



FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

• WE SUPPORT • WE PROMOTE • WE CONNECT • WE GIVE



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



85,437

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 85,437 local residents and 5.1 million visitors annually. A nine-member board of directors guides the Council, assisted by three alternate directors, one director 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 an innovative, inspiring and equitable manner. We

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

Outreach and advocacy are ongoing

(FAPAP) initiatives.

Our Executive Director is currently the Treasurer of FAPAP, attends monthly meetings and the annual conference, connecting her to public art trends,

The cultural arts play a fundamental role in the lives of our residents and visitors.

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

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, \$1,329,529 has been directly awarded in local grants. This fiscal year we awarded \$46,900 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 keywise programming, and expanded email outreach via Constant Contact. We raised awareness and funds for our grant programs throughout the Florida Keys through "The Connections Project: A Mosaic of the Keys."

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 \$13.5 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 broader and more diverse audiences, and raise funds for our dynamic grant programs remained an essential part of daily efforts. The fiscal year brought about unexpected challenges and new opportunities. We welcomed and oriented new staff members mid-year while navigating disruptions to our office work space. The Board members and staff focused

on promoting Monroe County artists and arts organizations and expanding our reach into the community. Our new fiscal year began in July, we evaluated needs, looked at new financial strategies, stayed busy on Zoom, and planned for our Summer Board Retreat. The Membership and Development Committee met regularly to create meaningful programming and more events throughout the Keys. The August Retreat, held in person at the Monroe County Marathon Library and via zoom, included a breakout session on Development and Planning Strategies. In November, our scheduled Member's Exhibit titled, "Then & Now: Artists of the Keys" was postponed due to the construction at the Gato building. Fortunately, we had planned an Upper Keys exhibit too with the same theme and name featuring our Middle and Upper Keys' members at the magical Kona Kai Resort & Gallery in Key Largo. The opening night reception was well-attended, and the exhibit stayed up through the winter season. Our Fall focus was on training and implementation of our new database and management software.

The annual Celebrate the Season Members Holiday Party was an outstanding example of the power of the Arts to bring people together. Members from Key Largo to Key West joined us at the historical Simonton Street Watson House mansion, hosted by Board Member and Realtor, Paige Bethel. Wonderful music by the Key West Jazz Society featured the multi-talented Channing Griggs, Skipper Kripitz and Larry Smith! We are most appreciative of the support of our many members. In January, we kicked off the new year with our Annual Membership Meeting at the brand new Protect Center in Islamorada. Advisor Nancy Cooper welcomed us to explore the science of marine mammal rescue in the Center's displays, and shared the work she and her colleagues are performing. It was an opportunity to report on the important work accomplished by the Council, and spotlight our 2025 focus on bringing more arts to our business community. We were honored to have as our guest speakers, Islamorada Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Judy Hull, and Big Pine Key retired Park Ranger and author, Kristie Killam who spoke on the Art of Nature.

The Council's signature programs - The Connections Project and the Gather 'Round Culture Series continue to inspire and evolve, no two years are alike. Many wonderful seasons of partnering with so many artists, arts organizations, members

and businesses to grow audiences, and educate our constituents of all the benefits of a vibrant arts community, is extremely rewarding. We hosted four Gather 'Round sessions highlighting our Art Builds Community grantees for our valued members, sponsored by generous arts patrons, Bill and MaryCarlin Porter. We are so grateful for their ongoing stewardship of this program – please see details on page 22.

Big thanks to the Membership Committee for coordinating nine receptions for the Connections Project, the most ever, including coordinating transporting the artwork in a zigzag journey up and down the Keys. For the first time, we celebrated the grand opening in Marathon! Thanks to the Marathon Chamber of Commerce and the Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate team. What a terrific night featuring a vibrant visual creative display and the talented Larry Baeder on guitar. Heartfelt thanks also to the Key Largo Chamber and the Civic Club, Islamorada Chamber, The Cheeca Lodge, The Hale Gallery and Ocean Sotheby's International Realty in Islamorada, Marathon's Community Theater, Artists in Paradise Gallery in Big Pine Key, and the Key West Art & Craft Festival and Royal Furniture in Key West. We thank our generous business sponsor, Royal Furniture for 14 years of support!

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 Monroe County Committee completed commissioning and installing artwork in the Supervisor of Elections Stock Island offices and continued their efforts on the Public Defenders newly renovated offices and the phenomenal expansion of the Key West International Airport. Several large projects in the City's program include the Key West Seaport District, and the new Frederick Douglass Community Center located in Bahama Village. See page 26. In May, my colleague Katie Holtkamp, Chair of City of Key West Art in Public Places, and I attended the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals conference in Tampa to stay current with new trends and best practices in the public art field. Cultural Resilience was the conference's theme and included sessions on collection management and maintenance, the changing climate, storytelling and future arts master planning.

My sincere appreciation for the great work and cherished friendship of my colleague, Martha Resk who relocated after 8+ years with the Council. We welcomed Abi Lockwood and Alexa LoDuca, who along with the marvelously talented Mary Martin and Erika Heffernan, make a terrific team of dedicated professionals. We are proud to work daily with our devoted Board members, Advisors, Cultural Umbrella and Art In Public Places Committee members, and Artists to enrich our vibrant Keys arts and cultural community.

Thank you to my family for their encouragement and love.

A Message from Chair Jill Miranda Baker

We're an organization serving the Florida Keys with its unique blend of mission components - connecting audiences from around the world to galleries, theaters, museums, festivals, dance and music performances, and more, from Key Largo to Key West. For nearly 30 years, FKCA, or as we like to use, Keys Arts, has been designated by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners as the local arts agency (LAA) serving the community.

This Florida state statute designation comes with great responsibility and even greater expectations for those we serve, not the least of which is the county commissioners. It is also the countless artists living in our island chains; the owners and artists in studios, galleries and artisan markets; the performers in live theater, music, dance, comedy and cabaret venue acts; museums and film houses staff and

immediately was struck by the high level of passion, creativity and drive to grow and serve.

