

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.



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



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

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.

REFF 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

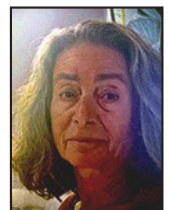
The Council, in conjunction with the Key West Writers Guild, is pleased to announce that Mary Lou Condikey has garnered this year's \$2,000 award for her manuscript, "The Doll from Dunedin". Mary Lou specializes in taking historic cold cases from public and police files, devising a solution with "What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



Mary Lou Condikey

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.