known work and progresses to more well known ones



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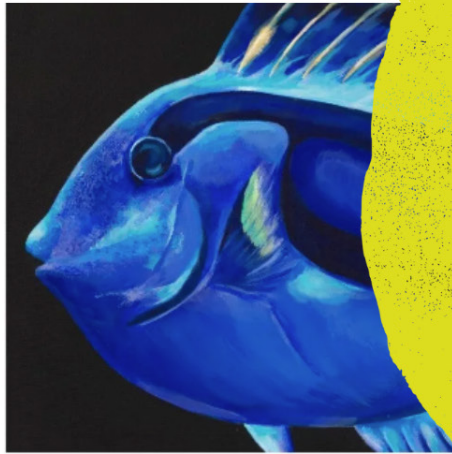
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