

# 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 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.



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## Completed and Funded Grants

**Project Title: William Rhodes Residency, Workshops & Exhibition**

**Partners: The Studios of Key West & Black Educators Memorial Project**

**Funding: \$5,000**

The project took place in two phases: a visit by William Rhodes in October 2021 to build relationships in the community and conduct quilting workshops; and a return visit in April 2022 for the artist's exhibition and assorted public programs. The main quilting workshop was held outdoors at Nelson English Park, with neighbors of all ages participating throughout the day; subsequent workshops were held at the Douglass Community Center.

The issue that was addressed with this project was the disempowering and disappearance of Key West's Black community. By using Mr. Rhodes' exhibition and programs to help the community members connect to their own history and culture, the project provided the community both tools and platforms to resist these trends.

TSKW was very pleased with the how the project strengthened relationships in Key West's African American community, both through the partner organization identified in this grant – Black Educators' Memorial Project – and the other organizational partner, Bahama Village Music Program.



A community day for all ages to create quilt squares.

**Project Title: Key West Drama Club Cooking Show**

**Partners: Williams Hall & KWHS Drama Club**

**Funding: \$10,000**

The Drama Club Cooking Show is a fully-realized cooking show hosted by Drama Club member Jamison Klettheimer. The show aims to help end food insecurity in the Florida Keys one kitchen at a time by showing Jamison's fellow students and their families how easy it can be to make flavorful island-inspired cuisine. And the best part is: For the 3 episodes, 30 students received the ingredients and the basic necessary supplies needed to make the recipe so they could make the meal for their families in their own homes, free of charge.

How did we do it? Juliet Gray began developing the show in January with Chef Martha Hubbard and Drama Club student Jamison Klettheimer, meeting weekly over Zoom and then in-person through May to develop the recipes and overall feel of the show. Producer Emily Young joined the production in March, using her experience at the Food Network to help further guide the process. We rehearsed it many times before filming.



Christian preparing picadillo at home.

Once the episodes were filmed, they were edited by filmmaker Colin Hodgkin, who also composed original music to underscore the episodes, and then sent to Monroe County Film Commissioner Chad Newman for color and sound correction. The editing and correcting process took from June through October. During that time, Chef Martha and Juliet ordered the basic equipment and bags that the kids would be receiving in their recipe kits. Juliet also designed the recipe cards that went into each bag and organized the distribution of the kits. She uploaded the final episodes to the new Williams Hall YouTube Channel, and printed the recipe cards.

Chef Martha shopped for the ingredients and volunteer Linda Anderson helped assemble the kits and deliver them to HOB middle school teacher Leslie McComsey Whalen, so she could give them to the students in her reading class. Leslie built curriculum around the show

in her reading classes, teaching her students how to properly read a recipe and assigned them to make the meal as their homework. She even had someone in culinary school teach basic knife skills and help with translating for some students. Each student received one of the three recipes with the basic equipment (spoons, bowls, jars, pots when needed) and all ingredients needed to make the recipe. Each kit/recipe served a family of four. Outreach and feedback was outstanding and heartwarming. We are so proud of this successful project addressing food insecurity in our community.



Jamison rehearsing, meals and recipe cards.



On the set at Williams Hall. Photos by Michael Marrero.



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

**\$19,100** in Direct Arts Funding in 2021-2022: The Arts Council is committed to advancing the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community.

## ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS:

### Schools at The Studios \$2,000:

A series of 13 site visits by students grades 1-8 from May Sands Montessori School to TSKW. The purpose was for the students to visit professional art exhibitions and meet working artists in their studios. In each visit, the students spent the first block of time exploring the work on view, while talking to the artists who had created it. Artists ranged from local painters Jack McDonald and Christie Fifer to Cuban artists Lisandra Ramirez and Osmeivy Ortega. In the second portion of their visit, the students would create original work of their own in The Studios classroom, inspired by the ideas and approaches they had observed.

### Dance America \$2,000:

The Dance America Project introduces students (K-8) to Classical Ballet, Social Dances, African, Jazz, and more. This is accomplished in a learning atmosphere where students learn not only the specific dances of a given era but also the historical settings in which those dances took place. Students gain a better understanding of the socio-historical relationships in which dances were created/or began to flourish in America, along with a better overall understanding of the importance of historical events in creating cultural expressions. Quite simply, Grace Lutheran School and Dance Key West work together to offer American History in a fun and a physically active way, inspiring new methods of learning and self-expression.

