

VyStar Credit Union Presents:



**Igniting Our Creative
Economy Together!**

September 23 - 2021





Igniting Our Creative Economy Together!

**Presented by
VyStar Credit Union**

Text to give:
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Auction link:
www.32auctions.com/moreartculture



Happy to
support the
**Cultural Council
of Greater
Jacksonville.**

Congratulations to this year's
Art Award nominees and recipients!



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Cultural Council

OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE

MISSION

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's mission is to enrich life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture. As Jacksonville's local arts agency and a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, the Cultural Council is dedicated to leading, engaging, advocating, and partnering to ensure arts and culture are accessible and vibrant in our city (LEAP).

Cultural Council programming provides: public art in parks and neighborhoods; critical grant funding to Jacksonville arts and cultural organizations that return \$85M to the local economy; quality arts education to 300,000 youth; employment and career exploration opportunities for youth from underserved neighborhoods; and, workshops and services that equip artists as entrepreneurs.



Cultural Council
OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE



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Our Board Chairwoman, Jannet Walker-Ford



Dear Friends,

Welcome!

Thank you for joining the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in presenting the 45th Annual Arts Awards. Our theme for this year's event is Igniting our Creative Economy.

The 45th Annual Arts Awards is a special time for acknowledging that Non-Profit Arts Organizations, Artists, and Businesses are cornerstones of Jacksonville's economy.

Together arts and business bring vitality and livability to communities throughout the City.

The Cultural Council could not continue to invest in artists, deliver public art, or award grant funds to our nonprofit arts sector without you, our sponsors, donors, community partners and stakeholders, esteemed board members, staff, and all of our dedicated volunteers. We believe that the social and economic benefit of arts and culture is invaluable to all. Our work only exists through your generous support.

We know that our sector must face difficult choices as we navigate this health and economic crisis, knowing that it is highly likely that our ways of working will be forever altered. However, we must preserve and draw on our existing positive achievements to move to a brighter and better future.

Tonight's virtual presentation of the Arts Awards is a testament to achievements in and on behalf of arts and culture. As our theme suggests each nominee and award winner is an important connector for the arts, business, and community.

It is with admiration and gratitude that we present the 45th Annual Arts Awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jannet M. Walker-Ford".

Jannet M. Walker-Ford



**Igniting Our Creative
Economy Together!**

Our Executive Director



Dear MORE Art Culture Family,

Tonight, we recognize individuals and organizations who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure arts and culture are seen as essential by all. Throughout the past year, art has been a vehicle of social change, it's served as a healer, a collaborator, a conduit for expression, and outlet for connection.

Over \$235 million in COVID-related losses and expenses have been documented to date within the arts and culture industry, along with the displacement of almost 23,000 jobs, yet this highly creative sector of Florida's economy continues to find ways to nourish our souls and evolve through continuing pandemic challenges.

Our theme of "Igniting the Creative Economy" was chosen to elevate the importance of economically supporting our local artists as entrepreneurs, patronship to our local entertainment and performance art centers, as well as providing funding opportunities to our non-profits serving multiple cultural communities.

Together we celebrate the resiliency, innovation, talent and steadfast service within our arts and culture community. It is our honor to celebrate you, whether you are an art creator, educator, collaborator, supporter, or appreciator, you complete the beautifully woven tapestry of talent and culture that defines our city.

Sincerely,

Diana

Host and Performers



Al Letson
Host

Al Letson is an accomplished playwright, screenwriter, actor, and journalist. Letson hosts *Reveal*, from the Center for Investigative Reporting, an award-winning news program heard on over 500 NPR stations and over 1 million podcast downloads a month. As a journalist, he's been awarded three Peabodys and an Emmy. His theater work has appeared Off-Broadway and on stages across the country. Letson has worked on several TV projects with various networks including AMC and HULU. He continues to write, develop and tell new stories, for both broadcast and live audiences.



Hope at Hand Performer

Hope At Hand is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides art and poetry sessions to vulnerable and at-risk youth populations. Using poetry, creativity, art, and therapeutic approaches, we facilitate healing and personal growth for children and adolescents.

