

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

**\$14,750+** in Direct Arts Funding in 2019-20: The Arts Council is committed to advancing the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community.



Key West Art Center artist Karen Beauprie with Key West High School art students and classroom teacher Shannon Perkins.

## ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS GRANTS:

**Schools At The Studios:** Young students learned the notion of “working artists,” they were admitted “behind the scenes” both in person at The Studios and through online visits, to see adults pursuing careers in the arts. Students gained skills in public speaking, appropriate behavior in public places, and how to interpret art. Teaching artist, Bria Ansara prepared May Sands Montessori students (grades 1-8), prior to each visit. Partner Jed Dodds of TSKW introduced the children to artists ranging from local painters Jack McDonald and Christie Fifer to Cuban artists Lisandra Ramirez and Osmeivy Ortega. The students created original work of their own in The Studios classroom inspired by the ideas and approaches they had observed. Two online sessions followed a similar format: the artists gave virtual tours of their studios, and students worked from home using simple materials they would have on hand. In a way, it flips the concept of the Arts Council’s Artists in Schools program, since the students went to the artists, rather than the other way around.

**PBIS Through The Arts:** This program taught students elementary concepts of the visual arts. Teaching artist, Jane Tomlinson partnered with Plantation Key classroom teacher, Jackie Patterson, ESE teacher and behavior support coordinator, to support learning positive behavior with special participation in art classes. The project’s goal positively rewarded students who demonstrated PRIDE (prepared, respectful, involved, do your best



Hands on learning: May Sands Montessori students



Teaching Artist Donna Wissinger prepares students for SFSO concerts.

and enthusiastic) with art classes. Students from diverse populations: gifted, ESE and general student body were invited. Lesson plans included: blind contour drawing to develop a connection between eye, brain and hand, collage making, primary colors, how to mix secondary colors, and how to use a brush.

**The World Turned Upside Down: Music & Stories of the American Revolution:** In an ongoing collaboration with the Monroe County School District, teaching artist, Donna Wissinger, brought her multi-media, arts-integrated learning to all 3rd-5th graders in the Florida Keys. Students receive both in-school programming and a field trip to experience a symphony orchestra concert (South Florida Symphony Orchestra) with Keys’ native, Maestra Sebrina Alfonso.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:

**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 school students throughout Monroe County. New skills learned via the challenge of learning to juggle builds self-confidence, self-esteem, and development of the eye tracking of a ball relates directly to reading success.

**Single Occupancies:** A special project to bring short, contemporary, one-act operas to Key West audiences. Directed by Murphy Davis, with musicians and singers from New York City, the project was curated by local resident and librettist (for two of three), Stephen Kitsakos. The world premieres demonstrated to local audiences that opera remains as powerful, funny, emotional and relevant as ever. Audiences were exposed to themes that demand further discussion, from mental health, to grieving, LGBTQ rights and the lingering trauma of the AIDS crisis. Project goals included evaluation by a talkback with each audience, and the creative team judging the value of the work.

*“As a teacher, the success of the program was measured in the student engagement in the lesson and the enthusiasm the kids had knowing they were going to be working with teaching artist, Jane.”*  
Jackie Patterson, Plantation Key School

**Key West Art Center & Gallery Plein Air: The Next Generation:** Key West High School art students were mentored to observe and experience first-hand, the art of plein air. Karen Beauprie and Joanne Sloan, artists from the Key West Art Center and Gallery, presented a lecture and demonstration in the classroom to the students of Ms. Shannon Perkins and Ms. Debbie Buterbaum. Students were given their own art supplies, and invited to go outside where they sketched and painted under the guidance of both teaching artists. The students then participated (with no entry fee), in the Center’s Plein Air event a few weeks later. Watercolor, acrylic, oil and pastel paintings, charcoal and pencil sketch artists worked side by side with students, and all artists displayed their artwork that evening at the Art Center’s Exhibition.

## KEY WEST WRITERS GUILD AWARD

In 2020, **Kristina Neihouse** of Key West received the \$2,000 award for her manuscript “For James”. The purpose of the award is to enable a talented writer who is a resident of Monroe County to continue a novel or a non-fiction work



Kristina Neihouse

## SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM 2020 AWARDEES

**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. The 2020 winners were



Michel Delgado



Mark Hedden

**Mark Hedden and Michel Delgado.**