I witnessed firsthand the great work accomplished through the execution of a funded grant teaming up Art Guild members with students at Plantation Key School for hands-on art sessions in class and a plein air session at the property of the Islander Resort, where then those students' works of creativity were on display at the Discovery Center during the annual juried show. The symbiotic relationship created through that one grant drew me into this organization. I soon joined as a member, became an advisor and volunteered my way to the current position as chair, while learning extensively from Liz and those board chairs who came before me.

As a member of Keys Arts, I have been exposed to and continue to explore an interest in a world of the Keys previously unexplored by me, a world full of creativity, passion, color, sound and texture. I'd like to invite you to explore too!

We have a full season of events and opportunities planned, including 10 art mosaic mural pop-ups up and down the Keys, the annual meeting in January at the historic Crane House, and five Gather 'Round sessions to learn first-hand about the projects our grant recipients proudly and passionately brought to life. So much to see and explore!

Please consider joining me as a member, and bringing more members to support this organization and its mission 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.

In a nutshell...

We Support! We Connect! We Promote! We Give!

With gratitude,




Please consider joining me as a member, and bringing more members to support this organization and its mission to advance the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community...

volunteers; festival and fundraiser organizers; the greater Florida Keys community and our millions of annual visitors.

As a long-time active community member, one of my greatest joys has been getting involved with and supporting many not-for-profit organizations. This current role, my personal favorite, is serving as chair of the board of directors. I was introduced to the organization more than a decade ago when I was hired as the inaugural executive director of the Florida Keys History and Discovery Foundation with the goal to create a museum, Keys History & Discovery Center, in two floors of blank space on the property of the Islander Resort.

Back in 2014, the late, great Cris Sandifer, had the insight and fortitude to see the second floor of the museum as a perfect venue for housing the annual juried Art Show of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, an event annually hosted at the museum for eight years. Since she was also the board chair of Keys Arts, Cris soon introduced me to Liz Young, the amazingly talented Keys Arts executive director. I

Our Executive Committee



Joyce W. Burd, 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.



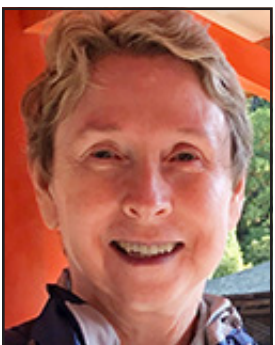
Jill Miranda Baker, Vice Chair

Jill recently retired from her business development officer role with the Keys Weekly Newspapers, and instead has returned to her career roots as a writer and is freelancing for Keys Weekly. Prior work includes working for a State Representative, and as manager, marketing and public relations for Mariners Hospital/Baptist Health South Florida. In 2005, she became the manager of medical staff services. She has received numerous awards including; Mark of Excellence awards from the Florida Society of Healthcare Public Relations and Marketing, Woman of the Year by the Upper Keys Business & Professional Women's group, and in 2020, named Rotarian of the Year for the Upper Keys Club. Jill is twice past president of the Rotary Club, an ambassador of the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce, and has served on the Boards of the Good Health Clinic, Treasure Village Montessori Charter School, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center, the Rural Health Network of Monroe County and Upper Keys Business & Professional Women, and graduate of Leadership Monroe. Jill is married to long-time backcountry fishing guide Duane Baker and they are proud to have raised two children in the Keys.



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 and the Monroe County Planning Commission as the appointee for the Monroe County Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein (District 5). Eric has been involved in several nonprofits in the upper Keys. Eric is married to Dr. Stanley Zuba, and managed his medical facility, Florida Keys Pediatric & Adolescent Center, Inc. until his retirement in 2025. In addition to supporting the Arts, he and Stan enjoy worldwide traveling.



Nancy Bunch, Secretary

Nancy is a Keys resident since 1991, Nancy was born and raised in Massachusetts. She has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Emmanuel College, Boston, MA., and a Masters in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. After serving in the U.S. Navy for 21 years, she retired from NAS Key West as a Commander. Her post-military career included Director, Institute of Criminal Justice, Florida Keys Community College and Director, Public Safety Program, Pasco-Hernando State College. Nancy currently serves as the Chair, Russel Sullivan Memorial Scholarship, College of the Florida Keys; Director-at-Large, Emmanuel College Alumni Association Board of Directors; District II Representative, TDC Cultural Umbrella Committee; and as the Arts Council's Grant Committee Chair. She considers herself a "Wanna Be Artist" and has turned that desire into supporting the art community in the Florida Keys.

Board Members

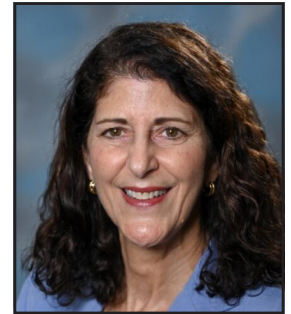
Barbara Weikel, Past Chair

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.



Marianne Finizio

Marianne is the Vice President of Community Relations and Business Development of the Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) leadership team. She is a seasoned healthcare executive with comprehensive experience that includes business development, operations, technology, and marketing and promotion of value driven healthcare solutions. Her most recent positions have been with leading payers and academic institutions that focused on domestic and international markets. Finizio's passion is serving others through her commitment and work with various non-profit organizations and institutions.