Being a teen is difficult! Being a successful, productive teen is daunting! Many of the youth we work with are unsuccessful in their daily attempts to ease into adulthood. By anchoring our poetry lessons around confidence, self-esteem, choice, and change our at-risk youth populations have the space to consider hopes and dreams.

With poetry as the foundation for all programming, Hope at Hand provides youth with strategies to support them as they overcome barriers to their successful participation in society. Lessons are carefully designed to engage hard-to-reach youth authentically, blending honest reflection and visions of change through poetry. Programming focuses on independent wellness strategies that youth can use to strengthen their own self-esteem beyond the scope of the actual lesson. All sessions include opportunities to immerse youth in joy and success since many of them are rarely involved in ongoing positive experiences... and it all begins with poetry.



DON'T MISS A
BEAT[™]
Beyond the Rhythm

Don't Miss A Beat, Inc. Performer

Don't Miss A Beat, Inc. is an organization in Jacksonville, Florida with the belief that the arts can be a bridge to a better life for underserved children.

Don't Miss A Beat was founded in 2008 by Ulysses Owens, Jr. and his family. The program began with the singular objective of helping suspended youths stay in school so they wouldn't "miss a beat." Since then, DMAB programming has evolved to include the performing arts, academic enrichment, and civic engagement as well as job skills training for parents.

In 2010, with help from City Councilman Warren Jones, DMAB was selected by the City of Jacksonville and JaxParks to be "in residence" at the J.S. Johnson Community Center's Youth Room in Jacksonville. This great honor allowed DMAB to provide programming for underserved youth all year long and enhanced the organization's sustainability by providing it with a permanent home.

Today is the day the
arts take center
stage.



We're proud supporters of the arts, and big fans of the people behind them. Thank you to the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville for igniting the creative economy and congratulations to all of the arts awards nominees!

pnc.com/today



Creator of the Awards



Kimberly Young

Kimberly Young found her passion for glass almost two decades ago working as an assistant to a well known glass artist in North Florida. This apprenticeship fueled her desire to pursue a degree in fine arts from Jacksonville University where she studied under the tutelage of Artist Johnathan Christie, former assistant to Dale Chihuly. Her dedication, drive and love for the medium has garnered her many opportunities and awards throughout her career. She was cast in an “all-star” team to create Lyrical Light, a 75ft glass installation hanging in the Times Union Center in downtown Jacksonville. You can find her work in hospitals and commercial spaces along the First Coast including The Mayo Clinic, Florida Hospital, and University of North Florida Library. For Kimberly, working in glass is incredibly gratifying and humbling. She sees this art form as having endless possibilities for creation and uses the fluidity of the material in its working state to translate the beauty of this world through her work.

Nomination Process and Selection



The winners of the 45th Annual Arts Awards are determined by an Arts Awards Nominating Committee composed of Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Board Members, Past Arts Award Winners, Cultural Serve Grant Recipients, and Members of the Arts and Culture Community. Committee members recuse themselves if a conflict of interest exists in voting.

Nominations for all nine categories were received via online submission. Each category has criteria to help nominators and the panel determine the appropriateness of the submission.

The Arts Award Committee reviews nominations for each category, and as a group, decides who are the final 3 nominees for each category. After The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville announces the finalist for each category, the committee makes a final and confidential vote to decide the winner of each particular category. Past winners are not eligible to receive an award in the same category. The People's Choice Award has four nominees, which is an exception for this new category. This award is decided by the highest number of votes by the community. When the final vote for the People's Choice Award is tabulated, only select staff from the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Staff are aware of the winners. The Cultural Council of Jacksonville takes pride in having an equitable and transparent Arts Awards process.

Helen Lane Founders Award



Presented by PNC Bank

The nominee for this award: A. focuses on integrating arts and culture into everyday life within their community; B. uses creative ideas on how to incorporate arts and culture with other elements of life; C. demonstrates commitment to the importance of arts and culture; D. sets the example as to how arts can be incorporated with everyday life; E. advocates for the incorporation for arts and culture with everyday life.

The nominees for this award are:



Craig Smith

Managing Partner Alhambra Theatre
& Dining/Theatre Partners LLC

A native of Jacksonville, Craig Smith grew up in Callahan, Florida. He got his first taste of business at the feet of Peter Bragan, Sr., and Pedro. Working for the then-named Jacksonville Suns, he honed his skills in promotions, sales, and customer service. Craig adopted what he learned at the Ballpark to become a serial entrepreneur, with success in the communications business, the transportation business, and in the retail labeling industry.

