

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

\$25,000+ in Direct Arts Funding in 2018-19: The Arts Council is committed to advancing the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community.



Poinciana Elementary School Second Graders with their Mosaic Stepping Stones

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS GRANTS:

The Tennessee Williams Project: The Key West Art & Historical Society, teaching artist Stephen Kitsakos and Juliet Gray, Head of the Key West High School Drama Club, had the unique opportunity to work with Junior and Senior English and Social Studies students from the Key West High School. By focusing on four later works by the seminal American playwright Tennessee Williams, they analyzed socio-cultural issues such as discrimination and censorship, and read a short story the author wrote and had published when he was 16 years old, roughly the same age as the students who participated in the project. They also attended a special performance of excerpts from the plays performed at The Studios of Key West.

Mosaic Stepping Stones: This program was designed to have students be able to experience the process of making functional art. Second graders created mosaic stepping stones for the garden at their school, which gave them a great sense of pride. Teachers Tara Popick and Jessyca Garlock led the project at Poinciana Elementary School in Key West.

Rise & Fall of Jim Crow: Student Narratives: Rebecca Tomlinson, Artistic Managing Director of the Fringe Theater, teamed up with Kathy Lancaster, Ph.D., Media Specialist at the Marathon Middle School, to give middle school students the opportunity to explore the historical theme of the Reconstruction Era of US History, through theatrical performances. The Marathon students performed the Jim Crow narratives in March 2019 for more than 250 Marathon students between the 5th and 9th grades.

Mastering Musicianship with Music Mentors: Susan Bazin, Board Director, in conjunction with her students of The Key Largo Middle School, and musicians from the



Black History Heritage Program at Marathon High School

Keys Community Concert Band, created and performed a “Young Musicians Concert” at the Islamorada Community Entertainment Amphitheater in Founders Park, Islamorada. The project furnished 49 private and group music lessons, in multiple sessions, in addition to the concert.



Key Largo Middle School band students with music mentors in rehearsal for Pops in the Park concert

SPECIAL PROJECTS

On The Hook: This project, a black & white photo narrative, focused on the community of people who live on boats in the waters surrounding Key West and the lower Keys. Mark Hedden spent 10 months photographing and interviewing people of the liveaboard community. The show, consisting of 38 images, opened at The Studios of Key West to over 800 attendees.

Nutcracker Key West 2018: In support of Joyce Stahl’s biennial production of the Nutcracker Key West, the grant funds supported much needed rehearsal space for both professional, visiting dancers and local children. The show’s budget stayed on track and allowed the rehearsals to occur without delay.

Blind Spots: Modern Slavery Exposed: Shining light on a hidden subject, Blind Spots was a three-part exhibit developed by Key West resident Erika Biddle to encourage action against human trafficking and child exploitation. Featuring powerful images by Robin Romano, an American documentary filmmaker, producer, photojournalist, and human rights activist. This exhibition had over 2000 attendees, and increased awareness in our community.

Vessel: Crossing Over: As an adjunct exhibit to the above listed “Blind Spots”, Cricket Desmarais created a large, hanging sculptural installation artwork as a



Erika Biddle at reception for Blind Spots, and Vessel by artist Cricket Desmarais in background

Teachers use the phrase ‘a light bulb going off’ when we see a spark of understanding. During this grant, there were flashes of light everywhere!

Susan Bazin, Key Largo Middle School

catalyst for reflection and action for the viewer. The canopy like installation was made up in part by origami paper boats and image transfers. This was created as a “Call to Action” artwork, to educate viewers to be part of the solution to the problem of human trafficking.

Let’s Put On A Show: This program taught high school aged participants to create their own theatrical production, from start to finish. Juliet Gray spearheaded this project with the Drama Club at the Key West High School. New skills included costume design, lighting design, overseeing a budget, box office, and stage management.

Learn to Juggle: Performing artists Bounce and Karen Margil taught the art of juggling, eye-hand coordination, and concentration to physical education classes at elementary and middle schools throughout Monroe County.

KEY WEST WRITERS GUILD AWARD

In 2019, Joanna Gray of Key West received the \$2,000 award for her manuscript “Mia and the Serpent”, from Executive Director Liz Young.



SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM 2019 AWARDEES



Nellie Appleby

The SFCC Fellowship Program offers the largest regional, government-sponsored artists’ grants in the USA, awarding \$15,000 and \$7,500 fellowships to resident visual and media artists from Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach counties.



Vivien Segel