

FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

**ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

WE SUPPORT • WE PROMOTE • WE CONNECT • WE GIVE



**keys
FLORIDA KEYS
COUNCIL OF THE arts**

Monroe Council of the Arts Corporation dba Florida Keys Council of the Arts

Florida Keys Council of the Arts

Vision

The vision of the **Florida Keys Council of the Arts** is to enrich the arts and enhance the cultural heritage of the Florida Keys.

Mission Statement

The mission of the **Florida Keys Council of the Arts** is to advance the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community by providing excellence in leadership, advocacy, education and financial support for artists, cultural organizations and citizens of Monroe County.

Cultural Equity Statement

The **Florida Keys Council of the Arts** is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has equal access to the arts and the fundamental right to express their culture through the arts. We believe the arts have the power to change hearts and minds, and to inspire social change.

ALL THE KEYS
ALL THE ARTS
ALL THE TIME
KEYSARTS.COM



82,874

residents of Monroe County



5.1 million

visitors per year



100+ mile

island chain with 42 bridges

THE FINE PRINT

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation in a public-private partnership with local county government since 1997, serving 82,874 local residents and 5.1 million visitors annually. A nine-member board of directors guides the Council, assisted by three alternate directors, two directors emeritus and advisory members. Daily functions are carried out by the executive director, staff and valued volunteers. FKCA is incorporated with the State of Florida and recognized by the IRS as the Monroe Council of the Arts Corporation, dba Florida Keys Council of the Arts, FEIN 65-0737532. Governing documents, including: the articles of incorporation, bylaws, audit, 990, board handbook and strategic plan are available for review on the arts council's award-winning website, www.keysarts.com

Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, The State of Florida, Department of State Division of Arts & Culture, Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, Monroe County Tourist Development Council, City of Key West Board of City Commissioners, the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, South Florida Cultural Consortium and private donations.

About the Council

As the Local Arts Agency designated by Florida Statute #265.32, we are committed to our leadership role as the community's umbrella organization for arts and culture.

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is the leading arts and cultural organization in the Florida Keys.

The Arts Council provides services and grants to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students, and the public, striving to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. To enrich and enhance the arts and cultural community, the Arts Council promotes the Art in Public Places program, and advances the destination for its rich and diverse history.

The cultural arts play a fundamental role in the lives of our residents and visitors. The Arts have been and continue to be the signature of what makes our community unique and an international destination.

Our focus is to maintain and expand our programming in a diverse, innovative and equitable manner. We strive for

results that strengthen the economy, promote active community engagement, and provide support for arts education and advocacy.

(FAPAP) initiatives.

Our Executive Director is currently President of FAPAP, attends monthly meetings and the annual conference,

Thousands of Monroe County artists and audiences benefit directly from our cultural programming.

Outreach and advocacy are ongoing activities. We connect the public to a sense of place and community with the Art in Public Places commissioned permanent art collection. We advocate in a leadership role by gaining knowledge through our participation in Americans for the Arts, Florida Association of Local Arts Agencies (FALAA), and Florida Association of Public Art Professionals

connecting her to public art trends, and best practices. Arts Council's Board Members and Advisors are engaged, educated and passionate ambassadors for all of the arts.

Their commitment to the organization and knowledge of the economic impact of the arts within the County is essential to our advocacy efforts for continued growth and relevance.

WE SUPPORT: To date, \$1,228,664 has been directly awarded in local grants. This fiscal year we awarded \$49,883 in grants to artists, teaching artists and arts organizations. Thousands of Monroe County artists and audiences benefit directly from our programming. These grants are funded in part by the State of Florida, Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, membership dues and private donations.

WE CONNECT: We focus on connecting the community to the arts. Our efforts included workshops and programming via an online platform, and expanded email outreach via Constant Contact. We raised awareness and funds for our grant programs throughout the Florida Keys through "The Connections Project: Celebrating Our Unique History."

WE PROMOTE: As the main source of information promoting arts and culture in the Keys, our annual Gallery Guide, Culture Magazine and the KeysArts Quarterly events calendar (produced in cooperation with the Monroe County Tourist Development Council) are distributed at nearly 200 Keys' locations, included in national and international press kits and distributed at travel trade shows. To promote our local artists, we create rotating exhibits for our program, Art in Public Buildings. We are also proud to administer Monroe County and the City of Key West's prestigious 1% for Public Art programs.

WE GIVE: Through the Cultural Umbrella, South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant Program, Art in Public Places commissions and our own grant programs, the total distributed through the Art Council's efforts in the Keys' cultural community is over \$9.4 million to date. The annual economic impact of the non-profit arts community in Monroe County is estimated at over \$86 million.

A Message from Executive Director Elizabeth Young



Our mission to increase awareness, build audiences and raise funds for our programs remained an essential part of daily efforts. Our new fiscal year began in July, and we continued to meet via Zoom, and resumed many in person meetings and events again. Board and Advisors worked diligently during our retreat, in orientation for new advisors,

and in committees to create meaningful programming and plan a series of events to celebrate the County's Bicentennial throughout the Keys.

We hosted a summer exhibit, "Summer Synergy" at the Gato building as part of our ongoing Art in Public Buildings program, featuring members of KWAC and AIP in BPK. And in November, an inspiring and beautiful Members' Show titled, "200 Years of Island Life" kicked off the season of acknowledging our special significance and history.

We continue to be grateful to the many arts patrons who share their stunning properties with us to celebrate the holiday season for our valued members. Wally and Carol Fisk of Key West, were our gracious hosts in December 2022, and we were all so thrilled with a tremendous attendance on a gorgeous, starry Key West evening at their exquisite home. We are deeply grateful to the Fisks, and are most appreciative of the support of our many members.

In January, the new year began with an adventure in the middle Keys for our Annual Membership Meeting, at the historic and amazing Pigeon Key! It was an opportunity to report on the important work accomplished by the Council, and learn historic details shared in the Culture 2023 magazine articles written by our guest speakers, Brad Bertelli and Jill Zima Borski. It was wonderful to hear how much this writing assignment, and the support from the Arts Council meant to them as artists. Lucy Hawk was also in attendance and briefly discussed her cover artwork and thanked everyone for their support.