Beryn Harty

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

Mark Hedden is a photographer, writer, and semi-professional birdwatcher. He has lived in Key West for close to 35 years and is probably no longer employable in the real world. He is also the Executive Director of the Florida Keys Audubon Society. His photo work tends to focus on nightscapes, wildlife documentation, and street photography. He did shoot a wedding once and has almost recovered. He writes a weekly column about birds, and the occasional artist profile, for Key West Weekly. His photos have appeared in the New York Times, People, Artforum, the Miami Herald, Roads & Kingdoms, Solares Hill, Birder's World, Bird Watching Magazine, Birding, the Bone Island Sun, on the website of WLRN, and other places. He has had shows at TSKW, Custom House Museum, has won two Knight Arts Challenge grants, Anne McKee Fund grants, and in 2020 the South Florida Cultural Consortium Award for visual arts. In 2024 he curated "The Focal Plane," an exhibition of the work of Keys photographers for the Florida Keys Council of the 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, 2025

Board Members

Joyce Burd, Chair
Jill Miranda Baker, Vice Chair
Eric Anderson, Treasurer
Nancy Bunch, Secretary
Barbara Weikel, Past Chair
Marianne Finizio
Beryn Harty
Mark Hedden
Charlotte Palmer

Board Alternates

Lucy Carleton, Lower Keys
Dr. Betty Powell-Klimock, Middle Keys
Jill Zima Borski, Upper Keys

Commissioner Holly Raschein, BOCC Liaison
June Girard, Chair Emeritus

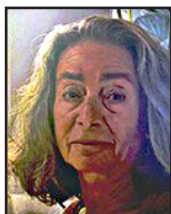
Advisors

Theresa Axford
Larry Baeder
Paige Bethel
Sally Binard
Sarah Brawer-Bartus
Mary Jean Conners
Nancy Cooper
Susann D'Antonio
Allison Delashmit
Dr. John Gottsch
Juliet Gray
Bonnie Greenberg
Channing Griggs
Jody Gross

Erika Heffernan
Stephen Kitsakos
Jonelle Kop
Kathryn Lyons
Dr. Joanne Mahoney
Michael Marrero
Kaya McCoy
Lisa Mongelia
Claudia Moriarty
Vivian Morrison
Anne O'Shea Quattrini
Lucy Paige
Joshua Eli Pancamo
Valerie Perreault

MaryCarlin Porter
Alex Rickert
Michele Rodriguez
Maggie Ruley
Christine Scarsella
Christopher Shultz
Diane Whitney Smith
Joyce Stahl
Blair Shiver-Nealis
Sandy Sun
Jane Tomlinson
Melissa Trader
Nancy Truesdale
GG Weisenfeld

Special Recognition *Unsung Hero 2025*



Beth Kaminstein

Beth Kaminstein of Islamorada, is an arts advocate extraordinaire! She is a devoted Art in Public Places Committee Member for Monroe County and consistently brings her expertise and passion for the arts to meetings for the betterment of our island community.

We are humbled by her commitment to increasing the arts in Islamorada and all of the Florida Keys.

Arts Council Staff



Elizabeth S. Young,
Executive Director
Abi Lockwood,
Business Manager
Mary Martin,
Graphic Design and
Calendar Coordinator
Alexa LoDuca,
Membership
Management and Special
Events Coordinator

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 Starmark Advertising and the Cultural Umbrella Committee. Committee Members: Scott Burau, (Chair), Barbara Hann (Vice Chair), Nancy Bunch, Shannon Wiley, and Jill Zima Borski.

Event Funding Recipients 2024-2025

Aquaplex Key West LLC Aquanettes
 Christopher Peterson Bird Cage Cabaret
 Community Arts and Culture Event Season
 Daily Plan-it Key West Artisan Market
 Florida Keys Community Concert Band
 Pops in the Park
 Florida Keys History of Diving Museum
 Friends of the Key West Library FKWL Speaker Series
 Fringe Theater Key West, Inc.
 Hawks Cay Resort Fins In Paradise
 I Love Stock Island, Inc.
 Jumping Joe Productions Randy Roberts LIVE!
 Key West Art & Historical Society
 Cultural Heritage Series
 Key West Art Center Key West Art & Craft Festival
 Key West Botanical Garden Society
 Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden
 Key West Burlesque
 Key West Cultural Preservation Society
 Summer Solstice Celebration
 Key West Film Society Tropic Cinema
 Key West Garden Club
 Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation
 Tru-ly Amazing Art
 Key West Impromptu Classical Concerts, Inc.
 Key West Orchid Society - Orchid Festival
 Key West Players, Inc.
 Waterfront Playhouse
 Key West Womans Club, Inc. Historical Days Celebration
 Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce Island Art Fair and
 41st Annual Underwater Music Festival
 Marathon Community Theatre
 Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society - Maritime Museum

Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc.
 Conch Shell Blowing Contest and Home Tours
 Red Barn Actor's Studio, Inc. Red Barn Theatre
 REEF Environmental Education Foundation
 South Florida Symphony Orchestra
 The Studios of Key West
 Walk on White Key West, Inc.



Art Builds Community Grants

\$30,000 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 audiences.

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 ABC Grants

Project Title: Children's Outreach Series
Partners: Tennessee Williams Theatre and Monroe County Schools
Funding: \$10,000

Through the combined efforts of the Tennessee Williams Theatre and Monroe County schools over 1000 students were introduced to the performing arts. The project was an overwhelming success. In Marathon

over 70% of the students had never attended a live performance. Comparing surveys from before and after each performance, the interest in seeing more live shows with friends and family saw major increases.

The surveys also showed a deep appreciation for the project from participants and a desire from them to seek out other opportunities of a similar nature.

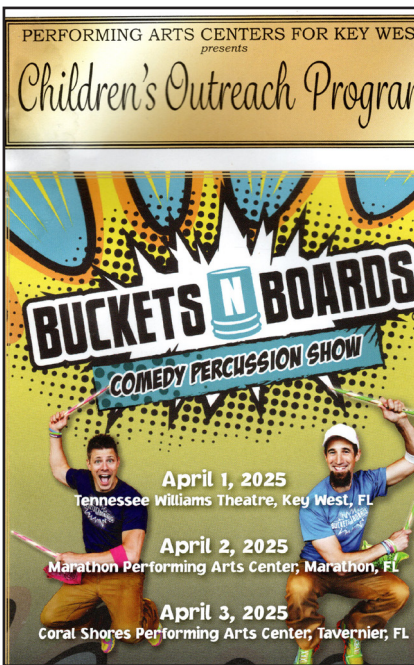
One of the questions was, "Would you want to bring your family and friends to see a future production?" The answer



was overwhelmingly Yes. Tennessee Williams Theatre also took this question one step further by allowing any student who attended the school show and wanted to bring their friends

and family to the evening performance could do so for free. Many students took advantage of this.