In November of 2009, he found himself quite by accident as the owner of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining, the nation's longest-running professional dinner theater. A labor of love, Craig embarked on a journey to improve the Alhambra's guest experience and further the Alhambra's place among Jacksonville's most treasured cultural icons.

Helen Lane Founders Award



Since taking over the 375-seat dinner theater, the longest-running such theater in the nation, attendance has increased 25% each year and now proudly boasts sell-out crowds more often than not. With a great Executive Chef, tableside service rather than a buffet, and a menu that changes with each show, under Smith's guidance the Alhambra has become known as much for its culinary experience as it is for its high quality of Broadway-like shows.

Smith lives in downtown Jacksonville. When not at the Alhambra, Craig enjoys his time hunting and spending time with his daughter, Macy, (whom he largely credits with his purchase of the Alhambra). Craig is on the Board of Directors for the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the Dean's Council at UNF, and the Marketing Committee for Visit Jacksonville, and speaks frequently at area business events about Jacksonville's growing cultural scene and thriving business environment.



Kimberly Thomas

Art Educator/Art Education
Researcher

Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Kimberly Thomas is a passionate art educator and researcher whose life's work revolves around Sir Ken Robinson's statement: "Many highly talented, brilliant, creative people think they're not. Because the thing they were good at at school wasn't valued or was actually stigmatized." As a young student, Thomas struggled with an undiagnosed learning disorder; the intervention of a single high school art teacher, Jennifer Braas, changed

Helen Lane Founders Award



the course of Thomas' life and empowered her to pursue a BFA in drawing and installations from Kutztown University. She has since graduated from University of Florida with an MA in Arts Education and is currently a doctoral student at Florida State University. Her experience as a first-generation college graduate who has overcome adversity in pursuit of higher education motivates Thomas to advocate for education reform and to inspire students in similar situations to recognize the value of their own particular genius.

Thomas moved to Jacksonville six years ago to pursue a career in arts education, working as an artist in residence for Arts Alive Nassau, a teaching artist for the Cummer Museum of Art, and running her own small art studio. Though Thomas was an accomplished artist, she quickly realized that she had much to learn about teaching art to others, and decided to pursue a Masters in Art Education. Over the course of her Masters work, Thomas became aware of gaps in the education system for individuals with different types of creativity and learning styles. She dove into research and began advocating for improved arts education and teacher training.

Thomas has been speaking and presenting on several topics over the past three years. These topics include building community with large-scale collaborative art; supporting first-generation college students; using art to facilitate difficult conversations about race, culture, and identity; and radical reformation of arts education in the state of Florida. Thomas is currently helping to open a new K-8 school in St. Johns County, and is developing a toolkit of educational materials enabling teachers to advocate in their own districts for transition away from a make-and-take model of arts education in favor of emphasizing critical thinking and genuine art creation.



Helen Lane Founders Award



Thea Jeffers

Owner and Founder of
T-works Interior Decorating
and Breezy Jazz House

Born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the mother of four and grandmother of one left Corporate America in 2005 to start her own interior design business. With experience in residential and commercial projects, her services seem endless. T-works Interior Decorating takes clients in need of just a small bathroom reorganization, all the way up to 6 bedroom 8 bath mansion facelifts. Jeffers has mastered the art of functionality, originality, beauty, and comfort to personalize each space into exactly what each client asks for and more. Some services include, interior design and layout, painting, furniture layouts, remodeling, window treatments and upholstery. Jeffers didn't just stick to residential properties though.

Breezy Jazz Club had its grand opening in June of 2016. Jeffers was exposed to the smooth rhythms and harmonies of jazz as a preteen, at the Riverfront in Philadelphia. Thea Jeffers has been married for 34 years, to husband Bernett Jeffers, with whom she traveled the world experiencing all that jazz music had to offer. In 2018, Breezy participated in the Jacksonville Jazz Festival and had the honor of being an official after-party spot for private performances for select headliners. Breezy Jazz Club is a full restaurant and bar, along with a concert hall, hosting some of the best jazz musicians. At Breezy, jazz-lovers can expect regular performances by Lawrence Buckner, Joe Watts, Scott Giddens, Doug Carne, Eric Carter, Mama Blue, Longineu Parsons, and Al Maniscalco.