Celebrating and refreshing our signature programs with slightly new names and focus was the product of many membership committee meetings, thanks to all for your input and time. The Connections Project: Celebrating Our Unique History and Gather 'Round: A Culture Series, presented many opportunities throughout the Keys for participation and partnering with so many artists, arts organizations, members and businesses to raise awareness, build audiences and educate the community of all the benefits of a vibrant arts community was extremely rewarding – please see details on pages 18-19. Thank you to the Membership Committee for coordinating four receptions for

the Connections Project including a fabulous grand opening in Key Largo at the Bakers Cay Resort! We are appreciative of the assistance of Monroe County Public Works for being great art movers. Thanks also to Marathon's Royal Furniture and the Elwell family for their continued sponsorship, Artists in Paradise Gallery in Big Pine Key, and the Gato Lobby in Key West. Gather 'Round sessions highlighted our outstanding Art Builds Community four grantees showcasing their work, partnerships and more to build audiences through cultural equity. Grateful thanks to Bill and MaryCarlin Porter for their vision and support of this meaningful series. See pages 10-13.

Both Art in Public Places members (Monroe County and City of Key West) met monthly to work with staff on several important projects and installations. The County's focus was the deinstallation of three large ceramic artworks that will be stored and reinstalled in 2024/2025 on "new" walls in the Key West Airport along with 3 -4 newly commissioned artworks with a budget of \$550K. Other new projects underway include Supervisor of Elections and Public Defender's offices, and several projects in the City's program include the Key West Seaport, Clinton and Mallory Square, the Ramos-Lopez Sculpture Garden (rotating work on loan), and the Frederick Douglass Community Center expansion. The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's three new art installations were completed at their new Kennedy Drive headquarters. Thanks to our hardworking Grants committee members for expanding our online forms, promoting the liaison opportunities for board members and advisors to connect and nurture grantees, and give artists the chance to create new works and projects with needed funding. Special recognition to young Alexander Hunt who received the Dance & Design scholarship for his summer dance experience at Burklyn Ballet, and to many Key West High TV/video production students for their new dynamic :60 second leader films for the Tropic Cinema.

Building cultural equity and celebrating the bicentennial were a component of everything we did in this fiscal year – thanks too, to the Community Foundation and United Way for the second round of the Inspire & Involve grant which supported arts organizations and workforce families attending arts events.

My heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated and great work, and cherished friendship of my colleagues: Martha Resk and Coco Page. We are honored to work daily with devoted Board members, advisors and artists to enrich our Keys arts and cultural community. Thank you to my family for their encouragement and love.

A Message from Chair Joyce W. Burd

As I begin my tenure as Chair of the Council, I want to thank Barbara Weikel, my predecessor of doing a wonderful job as I served as her Vice Chair. The organization was just coming out of the pandemic, able to meet in person (and hybrid) for our events and meetings for the first time in two years. I was honored to serve as the Grants Chair funding Special Project and Artists in Schools grants, and 4 outstanding ABC (Art Builds Community) grants. These grants include the REEF organization in Key Largo, working with students about the invasive lion fish, and one with MARC (Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens) participants and their art projects guided by artist, Erika Heffernan, conveying how the pandemic affected them.

This was the first year that the "Gather 'Round" series, formerly the Culture Circle Series, focused on the ABC grantees, and was open to all levels of the entire membership. In this way, our membership witnessed first-hand how our grants are serving the community.

The nominating committee has been very productive with the nomination of new advisors from Key Largo to Key West strengthening our commitment of serving all the keys. We welcome all our new Advisors from healthcare, mental health, public relations and all the arts.

The Connections Project celebrated the Bicentennial of Monroe County as the theme for the 200+ canvasses. Our annual holiday membership party was held at the beautiful South Street home of Wally and Carol Fisk. Celebrating the holiday spirit with the lovely music provided by Kari & Jack Wolf and food catered by Croissants de France, the party brings our membership together Keyswide. Our annual meeting, held at Pigeon Key, a most special historic site, was recently renovated by the County and Pigeon Key Foundation. Our members had an opportunity to explore the property and learn about the history. Thanks to Mayor Pro-tem Holly Merrill Raschein for joining us, and to Kelly McKinnon and his wonderful staff.

Our speakers spoke of The Art of Celebrating our History, and thrilled to be the writers in Culture Magazine.

I'm proud of the wonderful relationship with the Wolfson Family from Miami. Their philanthropy to grant needed funds to Keys visual and performing artists during the pandemic sustained our vibrant arts community. Board members were invited to a lovely dinner hosted by the Wolfson Family who spoke of their continued commitment to the arts community.

This Spring, the South Florida Symphony honored our esteemed Executive Director, Liz Young, and a past Board Chair and Monroe County Superintendent, Theresa Axford for their ongoing support of the Symphony in the Schools program. We are proud of Liz and Terri for their ongoing advocacy for the arts in the County's schools.



Thank you to all the dedicated Board Members and Advisors for their time, commitment and enthusiasm making KeysArts a vital organization for creativity throughout the Keys.

Arts Council Staff and volunteers continue the important work of Art in Public Places for both Key West and Monroe County. Presently the public art for the new expanded Key West airport is a major project. In addition, the

Executive Director works with the TDC's Cultural Umbrella Committee promoting the destination for the arts and history of the Keys. Thank you to all the dedicated Board Members and Advisors for their time, commitment and enthusiasm making KeysArts a vital force for the entire Keys. A very special thanks to our dedicated Executive Director and devoted staff who focus on supporting artists and the importance of culture within our island paradise.

Wishing you a creative arts filled 2024.

Joyce W. Burd

Arts Council Staff



Left to right: Martha, Liz and Coco

Elizabeth S. Young, Executive Director

Martha Resk, Business Manager

Coco Page, Community Outreach

Reen Stanhouse, Exhibits Coordinator

Kati Van Aernum, Website Manager

Our Executive Committee



Barbara Weikel, Chair

Barbara Weikel received a BA in Mathematics from Winthrop College (now Winthrop University) in South Carolina. Having spent the majority of her career with Eastern Airlines, Barbara has also been a realtor, IT analyst, and office manager. She moved to Key West in 2007 and fell 'in love' with the arts community. Barbara is married to photographer/author, Ralph De Palma. She is co-publisher/co-editor of *The Soul of Key West*, Volume I & II.



Joyce W. Burd, Vice-Chair

Joyce has been a resident of Key West since 2012. She received her undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and her masters degree in Expressive Therapies from Lesley College in Cambridge, Ma. She began her professional career as a dance therapist for many years working with a variety of special needs populations. In Philadelphia she was the founder of two nonprofit organizations, Art-Reach, Inc., enabling people with low incomes and disabilities to experience the arts, and Dancing Classrooms Philly, a ballroom dance program for 5th and 8th grade students. What Joyce loves about Key West is the vibrant arts scene and how the Arts Council supports this community. She is a member of Keys Choral Arts. Joyce loves to dance, read, walk, kayak, sail and watch the beautiful Key West sunsets.