The most surprising part of the experiment was that the students, instead of watching the performance, would watch their friends and family enjoying the show. These students received immense joy from watching individuals they cared for enjoy something they themselves liked. The exit surveys revealed a wonderful



surprise. Attendees wanted more of these productions for their community to enjoy and not just for themselves. They had found something new and enjoyable, and they wanted to share it with everyone. Partnering with the school district expanded TWT's audiences into the middle and upper Keys - successfully building community.

Project Title: **Creating Keys Eco-Art**

Partners: Friends of the Key Largo Library and Pennekamp State Park, Coral Restoration, Wild Bird Center, Marine Mammal Responders, Marine Lab, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Funding: \$5,000

ART Implementation: Lectures were held before each art class that introduced the Keys critters/services that inspired the student's work. Many members of the community (who were not taking the art class) also attended. Partners were featured at the exhibit with QR codes for more information. **Community Life:** Many attendees were introduced to the library through the classes, talks and concerts. This paves the way for future use of resources. **Art:** There were friendships made between community elders as well as bonds strengthened with artists and the community. Young and old attended and built alliances. Creative art is uplifting and collaborative in a beneficial way.

Concerts: A true community gathering of young and old. In addition, concerts were streamed online to reach folks who could not attend. Bringing singer/songwriter music to the public is a cultural experience not found in the upper Keys. The intimate venue allowed audience to interact with musicians building their fan-base.

Cultural Equity is the library's super power. All events are free and plan for the most seats possible for each event and

then are even more inclusive with our streaming platform.

Goals of building community were met with our many partners. Excitement and conversations were everywhere.

Eco-Voices

A lecture series
11 am at the
**Key Largo Branch Library
Tradewinds Shopping Center**

This series features six Upper Keys
Eco Organizations presenting
interesting topics related to the
mission of their organization.

Oct 21	John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park <i>Amazing Mangroves</i>	FLORIDA STATE PARKS "Be Real Florida"
Nov 18	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary <i>What is a Sanctuary and How Can I Help?</i>	FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Jan 13	Florida Keys Wild Bird Center <i>Rescuing our Feathered Friends</i>	
Jan 27	Coral Restoration Foundation™ <i>Waves of Change: Coral Reefs & Stewardship</i>	CORAL RESTORATION FOUNDATION
Feb 7	MarineLab <i>Shaking Up the Sound!</i>	MARINELAB ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER Marine Research & Development Foundation
Feb 10	Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Responder <i>Marine Mammal Care and Our Mission</i>	MARINE MAMMAL RESPONDER

Brought to you by the **Friends of Key Largo Library**
For more information inquire with staff

Sponsored in part by the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and private donations.

Art Builds Community Grants continued

Project Title: Made By MARC

Partners: Andrea Munchmeyer and MARC - Monroe Association of ReMARCable Citizens

Funding: \$5,000

The artist received enthusiastic approval from her partner, MARC, to take an active role in collaborating with clients on artwork and to assist in the creation of a mural. The goal with the mural is not only to beautify the space but also to draw more attention to the program and educate the community about the invaluable services MARC provides for disabled adults. Many of the clients at MARC possess a variety of unique passions and talents that staff was excited to highlight within the thrift shop, which serves as an extension of the MARC mission. For instance, one of the talented clients, Ashley, has a deep love for dogs and enjoys cooking. To merge her interests, the plan is to produce and sell homemade dog biscuits in the special “Made by MARC” section of the thrift shop. This initiative not only allows Ashley to express her creativity but also provides a practical way for her to contribute to the shop while engaging with her passions. The staff understands the significance of establishing this “store within a store.” It plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment among the clients. The ABC grant played an important process in establishing a “store” within the thrift shop that can be managed by disabled adults. This



initiative not only empowers these individuals but also educates the public about the mission of MARC. The pride that MARC clients take in their arts and crafts is evident, and this display highlights their skills and creativity.

Project Title: Southernmost Youth Orchestra

Partners: Irie Monte and Keys Community School of the Arts

Funding: \$10,000

The youth string orchestra project made a meaningful impact on our community by expanding access to high-quality music education and performance opportunities for young people across Monroe County. More than half of the students received waived instrument fees, and many participated on partial or full scholarships. Through weekly rehearsals, mentorship, and public concerts, students developed not only their musical skills, but also gained confidence, discipline, and a strong sense of belonging. These performances—open to the public and well attended—brought families, neighbors, and community members together, enhancing the overall quality of life by fostering joy, inspiration, and pride in our youth.

We met our goal of building community by bringing together students from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and perform.

Performances sparked conversation and excitement—audiences were delighted and often surprised to see young people confidently performing on such challenging classical instruments, inspiring renewed appreciation for the arts.

The ABC grant provided an incredible boost to the Southernmost Youth Orchestra: enhancing morale, increasing visibility, and helping to cover essential costs. Irie led and built this program over the past ten years, and remarked how rewarding it is to see the dream she started take shape and thrive.



Project Title: Mike Wiley at the American Legion Post 168
Partners: The Studios of Key West, Inc. and ROSE Diversity Group
Funding: \$10,000

The Studios of Key West mounted productions of two one-man plays by Mike Wiley at the historic American Legion Hall in Bahama Village. He tells the story of Emmett Till and A Game Apart, which centers on Jackie Robinson. As Wiley performs, he engages the audience directly, by asking questions in character, and pulling audience members to the stage to perform different roles. The plays themselves are relatively short, afterwards Wiley launches directly into a talk back with the audience, which can last just as long and carries equal weight in terms of impact.