The project deepened the students' understanding of the American history they were currently learning in class. This was done using a variety of teaching resources and fun facts. For example, the students had learned the basics about Presidents' Day in their classes, but we were able to connect



Grace Lutheran School students learning new dances.



Children with their artwork created in Schools at The Studios of Key West.

the arts to the classroom by teaching them that George Washington loved to dance and was actually very good at it. By incorporating dance into the curriculum, American history was brought to life through physical and artistic movement.

## KEY WEST WRITERS GUILD AWARD

The Council, in conjunction with the Key West Writers Guild, is pleased to announce that Janette Stone has garnered this year's \$2,000 writing award for her manuscript, "Prairie Lotus Flower". Janette, a native Australian, is living her dream of teaching around the world, while being based in Key West.



Janette Stone

## SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM 2022 AWARDEE

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is proud to announce that artist **Victoria Mata** has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2022 SFCC Visual and Media Artists Award of \$15,000. Mata of Key West, was selected to receive this esteemed, five-county artist fellowship and her work was included in an exhibition featuring the work of all this year's recipients.



Victoria Mata

# Grants Awarded: Special Projects

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:

### Elegy: \$2,000:

A series by artist Victoria Mata that explores loss and transformation using paper, clay, wood, and metal, in shades of black and white.



Elegy by Victoria Mata

### Concert in the Botanical Gardens - Matthew & Belle Jampol: \$1,000:

The goal was to establish the Key West Botanical Garden as a new community concert venue. The concert was a combination of great music and food in a beautiful, natural and indigenous setting. The classical guitar concert sold out and was a great success.

### Fringe Theater of Key West: \$2,000:

Field Trip to the Fringe celebrates Black History Month with the fascinating backstory of the prominent African-American playwright, August Wilson. This experience provided students and teachers with an "out of the classroom" learning experience. *How I Learned What I Learned*, is a one-man play that tells the story of Wilson's transformation from a school dropout to a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, the event included a talk back session and served 60 students and staff.

### The Forest Man - Maria Warwick: \$1,600:

As an artist, Maria was very satisfied in the details she was able to obtain using a new lightweight material. The sculpture project was successful and the many comments she received were positive. The funding greatly supported Maria as an artist exploring a new material to achieve *The Forest Man*.



The Forest Man by Maria Warwick

### BVMP Junior Junkanoos: \$2,000:

Bahama Village Music Project students were enthusiastic to learn all the different components that make up a Junkanoo Band. They picked out which part or instrument they would like to play. Several performances in the community occurred before Covid caused the project to pause.

### Brass Rings -

### Tim Marshall Curtis: \$2,000:

The project allowed Tim to freestyle his way through a new composition. Fabrication can be both additive and subtractive at the same time which lends itself to experimentation without fail. This is where real breakthroughs often occur. It takes extra courage to do it with very expensive materials but that's the beauty of it; really good materials matter and almost always produce positive results.



Curtis' work in progress.

### Dive Into Art - FantaSea: \$2,000:

This project supported an art exhibit at The History of Diving Museum featuring fantasy elements tied to the ocean: mermaids, pirates, sea monsters and literary themes such as fairytales, fantastical poems and epics. Artwork was created by Art Guild of the Purple Isles artists and students from eight different Monroe County schools for this ongoing collaboration.

### Young Dance Collective - An Evening of Dance: \$1,500:

YDC granted gifted, bright minded dancers the opportunity to participate for free. Support allowed a wider range of young dancers of sociological and financial backgrounds the opportunity to perform, grow, and give back to their communities through ballet. The ability to present artistic, historic, and educational presentations for more children to create strong lasting bonds with peers was beneficial.

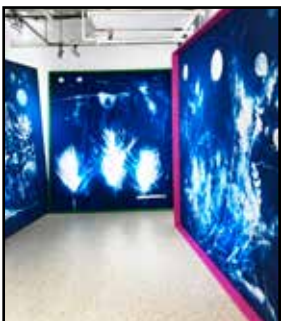


Young Dance Collective

### Shadow Collector-

### Nellie Appleby: \$1,000:

Appleby filled the project space with three massive cyanotypes. The exhibit was a smash hit! She was so proud of the show and thankful for the financial support. Working with the Arts Council liaison was a most rewarding component of the exhibition and project.



Shadow Collector - TSKW