Eric Anderson, Treasurer

Born and raised outside of Chicago, Eric moved to Chicago in 1986, where he worked as an information technology professional for various financial planning firms downtown for over 20 years, first as an employee and then serving as a consultant. He moved to the Keys in 1997. He serves on the Art in Public Places Committee as the appointee for the Monroe County Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein (District 5). Eric has been involved in several nonprofits in the upper keys, and most recently served on the board for Habitat for Humanity Upper Keys, Eric is married to Dr. Stanley Zuba, and manages his medical office, Florida Keys Pediatric & Adolescent Center, Inc, for the past 4 years. In addition to supporting the Arts, his hobbies include coin collecting and traveling.



Jill Miranda Baker

A native of South Florida, Jill graduated from Lynchburg College with degrees in communications/journalism and sociology, and earned her Master of Management Degree from the University of Phoenix. Jill is currently the Business Development Officer for Keys Weekly. Prior work includes Executive Director of Florida Keys History and Discovery Center, working for a State Representative, and as manager, marketing and public relations for Mariners Hospital/Baptist Health. Jill is past president of the Rotary Club, and involved in the Islamorada Chamber, the Good Health Clinic, Treasure Village Montessori Charter School, Florida Keys AHEC, the Rural Health Network and Upper Keys BPW and Leadership Monroe. Jill is married to backcountry fishing guide Duane Baker. They have two college-age children.



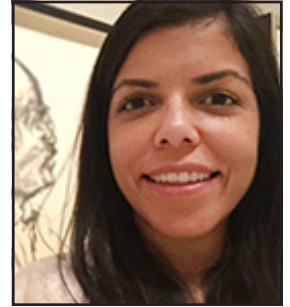
Bonnie Greenberg, Past Chair/Advisor

She is passionate about creativity and the positive impact the cultural arts have on the quality of life in our community. She has 30 years of grant writing and business management experience and holds a BFA in professional writing from Emerson College. She's been involved locally with Marathon Community Theatre, Habitat for Humanity (Upper Keys), Leadership Monroe, REEF, and The Florida Keys History and Discovery Center. She lives on Conch Key and fulfills her own creativity through writing and personal photography.

& Board Members

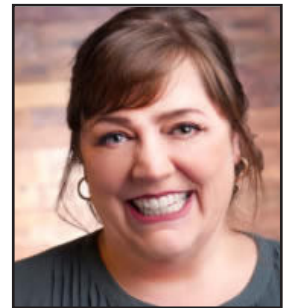
Leslie Calero

A Keys resident since 2013, she has an background in fine art history and art conservation, and is fluent in several languages. In 2014, she decided to apply her knowledge and passion in Fine Art and Cultural Heritage to appraising personal property. Leslie specializes in appraising and determining the market value of antiques, fine art, and historical memorabilia. Her hobbies are related to diplomacy, child advocacy and art law. Currently, she is the founder and director of Department of Appraisals, LLC, providing art collection management nationwide, and a passionate Child Advocate for the 16th Circuit Judicial System in Monroe County.



Juliet Gray, Vice Chair

Creative producer, performer, and writer. Gray is the Chief Creative Officer of The Performing Arts Project, which she co-founded more than 10 years ago alongside Broadway, television, and film professionals in order to provide vibrant theatrical training to the next generation of performers. Juliet is also the past Director of the Key West High School Drama Club and co-founded the Key West Theater. She has guided numerous productions from the page to the stage including *Throw Me on the Burnpile* and *Light Me Up* by Oscar-nominee Lucy Alibar and *Locura* by Key West's own Michael Marrero, among many others. Juliet has also written more than 1,000 articles for various national publications and a travel book on the Florida Keys published by Rowman & Littlefield.



Beryn Hartly

Beryn majored in Biology (Middlebury College, VT) and minored in History of Art. Her professional background was primarily affiliated healthcare: medical research at the University of Miami School of Medicine and Mount Sinai Medical Center, Manager Anatomic and Surgical Pathology, Manager Nursing Unlimited. Other stints included Director Operations, CTM Media and Realtor. She became a local naturalist after she and husband Rick moved to Ramrod Key in 2007. A fan of birds, butterflies, and native plants, her own artistic efforts are usually nature photography, some painting and mixed media. Many Keys visitors and residents have attended her photographic presentations and joined her on nature walks.



Mark Hedden

Hedden is a photographer, writer, and semi-professional birdwatcher. He has lived in Key West for close to 30 years and may no longer be employable in the real world. He is the ED of the Florida Keys Audubon Society. He writes about birds and artists for Key West Weekly. His own artwork tends to focus on nightscapes, wildlife documentation, and street photography. He did shoot a wedding once and has almost recovered. His photos have appeared in the New York Times, the Miami Herald, and other publications. Mark's had three solo shows at TSKW, won two Knight Arts Challenge grants, several grants from the Anne McKee Fund, and was one of two Monroe County residents who received the 2020 SFCC Award for visual arts.



Charlotte Palmer

Charlotte received her BS from Salem University, West Virginia, and later earned an M.Ed in Pennsylvania. She taught sixth grade for 36 years in York, PA before moving to the Keys in 2008. Her passion for the arts led her to join the International Egg Art Guild in 1978 inspiring her own creations and those of her many students. Ballet classes were a big part of her life for three decades. In 1990 she began working with stained glass and continues in that genre. For many years she has been serving on DAC II. Charlotte is a member of the Big Pine Key Botanical Society, and several environmental organizations involving the coral reef, recycling, and Key Deer.



Board & Advisors as of June 30, 2023

Board Members

Barbara Weikel, Chair
Joyce Burd, Vice Chair
Eric Anderson, Treasurer
Jill Miranda Baker, Secretary
Bonnie Greenberg, Past Chair
Leslie Calero
Juliet Grey
Beryn Hart
Mark Hedden
Charlotte Palmer

Board Alternates

Lucy Carleton
Nancy Bunch
Claudia Moriarty

Comm. Holly Raschein, BOCC Liaison
June Girard, Chair Emeritus
Dr. Shirley V. Freeman, Director Emeritus

Special Recognition Unsung Heroes



Dr. Betty Klimock's passion for the arts and dedication to our community is remarkable. She served on the Cultural Umbrella Committee, and as an Advisor serving on several committees. Betty is always the first one to arrive at events, the best cheerleader for arts education, and provides ongoing support of our Keys' talent.