Thea Jeffers has earned a stellar reputation as a woman with integrity, accountability and creativity within her businesses. She has a knack for finding a void in the community and filling it with her talents and passions. Jeffers continues to use her artistry and enterprise to create opportunities here in Jacksonville Florida and we look forward to seeing what she'll do next.



The nominee for this award: A. has more than 250 employees; B. graciously gives support to arts and cultural programs and organizations; C. inspires a culture of giving to serve their community; D. sets the example to their employees as an advocate for arts and culture organizations; E. gives to various organizations within the arts and culture community; F. offers sustained support of organizations through financial vehicles, volunteer opportunities for staff, and builds long term relationships with arts and culture organizations.

The nominees for this award are:



Jacksonville Aviation Authority

“Airport art programs are a source of great cultural pride displayed at major airports across the globe and introduce newcomers to the heart and soul of a community. The Jacksonville Aviation Authority recognized this need in 1995 and established the JAA Arts & Culture Program, originally known as the JIA Arts Commission.

The intention of this program is two-fold. Utilizing national best practices, our Arts & Culture Program Manager, Jen Jones Murray, facilitates all public art procurement needs for Jacksonville Aviation Authority airport locations. She is also responsible for delivering high-caliber, rotating art exhibits at JAX Airport that deliver the program’s mission to provide a positive distraction, soothe and inspire, and educate visitors regarding the abundant artistic and

Corporate Business of the Year



cultural resources available within our service region. JAX's service region is vast and includes (in Florida) Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and Saint Johns counties, and (in Georgia) Brantley, Camden, Charlton and Glynn counties.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority's Arts & Culture Program is committed to showing the work of professional and emerging artists. Its six collective gallery spaces showcase fine art, cultural exhibitions, and the history of flight along the First Coast. All fine artworks are available for purchase, directly supporting the creative economies of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

Through 26 years of arts advocacy, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority has showcased more than 800 artists in its exhibits and introduced our region's creatives to more than 130,000,000 visitors. We will continue to share the creative spirit of the First Coast with the world for generations to come."



Jacksonville Transportation Authority

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority, an independent state agency serving Duval County, has multi-modal responsibilities. JTA designs and constructs bridges and highways and provides varied mass transit services.



Corporate Business of the Year



These include express and regular bus service, a downtown Skyway monorail, the St. Johns River Ferry, the Gameday Xpress for various sporting events at TIAA Bank Field, Paratransit for the disabled and elderly, and Ride Request on-demand services.

JTA has a challenging role serving the largest city in the continental U.S. in terms of landmass. An integrated transportation network is a critical element in any community to properly manage growth, provide mobility and offer a good quality of life.

The Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla (JRTC) is an innovative and visionary multi-modal mobility hub in the heart of Downtown Jacksonville. It connects JTA transportation services with intercity bus service and future mobility options in one centralized location. By planting our flag in the heart of the historic LaVilla neighborhood, the JTA has created a space that will serve as a catalyst for its continued resurgence, and the connective tissue for our entire region. Throughout the JRTC, the JTA has commissioned a series of custom wall murals illustrating the history of regional transportation in Jacksonville that highlights African American achievement, along with a rotating collection of artwork from over 60 of Northeast Florida's most innovative and talented artists.

This installation was done in concert with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, CoRK Arts District and the Jones Worley agency to create a sense of place and a living monument to the historic and often forgotten impact this neighborhood has had on Jacksonville and the nation, including the early civil rights movement, transportation and logistics, the influence of jazz music and African American culture.



Art Educator of the Year - Award



Presented by The Baker Family Advised Fund

The nominee for this award demonstrates: A. dedication to enriching their students with a passion for the arts; B. an understanding of the value of the arts, and a desire to participate within the arts and culture community; C. use of the arts as a vehicle to educate; D. incorporates the arts into their teaching methods; E. thinks creatively how to use the arts to develop other skills within their students; f. has passion for seeing their students growth and development.