The partners employed three strategies to build cultural equity. First, in the choice of programming TSKW chose a world-class performer who tells stories of Black history that are increasingly marginalized. Second, the program was presented off-site at the American Legion Hall, which was built by African American veterans and holds deep significance in the Black community. And third, ownership over decisions and responsibilities was given to the community partners: Rose Diversity Group and the American Legion Post 168. Examples include the selection of the plays (Wiley

has over a dozen up his sleeve), design and distribution of the marketing materials, ticketing strategies and prices, the time line of the event and the decision to offer food by a neighborhood caterer as an enticement.

The ABC grant offered an opportunity for successful partnership in building new audiences in our community.



Mike Wiley performs "A Game Apart" which centers on Jackie Robinson at the Legion in Bahama Village.



Mike Wiley speaks to Arts Council Members via remote in a preview luncheon a few days prior to the opening.

Grants Awarded: Special Projects, Key West Writers Guild and SFCC

\$13,700 in Direct Arts Funding in 2024-2025: The Arts Council is committed to advancing the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community.

Grants Awarded: Special Projects

**Project Title: Key West Poetry Guild Anthology:
Getting by with a Little Help from Our Friends**

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Grantee: Vicki Grace Boguszewski, Key West Poetry Guild

An anthology of a curated selection of poems by poets of the Key West Poetry Guild who have read at the Monthly Open Mic since the publication of the last anthology in 2012. In Fall of 2022, the Guild Poets discussed the concept of an Anthology and possible grant funding. The concept was developed for a 2023 application to the Anne McKee Artists' Fund and was awarded funding for the first phase of the project. A call for submissions was opened for approximately one year and a draft book was submitted. Revisions and editing have gone through three subsequent iterative rounds since the awarding of the Special Projects Grant. The final product is published and for sale at Lulu.com in both e and print editions.

Getting by
with a
Little Help
from our
Friends

Key West Poetry Guild

Edited by the Poet, Jah Love
Vicki Grace Boguszewski



Carole Faye artist works in progress.

Project Title: Key West Transformations

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Grantee: Carole Faye

The goal was to create a large scale painting, using canvases that were 48x60. These proved to be too large for the space she painted in, so she scaled down to two 36"x36" canvases and three 24"x24" canvases. The goal became to create canvases small enough to work on in her studio space, but could be joined together to create a larger canvas.

Carole shared that at first she started the canvases and found that she would start to progress and the other connective canvas would fall behind. This was problematic as the color profile would not match completely. She moved onto the remaining 48"x24" canvases and was more conscientious about building them in tandem. This size was easier to place side by side in her painting space without having to consistently shuffle canvases and that way she was able to see the canvases together and truly work on them in tandem.

This grant allowed the seasoned artist to challenge herself and make adjustments to her creative process.

**Project Title: Rising Ballerina,
Burklyn Summer Ballet Intensive**
Grant Awarded: \$1,200
Grantee: Greta Holtkamp

Greta traveled to Johnson, Vermont to participate in the intermediate ballet program at Burklyn School of Ballet where she spent two weeks in intensive ballet training in a college setting, stayed in a dorm with other dancers and followed the curriculum for the program.

She expanded her knowledge and skill in ballet during this intense program. Greta shared that her attendance made her a stronger dancer and gave her life skills that she will use in her dancing and life overall. She brought back gained knowledge to her Key West studio- Coffeemill. Many accolades were given on her growth, and she has been accepted to Burklyn again for summer 2025.



Project Title: Wooden Constructions
Grant Awarded: \$1,000
Grantee: Pamela B. Kostmayer

In April of 2021 Pamela purchased Dade county pine from a woodworker in Key West who was moving to Hawaii. She had never worked with wood and was curious as to what new adventure was ahead of her. She began making constructions out of the many different colors of the wood. Starting with one side she would choose several pieces to begin a composition. The process would continue around all four sides until the construction stood on its own.



Pamela's process would continue with different shapes, vintage wood objects, metal objects, ceramics, and linoleum tile added to the sculpture. It was fun and challenging. The pieces were created out of her head, no drawing or knowing how it was going to end up. The artist's eyes would decide scale, color and values until she felt satisfied with the final work. At one point in making constructions it occurred to her that it was just like doing a collage which is where she began her artistic practice over 10 years ago.



Grants Awarded: Special Projects continued

Project Title: **Richard Watherwax Photography Retrospective**

Grant Awarded: \$1,000

Grantee: Erika Biddle

This special project grant supported an exhibit to showcase the photography of Richard Watherwax for three months at the Key West Museum of Art and History at the Custom House. The retrospective celebrated and honored the artist, and shared with residents and visitors artworks created by Watherwax during his four decades in the Florida Keys. Locals were solicited as sources for artwork on loan; including the Monroe County Public Library, known private collectors, some in response to requests for art via social media, word-of-mouth and from unexpected places. The museum was contacted as a possible location and partner, which, without hesitation, provided the location and curator, technical support and expertise, including partial printing and framing.

The exhibition opening reception was well attended by the community (over 200 people), including residents, artists, former Watherwax photography clients and models, and many residents of Palm Vista (Oasis) where Watherwax resides.



The Richard Watherwax Photography Retrospective opening at the Key West Museum of Art and History at the Custom House drew over 200 people.



Meghan Barter at Sunrise Studio's in Marathon.