Thank you Dr. Betty

Advisors

Donna McLaughlin Arnold
Theresa Axford
Susan Baan
Larry Baeder
Janet Bengel
Sally Binard
Mary Jean Connors
Sheila Cook
Mary-Margaret Dale
Susann D'Antonio
Richard Ericson
Marianne Finizio
Lori Gaukel
Veronica Gutierrez
Susan Jankowski
Kreg Kelley
Stephen Kitsakos
Kate Koler
Jonelle Kop
M. Ann Lynch
Dr. Joanne Mahoney
Michael Marrero

Lisa Mongelia
Seth Mularz
Anne O'Shea Quattrini
Lucy Paige
Valerie Perreault
Mark Pierson
MaryCarlin Porter
Dr. Betty Powell-Klimock
Alex Rickert
Michele Rodriguez
Maggie Ruley
Allison Sayer
Christine Scarsella
Christopher Shultz
Diane Whitney Smith
Joyce Stahl
Emma Starr
Sandy Sun
Jessica Tipler
Jane Tomlinson
Melissa Trader
John Vlad
Jill Zima Borski
Mayor Michelle Coldiron

Cultural Umbrella

The Cultural Umbrella Committee has five members representing the five TDC districts and is administered by the Florida Keys Council of the Arts. The committee works with the TDC's advertising and public relations agencies to promote the Keys as an arts and cultural destination, and makes recommendations for the funding of cultural events. Arts Council staff maintain an artist registry, publish and distribute a weekly eblast, quarterly KeysArts brochure, annual Gallery Guide, and maintain a website at www.keysarts.com with a comprehensive online Cultural Calendar. Culture Magazine is produced jointly with Tinsley Advertising and the Cultural Umbrella Committee.

Event Funding Recipients 2022-2023

Christopher Peters Eyecons
 Fringe Theater of Key West
 Jumping Joe Productions Randy Roberts
 Key West Art Center
 Key West Art & Historical Society
 Key West Botanical & Garden Society
 Key West Burlesque
 Key West Garden Club
 Key West Impromptu Concerts
 Key West Literary Seminar
 Key West Players
 Waterfront Playhouse
 Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society
 Monroe Association
 ReMARCable Master Chef
 Old Island Restoration
 Conch Blowing Contest
 Old Island Restoration Home Tours
 Performing Arts
 Tennessee Williams Theatre

Red Barn Theatre
 South Florida Symphony Orchestra
 The Studios of Key West
 I Love Stock Island
 Lower Keys Chamber Island Arts Festival
 Lower Keys Chamber Underwater Music Festival
 Hawks Cay Resort Keys to Country

Marathon Community Theater
 St. Columba Celtic Festival
 Florida Keys History of Diving Museum
 Morada Way Arts & Culture District Art Walk
 REEF Environmental Education Foundation
 Christa Hunt Productions
 Keys Concerts by Candlelight
 Community Arts & Culture Afro Roots Festival
 Keys Community Concert Band Pops in the Park



Art Builds Community Grants

\$32,724 for arts and culture projects that spark conversations, spur social change and make our community stronger.

To apply for this grant, Florida Keys artists, arts organizations and civic/community-based organizations are encouraged to form alliances and partnerships to strengthen communities through projects that connect the arts with local issues and opportunities for all people.

The ABC grant program fosters relationships between artists, arts organizations and civic organizations within the Florida Keys to generate greater cultural equity. The Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has equal access to the arts and the fundamental right to express their culture through the arts. Many of our residents experience vast disparities in terms of access to and participation in arts and culture activities. We believe the arts have the power to change hearts and minds, and to inspire social change.

Completed and Funded Grants

Project Title: Beautiful Benchmarks
Partners: City of Marathon and Craig Berube-Gray
Funding: \$10,000

The project did strengthen our community, in fact it made it more resilient. The goal was to better inform the community and visitors of the perils of flood and sea level rise. The sculpture, titled “A Rising Tide” and depicting waves breaking, is an educational and informative art installation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sea level rise scenarios were calculated for this exact location, and the sculpture was designed to reflect this.



City of Marathon’s crew assist in laying the foundation for the new artwork.



Artist Craig Berube-Gray celebrates the installation with Marathon City Council members.

The sculpture is a visualization of three scenarios as set for the year 2090. The Sombrero Beach neighborhood, where the sculpture is located, was created through dredge and fill seventy years ago, and this sculpture acts as the benchmark looking seventy years into the future. The slab for the sculpture is at the Intermediate High elevation, the lower wave is at the High elevation, and the largest wave is at the Extreme High elevation. By visualizing this data through the sculpture, the public is more engaged and can more easily comprehend the impact as it pertains to the location they are enjoying, visiting, or living in. They can then better assist the City and others in efforts to address climate resiliency with the hope that it will cause the elevations denoted by the sculpture to never become reality. We hope that the installation at such a public location starts the conversation locally, as well as globally. Visitors to the site will take sea level rise information back to their communities and hopefully reach a broader

audience around the world. The phrase “a rising tide lifts all boats” became very relevant throughout this process.

Videos and still photos will be posted on the City’s website, Facebook page, and made available to local news outlets. The City will also install signage at the installation to recognize the artist and the Arts Council’s contribution, along with outlining the effects that sea level rise and climate change will have on our community with the steps we can take as individuals to offset that change.

Project Title: Arts & Science Celebration Series
Partners: Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK)
Funding: \$10,000

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK), partnered to provide hands-on art experiences and workshops through the Arts & Science Celebration Series. Workshops intertwined science with art using invasive lionfish jewelry making, marine life step-by-step painting, and creative fish drawing. Educational and storytelling components connected participants with the marine and cultural heritage of the Keys, instilling and strengthening a sense of place. This project culminated with a one-day Arts & Science Festival, a free community event that hosted booths from local artists and environmental organizations, each sharing a unique art or hands-on science activity.



The Arts & Science Festival educated participants on the invasive lionfish.



REEF scientist works with Upper Keys students on an art and science project.

This project served ALICE residents, individuals, and families in the Keys community who earn just above the Federal Poverty Level but less than what it costs to make ends meet. Our Celebration Series increased awareness, accessibility, and interest in art and science among residents who may not otherwise have opportunities for those experiences.

The strategy for achieving cultural equity was to design the workshops to be appealing, fun, convenient, and family friendly. REEF traveled to the location of each group, where participants described the workshops as their week’s highlight, they socialized together as a community, learned something new, and explored their creative side. After completion of each program, social media posts were posted on each of our social platforms to educate the public on the work we were accomplishing through this ABC grant.

REEF and United Way aimed for a combined appreciation of seeing science as a form of art and art as a way to express and understand science—and the project successfully accomplished this goal!



Hands-on activities included lionfish jewelry making, educating visitors all about art and science building community.

Project Title: Red Barn Big Night Out
Partners: Red Barn Theatre and 6 NPO's
Funding: \$8,313

Red Barn partnered with six non-profits to give away 163 free tickets used over the course of 72 Performances, worth a total of \$8,313 under the Big Night Out program.