The nominees for this award are:



Darrin Dailey

President and Artistic Director

Darren Dailey came to Jacksonville in 2006 and since then has been shaping The Jacksonville Children's Chorus into a world-class organization. Under his artistic leadership, the Chorus has grown to serve over 1,000 First Coast children annually with five core performance choirs, multiple satellite rehearsal locations, and outreach throughout the region. A nationally recognized clinician and conductor, Mr. Dailey has served as guest conductor in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center and the ACDA Honor Choir in Seattle. He has presented workshops for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Organization of Kodály Educators, American Choral Directors Association, and Music Educators National Conference. As the founding artistic director of the Boston Children's Chorus, Mr. Dailey and his chorus performed at the 2004

Art Educator of the Year - Award



Democratic Convention, appeared as the host chorus on the television special, “Raising the Roof: A Celebration of the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Song,” broadcast nationally on WGN, and performed internationally in Japan. He is the 2014 recipient of the Reinhold Foundation Outstanding Executive Director Award and currently serves on the Jacksonville University Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts Advisory Board. Mr. Dailey was honored in 2017 by Galaxy Music to create a Choral Series specifically for children’s voices. Under his leadership, the JCC received the 2017 Diversity and Inclusion Award for the State of Florida.

Mr. Dailey has produced four recordings: “Come and Rejoice” (Cantate), “Sing!” (Boston Children’s Chorus) and “Voices for Voices” (Jacksonville Children’s Chorus). His work may also be heard on “A Boston Christmas” (Back Bay Chorale), “Building Bridges” (Mystic Chorale) and “Amani Celebration,” a limited edition compact disc of holiday songs from 15 children’s choirs to benefit African children who have been orphaned because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Mr. Dailey received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a concentration in Voice from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music Education in Choral Conducting from Appalachian State University’s Hayes School of Music.

In 2019, Mr. Dailey was chosen by Westminster Choir College as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Merit Award.

Art Educator of the Year - Award



Laura P. Hammock

Firts Grade Teacher at Pine Forest School
of the Arts and Director of The Pine
Forest Dance Ensamble

Laura P. Hammock has been an educator at Pine Forest School of the Arts for 24 years. She started the Pine Forest Dance Ensemble (an after school performance group) in 2011. The group has performed all over the community. The students have had an opportunity to perform at several different DCPS events, various assisted living centers, Art Walk, Riverside Arts Market, Universal Studios, American Cancer Society events and many more. The PFSOTA Dance Ensemble has a partnership with The Florida Ballet's Community Outreach program. Alumni from Pine Forest come and volunteer their time to help with choreography and with mentoring students. When alumni come back and want to volunteer their time, this becomes a "full circle" moment for her. During the pandemic, the Dance Ensemble was virtual, and the students were able to perform in their school's Black History program... online. The students have been exposed to many different types of dance. Alumni have come back to the school and hosted contemporary, hip hop, and jazz workshops. The group has enjoyed going to see shows in the community, such as Alvin Ailey. Over the years, Laura has written and choreographed arts-integrated shows and presented the shows at NETWORK for the Arts. From 2006-2009 Laura choreographed for Theatre Jacksonville's summer camp as well as choreographed, "Nunsence" for Theatre Jax in 2010. In 2014-15, Laura was the Teacher of the Year at PFSOTA. Laura is also a wife, an aunt, and a new fur mom to two Boston Terriers, Jack and Charlee.

Art Educator of the Year - Award



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Art Educator/Art Education
Researcher

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Art Educator of the Year - Award



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Proudly supporting
**Cultural Council of
Greater Jacksonville**

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The nominee for this award: A. fosters an environment of educating and learning of the benefits of the arts; B. builds and maintains relationships with the general public to benefit the arts and culture community; C. builds and maintains relationships with business leaders to benefit the arts and culture community; D. builds and maintains relationships with elected officials to benefit the arts and culture community; E. advocates through the use of multiple messages such as economic impact of the arts, personal stories, and transformational accounts.

The nominees for this award are:



Geexella

Activist

Geexella (Jee-el-uh) - Geexella uses music as a vehicle to create spaces that connect marginalized communities. Geexella uses this platform to highlight barriers and challenges that Black and Latinx LGBTQI+ communities face in Jacksonville, by creating a dance night called Duval Folx. Geexella is the Program Coordinator at JASMYN (a LGBTQI+ Youth center) and also facilitates HIV testing.