Project Title: **Meghan Barter Debut EP**

Grant Awarded: \$1,500

Grantee: Meghan Barter

Meghan's special project was to write, record, and produce music. She is a local singer songwriter and had not had a chance to record music professionally. Her goal was to get original music recorded, so that it could be distributed to friends, fans, colleagues, and potential music industry professionals. Meghan started by self writing the songs and researching to find a producer, who would support her vision as an artist and help navigate the process of putting together a record. After working with Jeff Dalton on a production at the Waterfront Playhouse she hired him to produce the EP. Every weekend she drove to Sunrise Studio's in Marathon. They charted the music, lyrics, and reached out to musicians and hired them for a weekend studio session. All five songs were tracked in one weekend. Then Meghan recorded all vocals, as well as added embellishments with synth machines, guitar, shakers, background vocals and more. Jeff then mixed the tracks and sent them out to a mastering engineer. The five tracks will then be edited to be put on streaming services to share with the public.

Project Title: Outdoor Space at the Residential Facility
Grant Awarded: \$2,000
Grantee: Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Benjamin Kemmer

The Children's Shelter transformed the outdoor space at the Jelsema Center into a welcoming, engaging, and inspiring environment for the youth we serve. The project combined gardening, outdoor art, and creative features to enhance the beauty, functionality, and sense of belonging within the shelter's grounds.

Key elements of the project included: Planting a variety of trees, flowers, and edible plants to promote sustainability, beautify the space, and create a sense of peace and connection to nature. Creating a key-style distance sign, which displays the distances to significant landmarks. This piece serves as a symbolic reminder of the vastness of the world, encouraging the youth to dream big, think about their future, and feel connected to places beyond their current circumstances.

Commissioning a large-scale mural on the side of the building, which the youth and staff had the opportunity to watch come to life through a series of painting presentations by a local artist. This process provided an educational and cultural experience, exposing the youth to the power of art and storytelling, and inspiring creativity and curiosity.

The project was executed in phases.

Planning & Design: Youth and staff participated in brainstorming sessions to design the garden layout, select plants, and discuss the mural theme.

Construction: Youth helped plant trees and flowers, arranged outdoor furniture, and contributed ideas to the mural and sign design. They engaged with the artist during mural presentations, learning about the creative process and watching their ideas come to life.

Final Touches & Reflection: The space was cleaned, final details like decorative elements were added, and a sense of pride was fostered among the youth as they reflected on their contributions.

This project had a significant impact on the youth. It gave them a sense of ownership, accomplishment, and belonging.

Looking ahead, this project will continue to benefit the youth by offering a calming, functional environment that supports mental well-being, fosters community, and encourages them to think beyond their immediate challenges toward a hopeful future.



This project had a significant impact on the youth. It gave them a sense of ownership, accomplishment, and belonging.

Project Title: Coffee Mill Young Dance Collective, Evening of Dance, Firebird and other pieces
Grant Awarded: \$1,500
Grantee: Young Dance Collective, Penny Leto

The student dance company, the Coffee Mill Young Dance Collective learned, rehearsed and performed adaptations and excerpts of the classical ballets Firebird, and Diana et Acteon, plus other contemporary works at the Tennessee Williams Theatre. Rehearsals for this performance were held for eight months every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday evening with choreographers, Joseph Goodman, Kara Querio and Tori Gregg.

The 20 dancers in the company saw their efforts come to fruition in front of an enthusiastic and engaged audience. Feedback from the concert goes was extremely positive and supportive. Dancers gained enormous knowledge and confidence from this project. Many of the dancers performed en pointe and achieved skills above and beyond their goals.



Dancers performed at Tennessee Williams Theatre on Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Grants Awarded: Special Projects continued



Chelsi Smith poses in front of some of her images in the exhibition.

Project Title: The Color Of The Wheat

Grant Awarded: \$1,500

Grantee: Chelsi Smith

Chelsi created an exhibition titled "The Color Of The Wheat" which documented fragments and portraits of real life photographs taken of different age groups. Her process includes the found emotion and a narrative that the photograph captures. She brings to print the art process, creating mixed media art works that tells a visual story of love and loss.

This discipline explores digital images taken into print with silkscreens and abstracting the images through the exposure process as well as the print process. Gold gilding and an assortment of other metals were selected to add to each piece of work for the exhibition.



Key West Writers Guild 2025 Award

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts, in conjunction with the Key West Writers Guild, is pleased to announce that Amber Nolan has garnered this year's writing award for her manuscript, "Mile Zeros: Unanchored". Mile Zeros is a comedy web series about the unique dynamic between the Florida Fish & Wildlife (FWC) officers and the liveaboard boaters of the Florida Keys. Amber was awarded \$2,000 for her work in progress.



Amber Nolan

South Florida Cultural Consortium 2025 Awardees

We proudly announce that artists Lauren McAloon, Sugarloaf and Carol Munder, Key West, have been named the recipients of the prestigious 2025 SFCC Visual and Media Artists Award of \$7,500 each. Lauren creates sculpture utilizing ceramics, found materials, wood, metal, fiber and glass. Carol works in the photography based medium of photogravure. Storytelling has been her focus for the last several years.



Carol Munder



Lauren McAloon

Action Impact Grant Received: Community Foundation of Florida Keys

They're Playing Our Song - Addressing Isolation in Senior Citizens with Familiar Music & Togetherness

The Arts Council is known for addressing issues in the Keys' communities by identifying needs of residents and using the arts and artists to bring inspiration and solutions.

This new project focused on an ongoing and growing issue - how to bring joy to our elderly population - many of whom do not have family or friends close by. We partnered with the excellent facilities that house and care for our seniors throughout Monroe County and the many musicians living and working in each region to bring concerts to the people. We researched the different facilities and became aware of the difficulties in staffing, and how important activities are for seniors.

Our mission and vision - to build community through the arts - was the basis of this proposal. We aimed to support performing artists by paying them for their talent, and enriching lives of seniors by bringing music into their spaces. We enriched the lives of the artists, the elders and their staffs with live entertainment that was familiar and joyful.

The Arts Council collaborated with JOY (Just Older Youth), and many others including the Silver Shores community in Key Largo, the Crystal Health & Rehab Center in Islamorada, Palm Vista Nursing Home, Williams Hall, Poinciana Gardens and the KWHH's Senior Citizens Plaza in Key West.