The Keys' non-profits were: S.O.S. Foundation, Sister Season Fund, A.H. Monroe, Take Stock in Children, Keys to Be the Change, and Florida Keys Foster and Adoptive Parents Association.

The whole point of the Big Night Out program was to give members of our community a chance to experience a big night out of live theatre on the town and blending in with our regular theater goers. Except by using the Virtual Box Office ticketing system and running a report the theater staff didn't know these ticket holders.

Working closely with our partners to get redemption rates higher, challenges were that sometimes life happens and despite the organizations and the recipients' best intentions, they just couldn't use all the tickets. One thing is certain. As an organization, Red Barn's team has come to value the Big Night Out program as something we want to find ways to continue. A quote from partner, AH Monroe Executive Director:

The joy this opportunity will bring to our clients, living with HIV/AIDS, as well as our tenants living in our housing facilities with disabilities, the elderly, homeless veterans, and low-income households is without measure. For them, it represents an evening "on the town", and the benefits of this are many: socialization, creative indulgence, connectivity to new worlds and amazing stories and escape from everyday worry. No film, TV show or book can provide that instant and, more importantly, shared gratification of in-the moment live theatre.



Successes and challenges of the ABC Grant were discussed in the Red Barn's courtyard, with Mimi McDonald, Joy Hawkins, and Chris Hamelton.



Arts Council members enjoy a cultural conversation and lunch in the Red Barn's courtyard.

Project Title: Finding Inspiration in Isolation
Partners: Erika Heffernan and MARC, Inc.
Funding: \$7,500

Artist, Erika Heffernan implemented the "Finding Inspiration in Isolation" project, with her partner organization, by teaching accessible Art classes at the MARC, Inc. locations weekly for 8 months. These art classes encouraged the creation of art by folks with disabilities. Their finished artwork was on exhibit at the Studios of Key West and was such an inspiration for the audience! Many visitors shared their own stories of disability and their challenges, and mentioned how important the MARC nonprofit is to our Keys' community. The quality of life issue the project addressed was the importance of providing art opportunities for community members with disabilities. The MARC, Inc clients truly enjoyed their experiences in creating artwork and having it on display for the public. Many visitors felt the caliber of the art produced was very strong and did not realize it was created by MARC clients at first. As an artist, Erika felt her project strengthened community by providing new art opportunities that were inclusive, not exclusive. She developed new relationships and connections with fellow local artists in the Keys while the MARC participants were able to create positive change in Cultural Equity for the disability community.

ABC goals and objectives were met and exceeded for building community. Working with MARC clients on an ongoing basis to teach, share and experience art classes was most rewarding as an artist. Framing, displaying, and participating in the reception at the Studios was a highlight for the artists and partnering organization. Fostering relationships between artists, arts organizations, and civic organizations to broaden cultural equity among all people

was achieved. All pieces that were on display sold over the month-long exhibition, creating and encouraging financial independence.

Finding Inspiration in Isolation project exposed the local audience and visitors to Keys' artists with disabilities and the artwork they made during the pandemic to cope with their own isolation and concerns during the global health crisis.



Artist Erika Heffernan and some of the artwork created by MARC artists.



Delighted MARC clients celebrate on the rooftop of the Studios of Key West with Rosi Ware and Erika Heffernan.



At an artist reception, Erika Heffernan shares her handmade collection, 398 Days, photographs taken during the pandemic as part of her coping with isolation.

Grants Awarded: Artists in Schools/Special Project/Key West Writers Guild/SFCC

\$13,375 in Direct Arts Funding in 2022-2023: The Arts Council is committed to advancing the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community.

Preserving Our Coral Reefs: Teams of Success **Grant Awarded: \$1,500** **Teaching Artist: Donna Wissinger**

In each of 7 school programs, students were coached by the artists prior to each performance, and ‘became’ a STEAM team of Scientists, Technologists, Engineers, Artists, and Mathematicians. They read several options and chose what they would do to help save the coral reef

and how they would inspire others to do the same. These moments with students ‘one on one’ are precious and provide many students with a sense of great accomplishment when they successfully present themselves in front of their peers. Students experienced the emotional impact created by music in the culminating Symphony concert: the excitement of an upcoming dive, the sadness of the dead reef, the hope of science, and the joy of new discoveries.

KEY WEST WRITERS GUILD AWARD

The Council, in conjunction with the Key West Writers Guild, is pleased to announce that Mary Lou Condike has garnered this year’s \$2,000 award for her manuscript, “The Doll from Dunedin”. Mary Lou specializes in taking historic cold cases from public and police files, devising a solution with “What if…” scenarios, and then imagining solutions.



Mary Lou Condike

SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM 2023 AWARDEES

We proudly announce that artist Beth Kaminstein of Islamorada, and Tyler Buckheim Trosset of Key West have been named recipients of the prestigious 2023 SFCC Visual and Media Artists Award of \$7,500 each. The two were selected to receive this esteemed, five-county artist fellowship and their work was included in an exhibition featuring 2023 artists.



Beth Kaminstein



Tyler Buckheim Trosset



Elementary students participate on stage with the South Florida Symphony Orchestra musicians with teaching artist Donna Wissinger.



STEAM Team students waiting their turn onstage with the Symphony.

The Art and Science of Big Bubbles

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Teaching Artist: Bill Becker

Sugarloaf 5th grade students experienced and discovered during 3 sessions the science of water chemistry, bubble properties and the exacting art of creating the biggest, most colorful bubbles they have ever seen! The project necessitated an understanding of the science, teamwork, outdoor activity and art. In classroom learning and discussions included water properties – surface tension, atomic configuration and light refraction.



Sugarloaf students participating in the Art of Big Bubbles!

Bucket Drumming 101

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Teaching Artist: Femi Manners

Upper Keys students were introduced to Bucket Drumming to learn and experience rhythm, hand/eye coordination and percussions. Students focused on basic beats, tempo, pitch, and team work. Bucket Drumming is a creative, physical, and social activity. Children love Bucket Drumming and research shows it has mental and physical benefits that can help calm students with Special Needs by improving emotional, motor and cognitive development, and increases focus in students with ADD and ADHD.



Charter students enjoying a new collaborative activity - Bucket Drumming.

Field trip to the Fringe: El Isleño 1921

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Teaching Artist: Rebecca Tomlinson

60 students and teachers from Marathon School and 30 students and teachers from Sigsbee School attended a full morning performance with slight modifications in lyrics of one “off color” song. Afterwards, the full cast of 12 actors and 5 musicians along with the stage/design crew, playwright, and director answered questions about the true history within the show, the history of racism in the Keys, and the theatrical choices of the production itself. Students asked insightful questions particularly about how the research for the show was conducted and what it felt like to perform in such a difficult play nightly. At the end of the discussion students were given boxed lunches for their ride back to school

Student quote: “As an audience member, I really appreciated how devoted the cast and band were to telling the story in such an amazing art form. I also really loved how we got to talk to the cast members afterwards and to hear the stories was a really cool experience.”



Q & A with Middle Keys students and the actors and director at the Fringe.

Love, Shakespeare

Grant Awarded: \$3,075 (2 semesters)

Teaching Artist: Richard Ericson

Somerset Island Prep high school sophomore students were introduced to the sonnets, their vocabularies, social and historical contexts as well as how Shakespeare looks at love, and people. Classroom learning included how to read them aloud in public - understanding, breathing, articulation and the fun of the words themselves. Success of the project was a room full of students excited and interested in reading and performing the text, many talented great intellectual kids who requested more theater classes.

Special Project Grants

Camp Bravo

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Arts Organization: Keys Community School of the Arts

We had an incredible production of Moana this year. The students really rose to the challenge in the beautiful musical despite the advanced nature of both the music and the choreography. We are so proud of the work that they accomplished, their fortitude, professionalism and then the growth that we witness in the campers on a personal level. New friendships were formed, voice and perspectives were honed, and their talent blossomed.



Camp Bravo's summer production of "MOANA"



Moko Jumbie Key West

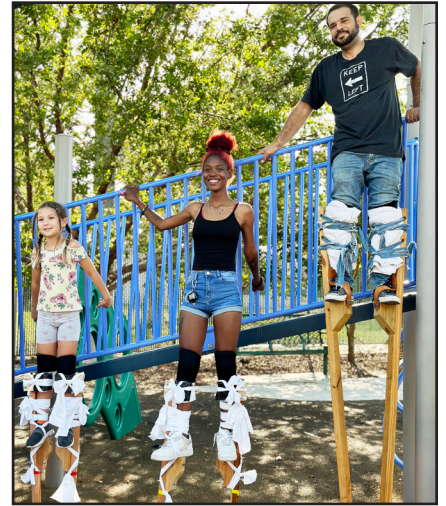
Grant Awarded: 2,000

Artist Team: Sally Binard, Molly Ross & Frank Ashe

This project created a program whose aim is to highlight, preserve and revive an aspect of Key West's Bahama Village culture and the island's Caribbean ties by teaching children about Moko Jumbie stilt walkers and teaching them this performance skill. These students will perform as part of the Goombay celebration in 2023 and work in concert with the Junior Junkanoos for performances in the future. It is a fun

opportunity to teach children history, culture, and how those histories are often a part of the evolution of cultural practices and artistic expression. It also gets kids outside and moving (and off of their phone and tablets)!

Under the guidance of David Berg, students attempted stilt walking.



Make Shift: Dance Key West at the Studios of Key West

Grant Awarded: \$800

Arts Organization: Dance Key West & Kyla Piscopink

Dance Key West will bring the magic of the holiday to all passersby. Anyone who happens to stroll down Eaton Street during the month of December just might happen to catch a glimpse of a beautiful solo ballet performance. DKW seeks to offer a spontaneous, safe and innovative way to share the art of dance, and in the spirit of Christmas - free of cost to all. Dance Key West's vision is to create a wintry, classical ballet scene in the windows of the Sanger Gallery at The Studios of Key West. Using two wireless snow machines, a gentle, light snow will fall as a classical ballerina dances en pointe in a red tutu.



Kyla Piscopink of Dance Key West performing impromptu in the window of the Studios of Key West for the holiday season.

Art in Public Places

We serve as staff to both the Monroe County Art in Public Places Committee, and the City of Key West's Art in Public Places Board. The AIPP Committee is charged with purchase and installation of artwork under a 1% for public art ordinance in any new major county construction or renovation. The City's program operates similarly with a board appointed by the Mayor and City Commissioners.

Art in Public Places Committee

Susann D'Antonio, Chair
Eric Anderson, Vice Chair
Leslie Eadeh
Beth Kaminstein
Cristy Spottswood



Key West Art in Public Places Board

Marianne van den Broek, Chair
Rosi Ware, Vice Chair
Mechelle Burgohy
Mary Jean Connors
Matthew Helmerich
Katie Holtkamp
Erin Stover-Sickmen



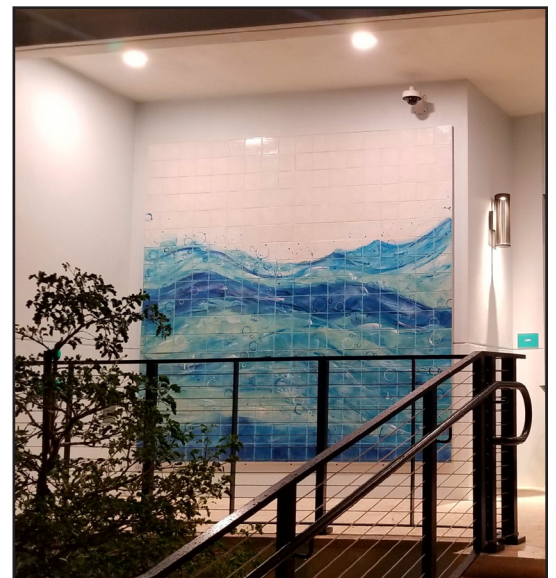
De-installation of the airport's public art in preparation for construction of the new terminal.



Artist Michael Kirby returned to Big Pine Key Fire Station to restore his exquisite murals featuring Big Pine's flora and fauna.



Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's new public art in their downstairs accessible lobby.



FKAA's new headquarters main entrance features public art by Shawn Trentlage and Darcy Ferrill of Key West.

The Connections Project: Celebrating Our Unique History

Subjects this year focused on the wide-ranging and colorful history of the Keys, from the days when pirates prowled the waters surrounding the island chain through the time of pineapple plantations, the development and demise of the Florida Keys Over-Sea Railroad, building of the Overseas Highway and the renown generated for the Keys by brilliant authors, playwrights, musicians and artists.

The eclectic and talented Florida Keys arts community comes together each year through the Connections Project to form one large mural made from hundreds of individual paintings by Keys artists.

In 2023, the Florida Keys Council of the Arts announced a special edition titled “Connections Project: Celebrating Our Unique History” honoring Monroe County’s bicentennial.

The arts council distributed 300 6-by-8-inch canvases, each painted by individual artists and pieced together to form one 24-foot-long mural. Once the mosaic mural



is assembled, it embarked on a “road show” tour of galleries and other venues around the island chain, with an opening reception at each location: Baker’s Cay Resort in Key Largo, Marathon’s Royal Furniture Showroom, Big Pine Key’s Artists in Paradise Gallery and the Key West’s historic Gato Building, headquarters of the arts council.