This season scheduled bi-monthly concerts with different musicians playing "age-appropriate" music in each region of the Keys. Our Board members and Advisors will assisted Arts Council staff in facilitating the connections, organization and planning of these events.

We curated a season of music that included many genres; Oldies, Jazz, Blues, Classical, Country, Classical Guitar, Ukuleles, Holiday Favorites, and Pop. Research shows that when Seniors are engaged they are healthier and happier. When staff members are able to relax a bit while at work, and are also exposed to joyful music they too will thrive and have reduced stress, making everyone's life better.



Larry Smith performs at Poinciana Gardens.



Bobby Nesbitt performs on May 20th at Poinciana Gardens.



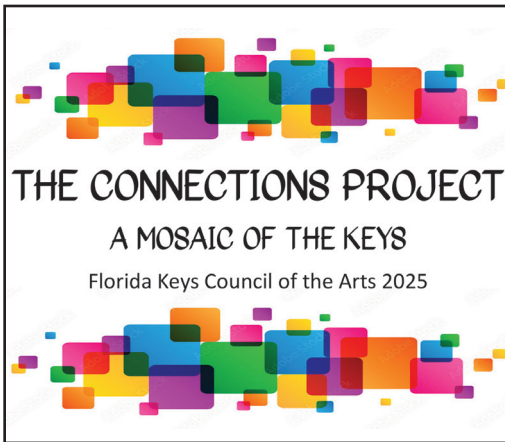
Dave Parkhurst performs May 9th at Senior Citizen Plaza.

Graciously Supported by

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**

The Connections Project: A Mosaic of the Keys

The annual Connections Project was reimagined for 2025 to highlight both the musicians and artists who make the local creative community so distinctive. At each of nine pop-ups, cultural enthusiasts enjoyed performances by outstanding local musicians while viewing unique Connections Project murals.



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

The arts council distributed 150 6-by-8-inch canvases, each painted by individual artists and pieced together to form several murals. Once the mosaic mural was assembled, it embarked on a “road show” tour of galleries and other venues, with pop-ups at Chamber’s Member After Hours, galleries and outdoor festivals from Key Largo to Key West. Royal Furniture and First Horizon Bank were gracious and generous business sponsors. Grant dollars from Community Foundation of the Florida Keys supported the musicians.

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.



Alexa LoDuca, Membership and Special Events Coordinator; Adrienne Z, Musician; Diane Smith, Advisor; Jill Zima Borski, Advisor; Charlotte Palmer, Connections Project Chair; and Liz Young, Director pose in front of the board prior to the opening at Key Largo Chamber’s Members in Motion networking event.

Connections continued



Artists in Paradise Gallery in Big Pine Key hosted a lively and well attended Pop-Up reception in March, featuring musician Ray West.



Artist Taylor Hale (center) welcomed artists, board members and advisors, and patrons for a Pop-Up reception in his stunning gallery in Islamorada.



Board Member Marianne Finizio and friends at the Hale Gallery.



Festival Director and Arts Council Advisor, Susann D'Antonio and Connections Project Chair and Board Member, Charlotte Palmer spent a windy two days with lots of volunteers at the Key West Art & Craft Festival in February.



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.

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
FI 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 Key West
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

2024

Florida Bay Forever
Fringe Theater of Key West
Friends of the Key Largo Library
Tennessee Williams Theatre

2025

Southernmost Youth Orchestra
Made by MARC
Creating Keys Eco-Art
Children's Outreach Series
Mike Wiley Performs



The Art of Giving 2024 - 2025

as of June 30, 2025

Benefactors & Corporate Sponsors - \$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, Robert N. Alfandre Foundation, Community Foundation of the Florida Keys, Leslie Eadeh, First Horizon Bank, Florida Keys Media – US1 Radio, John Padget Golden Fleece Foundation, Hunter Ward Foundation, William & MaryCarlin Porter, Royal Furniture & The Elwell Family, South Florida Cultural Consortium

Patrons & Corporate Partners - \$1,000+

Duane & Jill Miranda Baker, Joyce & Ron Burd, Kathleen & Richard Campbell, George Fernandez, First State Bank of the Florida Keys, Connie Groth, John & Julia Gottsch, Beryn & Rick Harty, Tom & Clare Keller, Gordon & Meridyth McIntosh, Ken Silverman & Kate Regan

Curators - \$750+

Theresa Axford, Sheldon & Susan Davidson, Betty Rubenstein

Supporters - \$600+

Judy Blume & George Cooper, Nancy & Mac Bunch, George & Marlisa Garrett

Business Partners - \$450+

Alan S. Maltz Gallery, Annamarie Giordano Studios, Archeo Gallery, Art@830, Artists in Paradise Gallery, Audubon House Gallery, 7 Artists and Friends, The Art Corner, Cocco & Salem Gallery, Fran Decker, Gallery on Greene, Guild Hall Gallery, Gytaku by Lisa Lee, The Hale Gallery, Harrison Gallery, Key Largo Art Gallery, Key West Art Center, Kona Kai Resort & Gallery, Maggie Ruley - Island Inspirations Gallery, JAG Gallery, Old Road Gallery, Our Place in Paradise, Sacred Space Key West, SeaSister Island Gallery, Shade Ceramics and Shutter Photography, Shady Palm Art Gallery, Sunset Celebration, The Studios of Key West, Underwater Photography Gallery, Uniques Gallery, Wilson Signature Collection LLC