Proceeds from “The Connections Project” benefit Keys artists through grants from the Council — making more “connections” that help the creative community continue to enrich and enliven the island chain.



Closing reception in the lobby of the Key West Historic Gato Building.



Setting up at Baker’s Cay Resort in Key Largo.



A Culture Series...

We are thrilled to announce our culture series in a re-imagined, but familiar format. Our focus is to share with you, our valued members, the amazing projects that we fund and support. Thanks to your generosity, these four Art Builds Community grantees are building audiences by emphasizing access to the arts through new collaborations. Gather 'Round, learn and be inspired by these projects that aim to spark conversations, spur social change and make our community stronger. Each session is designed for participation and conversation.



Artist Erika Heffernan shares her process working with MARC clients in Key West.



Sculptor, Craig Berube-Gray, discusses his Public Art project focused on sea level rise for the City of Marathon during a morning session at Marathon's City Hall.

The series is generously supported by the Bill & MaryCarlin Porter Advised Fund

2012

Art @ 830 Gallery
Island Iron & Ink - Magic Ranch Art Studio
Key West Literary Seminar
Red Barn Theatre

2013

Fringe Theater of Key West
Key West Contemporary Dance Co
Mel Fisher Maritime Museum
Tropic Cinema

2014

Author's Literary Panel
South Florida Symphony Orchestra
Truman Little White House
Waterfront Playhouse

2015

Bahama Village Music Project
Crane Point Museum/Nature Center
Florida Keys Watercolor Society
History of the Diving Museum
Key West Art & Historical Society
Key West Poetry Guild

2016

Art Guild of the Purple Isles
Dolphin Research Center
FKCC Keys Chorale
Fl Keys History & Discovery Center
KW Tropical Forest/Botanical Garden
Key West Writers' Guild

2017

Grimal Grove
Key West Garden Club
Key West Public Library
Key West Theater
Marathon Community Theater

2018

Impromptu Classical Concerts of KW
Mote Marine Laboratory
Tennessee Williams Key West Exhibit
The Studios of Key West
Old Island Restoration Foundation

2019

Fringe Theater of Key West
USCGC Ingham Maritime Museum

Mark Hedden, On The Hook Project
Key West Film Festival

2020

National Weather Service - NOAA
Artists of Islamorada
San Carlos Institute
The Art Studio - postponed

2021

Series was not held due to Covid-19.
Virtual programming highlighted
Crane Point and Mote Marine

2022 Florida Keys Sculpture Trail

Grimal Grove - 5 sculptures
Truman Waterfront Park - 2 sculptures
The Lagoon - 6 sculptures

2023

Red Barn Theatre
Reef Environmental Education
Foundation
City of Marathon
Erika Heffernan and MARC

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended June 30, 2023

ASSETS**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$184,993
Accounts Receivable:	
Grants and Awards.....	19,152
Inventory- Fine Arts.....	35,110
Prepaid Expenses.....	775

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 239,970

NONCURRENT ASSETS

Furniture and Office Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$19,547 (Note 8)	3,044
--	-------

TOTAL ASSETS \$243,014

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	\$720
------------------------	-------

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES.....\$720

TOTAL LIABILITIES\$720

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted.....	\$197,316
Donor Restricted.....	\$44,978

TOTAL NET ASSETS..... \$242,294

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS..... \$243,014

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**REVENUES**

Grants & Awards.....	\$284,896
Membership Dues.....	\$44,350
Public Donations.....	\$27,461
In Kind Donations	\$22,494
Dividends & Interest.....	5,044
Gain/Loss on Value of Short-Term Investments....	\$5,390

TOTAL REVENUES..... \$389,635

EXPENSES

Program expenses	\$290,654
Grants Awarded.....	\$49,883
Administrative Support.....	\$39,799
Fund Raising.....	\$18,013

TOTAL EXPENSES\$398,349

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$8,714)
NET ASSETS Beginning of Year.....	\$251,008
NET ASSETS End of Year	\$242,294

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets

Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets
to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Depreciation	\$175
(Increase) Decrease in Grants Receivable	\$7,059
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory- Fine Art	-
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	-
Increase (Decrease) in Accrued Expenses.....	\$420

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Investing Activities.....	0
Net Cash (Used For) Investing Activities	0

Financing Activities	0
Net Cash (Used for) Provided By Financing activities...	0

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash

Cash and Cash Equivalents- Beginning of the Year	\$185,993
Cash and Cash Equivalents- End of the Year	\$184,993

Financial Statement at a Glance

for the year ended June 30, 2023

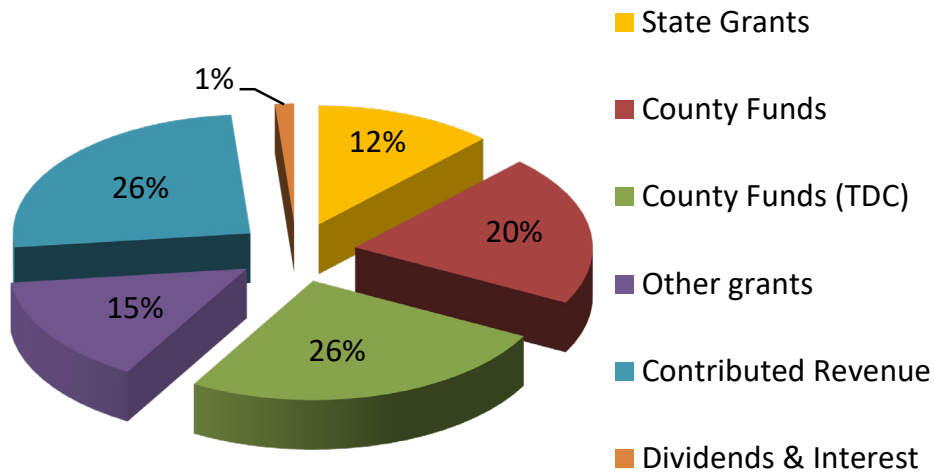
The Arts Council is governed by Sunshine Laws and conducts all business in public. Accounting and reporting procedures are transparent and readily tracked. Staff provides financial reports to the Board monthly. A financial audit is prepared annually by an independent auditor, and is available on our website.

The cultural tourist serves as a primary illustration of the arts economic impact on area businesses. The most recent Americans for the Arts economic survey (updated in 2017) shows in Monroe County:

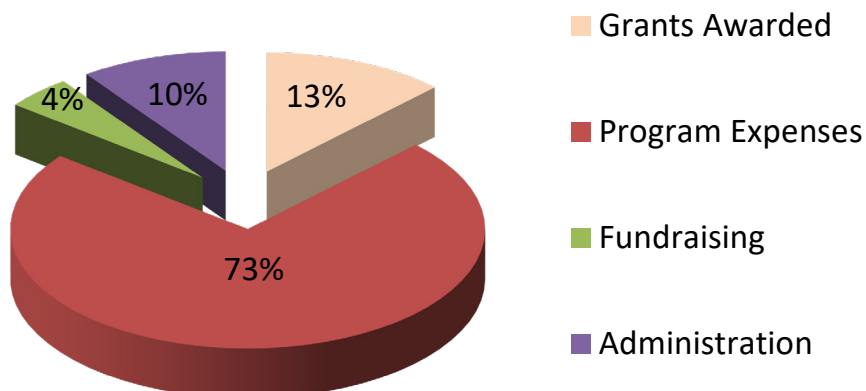
- The Arts represent an \$86.9+ million industry;
- The Arts support 1,764 full-time equivalent jobs;
- The Arts are important to 47% of our target travelers when choosing a vacation destination and;
- The Arts generate \$9.9 million in local/state government revenue.

Our Board Members and staff demonstrate professional, effective use of public and private funding, maintaining our excellent reputation in Monroe County.

Revenue



Expenses



The Art of Giving 2022 - 2023

Benefactor & Corporate Sponsor - \$5,000+

Americans for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Florida Department of State - Division of Arts & Culture, Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, Monroe County Tourist Development Council, Adams Publishing Group, Robert N. Alfandre Foundation, Audubon House & Tropical Garden, Steve & Sheila Cook, Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, Florida Keys Media – US1 Radio, Shirley Freeman & Harvey W. Server, Golden Fleece Foundation, Michael Halpern, The Helmerich Trust, Matthew Helmerich & Jeffrey Harwell, The Kawaler Family Charitable Foundation, The Mitchell Wolfson Family Foundation, Ocean Sotheby's International Realty, John Padget, William & MaryCarlin Porter, Royal Furniture, The Sexton Family Foundation, South Florida Cultural Consortium, Louis Wolfson III

Patron & Corporate Partner - \$1,000+

Alan S. Maltz Gallery, Eric Anderson & Stan Zuba, Gary & Mary Ann Brownell, Joyce & Ron Burd, Brooke Christian and the Key West Film Festival, Leigh Daniel; Gallery 1:11, First State Bank of the Florida Keys, Carol & Wally Fisk, Nance Frank; Gallery on Greene, C.J. Groth Photography, Beryn & Rick Harty, Stephanie & Eric Hench, Carl Hower & John Buzogany, Christa Hunt, Tom & Clare Keller, Key West Fine Art Services, The Key West Woman's Club, Gordon & Meridyth McIntosh, Our Place in Paradise, Kenneth R. Silverman & Catharine C. Regan

Curator - \$750+

Theresa Axford, Sheldon Davidson & Susan Server

Supporter - \$500+

Acorn Hill Foundation, Inc., Duane & Jill Miranda Baker, Jordan M. Bernstein, Roger M. Bernstein, Judy Blume & George Cooper, Nancy & Mac Bunch, Libby & Michael deCaetani, Linda Downs & Angie Majors, George & Marlisa Garrett, Bryan Green, Bonnie Greenberg, Key West Writer's Guild, Stephen Kitsakos & John DeWald, Mary S. Petersen, Renay & Bill Regardie, Everett Watkins

Business Partner - \$375

7 Artists & Friends, Annamarie Giordano Studios, Art@830, Artists in Paradise Gallery, Audubon House Gallery, Backyards of Key West Gallery, Bone Island Graphics, Kathleen & Richard Campbell, Champagne Room, Cocco & Salem Gallery, Croissants de France, Fran Decker, George Fernandez - The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, Gallery of the Arts, Gingerbread Square Gallery, Karen & Gordon Greenfield, Guild Hall Gallery, Harrison Gallery, Islamorada Art Gallery by Pasta, Island Style Gallery, JAG Gallery, Key West Art Center, Key West Collective, Key West Cultural Preservation Society- Sunset Celebration, Key West Fine Wine, Key West Gallery, Our Key West Galleria & Welcome Center, Blue Heaven & Salute Restaurants, Kona Kai Gallery, Maggie Ruley - Island Inspirations Gallery, Michelle Nicole Lowe Gallery, Old Road Gallery, Jack Paul, Roberto Russell Gallery, Sacred Space Key West, SALT Island Provisions Gallery, Sarabeth's, SeaSister Island Gallery, Shade Ceramics and Shutter Photography, Shady Palm Gallery, Noel Skiba, Stone Soup Gallery & Frame Shop, The Studios of Key West, Uniques by Kennedy Studios, Cheryl & Robert Wellman, We've Got the Keys; Trevor & Nadene Grossman Orr

Advocate & Non-Profit Organizations - \$250

Eric Anfinson & Emma Starr, Janet & Charles Bengel, Jordan & Sandra Bernstein, JoAnna Brady & Rusty Hodgdon, Riona Campbell & Morada Way Arts & Cultural District, Shannon & Jean Clark, Tom & Kitty Clements, Susann & Bobby D'Antonio, Ralph DePalma & Barbara Weikel, Rita & Randy Fabal, Joseph J.Fadlovich & Joan C. Wallin, Florida Keys Concert Association, Florida Keys History & Discovery Center, Nancy & Mark Funt, Carole & Crispulo Garcia, Christine Golia, Jeffrey Grosky, Corinne Held & Paul Gildea, Kathleen Hendrickson, History of Diving Museum, Marge & Rick Holtz, June Hudson & Fred Greenberg, Impromptu Concerts, Drs. Betty & Greg Klimock, Roz & Mike Leszczuk, M. Anne Lynch, Rita A. Linder & W. Perry Arnold, William & Vikki Marraccini, Val Marmillion & Juan Pisano, Harrell Odom & Barry Cook, Kristine & Bob Pabian, Red Barn Theater, Bruce Reed & Jan Edelstein, Laurie Richardson, Dr. Ray & Michele Rodriguez, Stephen & Kathy Russ, Linda Shagena, Bunnie Smith, South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Cristina Spottswood & Mark Wilson, St. Columba Episcopal Church, Catherine Thibault, Rebecca Tomlinson & Fringe Theater Key West, Gail Upmal, John & Linda Vlad, Margaret Wallace, Bert Whitt & Dennis Beaver, Teresa & Phil Wilson, Kenneth J. Wolfe, Elizabeth & Gary Young