Advocates & Non-Profit Organizations - \$300+

Susann & Robert D'Antonio, Libby & Michael de Caetani, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Ralph DePalma & Barbara Weikel, Kevin Donohoe, Florida Keys History & Discovery Center, Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation, Robert & Lynda Frechette, Monica Haskell & Bill Rowan, Scott & Loire Latham, Karen Leonard & Aaron Wechter, M. Ann Lynch, Christopher Massicotte, Dr. Nancy Moulton, Jamie Olwell- Key West Impromptu Concerts, Paradise Quilters, Kyla R. Piscopink, Red Barn Theater, Renay & Bill Regardie, Bunnie Smith, Linda Shagena & Charles Nolton, Susanne Woods & Anne Shaver

Contributors - \$120+

Tommy Avery & Mally Weaver, Karen & Scott Beauprie, Bill & Kathy Sperl- Bell, Barbara & Paul Bernstein, Paige & Tyler Bethel, Michael Blades & Kathy Kilroy, Caroline & Bernie Bleske, Gary & MaryAnn Brownell, George Burch, Lucy Carleton, Jane & Terry Carper, Mary Jean Connors & Geoffrey Tomb, Allison Delashmit, Marianne Finizio & Robert Stewart Mark & Nancy Funt, Todd German, Craig Gray & Angela Berube, Jody Gross & Perk Larsen, Nancy Henning & Rick Lavoie, John Hawver & Marcia Kreitman, Kathryn Lyons, Kris Kennedy & Craig Derkay, Linda & Bill Klipp, Betty & Greg Klimock, Pamela & Roger Kostmayer, David Lebowohl & Glenda Donovan, Bobi Lore – Island House Resort, John & Maribel Maschal, Doug McAulay & Carol Rose, Kaya & Mike McCoy, Jack McDonald, Seth, Michelle & Kai Mularz, Michelle & Brian Nevel, Harrell Odom & Barry Cook, Christine & David O'Neill, David & Barbara Perez, Sherry Read & Larry Nolt, Kelly & Andy Richardson, Stephen & Kathy Russ, Brian & Susan Savitch, Patti Stanley, Karin & Dail Thomas, Unique Marine – Donna Arnold, Laurie & Chris Vallez, Louise & Richard Weithas, Todd & Sandra West, Mary Ann Westerlund & Dennis Hudson, Ed & Debbie Willgress, Dee Wright & Marilyn Castor

The Florida Keys Sculpture Trail Expansion

The vision of Key West philanthropists Mr. John Padget and the late Mr. Jacob Dekker launched the public art sculpture trail project in 2017 along U.S. 1, the Overseas Highway, an All-American Road. The trail now features 15 sculptures created by The Art Students League of New York's Works in Public program, and is a generous gift to the residents and visitors of Monroe County, Florida.



From left, Florida Keys Council of the Arts Executive Director Liz Young, Executive Director Steve Miller and Assistant Director Bill Miranda, both with Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce, examine the placed sculpture of 'Life Dance' by Susan Markowitz Meredith at Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce, 31020 Overseas Hwy., MM31, Big Pine Key.



Our Gates by Marco Palli, 2023 is located at Crane Point Hammock Park, 5550 Overseas Hwy. MM50, Marathon.



The expansion also added this sculpture, 'Portrait of T,' by Sophie Kahn, at Mile Marker 95.3 in Key Largo.

About Art Students League of New York

The Art Students League of New York is one of America's premier art schools. It was founded in 1875 by artists, for artists, to provide affordable studio-based art education of the highest quality. Great artists have trained, taught, and exhibited at the League throughout its rich history. Classes, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and professional development programs continue the League's legacy of supporting students who intend to make art a profession and cultivating a spirit of community among artists.

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

Katie Holtkamp, Chair
Mechelle Burgohy, Vice Chair
Hal Bromm
Kendall Cameron
Cori Convertito
Ron Heck
Laura McKenna



County's Supervisor of Elections Office received permanent public art in 1% for art program. Jeffrey Cardenas (shown) and Erika Heffernan were the commissioned artists.



The City's 1% for permanent public art program commissioned 3 artists in 2024-25 for the newly built Douglass Community Center on Olivia Street. Shown here artist Billy Kearins, his assistant and Liz Young in front of his mural of Bahama Village legends titled, "It Takes A Bahama Village". Also receiving commissions are artists Craig Gray and Sally Binard.

Statement of Financial Position

Monroe Council of the Arts Corporation dba Florida Keys Council of the Arts for the year ended June 30, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$153,416
Accounts Receivable:	
Grants and Awards.....	16,016
Inventory- Fine Arts	35,110
Prepaid Expenses	1,137

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS\$205,679

NONCURRENT ASSETS

Furniture and Office Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$19,547 (Note 8)	3,264
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TOTAL ASSETS.....\$208,943

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$203
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TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES.....\$203

TOTAL LIABILITIES.....\$203

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted.....	\$161,740
Donor Restricted	\$47,000

TOTAL NET ASSETS.....\$208,740

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS\$208,943

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES

Grants & Awards	\$210,241
Membership Dues.....	\$45,300
Program Fees	\$1,050
Public Donations	\$107,253
In Kind Donations.....	\$22,494
Dividends & Interest.....	\$4,255
Gain/Loss on Value of Short-Term Investments ...	\$15,208
TOTAL REVENUES	\$405,801

EXPENSES

Program expenses.....	\$379,401
Grants Awarded	\$26,233
Administrative Support.....	\$42,238
Fund Raising.....	\$26,944

TOTAL EXPENSES\$471,816

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets (\$66,015)

NET ASSETS Beginning of Year\$274,755

NET ASSETS End of Year\$208,740

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets (\$66,015)

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

Depreciation.....	\$175
(Increase) Decrease in Grants Receivable.....	\$2,712
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory- Fine Art	-
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses.....	(119)
Increase (Decrease) in Accrued Expenses.....	\$24

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities..... (\$63,223)

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 (\$63,223)

Cash and Cash Equivalents- Beginning of the Year.....
\$216,639

Cash and Cash Equivalents-
End of the Year **\$153,416**

Financial Statement at a Glance

for the year ended June 30, 2025

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.