Robert Arleigh White Award for Advocacy



Ansley Randall

Artist, Designer, Muralist
and owner of JAX IS RAD.

As Ansley was creating she saw a need in her community to uplift other creatives who may not be seen in the eyes of JAX. She also saw so much divide in communities or lack of community and wanted to do something about it. So she built a platform to support others and bring together our city. JAX IS RAD started as a sticker, then t-shirts, then supporting and creating fun events, then interviewing locals and posting on the website and social media. It continues to grow with 20k followers and collaborating with other small businesses and creatives.



Hearspace Art

Artist

Hearspace Art was founded by husband and wife team Ian and Danielle Cleary. They are based out of Jacksonville, Florida and specialize in vivid, temporary and permanent murals, digital art and acrylic paintings. Their company and art is founded in love and they enjoy expressing it in all that they do. They refer to their work as the Conscious Heart Movement- a belief that choices

should be guided by the wisdom of the heart in an attempt to create unity based in truth. The process of creating their work is a sacred experience, and they hope you can feel the love.



Igniting Our Creative
Economy Together!

Presented by Jacksonville Business Journal



The nominee for this award: A. has fewer than 250 employees; B. defines itself as a small business; C. graciously gives support to arts and cultural programs and organizations despite its size; D. inspires a culture of giving to serve their community; E. sets the example to their employees as an advocate for arts and culture organizations; F. gives to various organizations within the arts and culture community; G. offers sustained support of organizations through financial vehicles, volunteer opportunities for staff, and builds long term relationships with arts and culture organizations.

The nominees for this award are:



Live Oak Contracting

Live Oak Contracting believes in building long term partnerships based on integrity. From our Clients to our team of professionals, we incorporate a collaborative approach to every project, ensuring the highest quality product delivered on time and on budget.

Our noteworthy projects include the development of The Hendricks, Atlantic at Summerville, and Rivers Walk Apartments. See all of our projects here: <https://liveoakcontracting.com/project-map/>

Live Oak Contracting has been honored with the following awards: Jacksonville Business Journal's (JBJ) The List: General Contractors, JBJ's Ultimate CFO, JBJ's Influencers: Top 100 CRE Executives, Inc. 500's America's Fastest Growing Private Companies, JBJ's The List: Private Companies, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year, JBJ's Best Places to Work, and JBJ's Fast 50.



Igniting Our Creative
Economy Together!



Small Business of the year



Atlantic Beach Arts Market

Atlantic Beach Arts Market (ABAM), established in November 2018, is a 5,000 square foot creative space featuring over 90 local artists and vendors, a learning studio, and a vintage market. ABAM offers a variety of items to fit all your buying needs, including wall art, jewelry, paintings, pottery, glass, fine art, vintage items, handmade gifts, and much more!.



Thea Jeffers

Owner and Founder of
T-works Interior Decorating
and Breezy Jazz House

Born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the mother of four and grandmother of one left Corporate America in 2005 to start her own interior design business. With experience in residential and commercial projects, her services seem endless. T-works Interior Decorating takes clients in need of just a small bathroom reorganization, all the way up to 6 bedroom 8 bath mansion facelifts. Jeffers has



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Presented by Jacksonville Transportation Authority

The nominee for this award: A. creates new and innovative ideas to benefit the community; B. infuses new creative and innovative ideas into the arts and culture sector; C. is willing to share ideas with others for greater benefits to all; D. contributes to and shares ideas and innovations with arts and culture organizations to benefit the community; E. personal achievement is to the benefit more individuals.

The nominees for this award are:



Ron Rothberg

Founder of Art Bikes Jax

Art Bikes Jaxis a fleet of electric bikes available to rent so people can explore public art, historic neighborhoods and beautiful parks in and around Jacksonville’s urban core. The bikes are all unique and customized by local artists. Ron also has a podcast called Swan Dive. Swan Dive shares pivotal moments in meaningful lives. Ron enjoys shining the light on public art, artists and places of beauty in our community. This is how we build community. Past projects include the Talbot Avenue Mural. The mural was created in 2020 on our fence in Avondale during the lockdown. It was there that he learned how public art can create and build community. Currently, Ron and His Wife are traveling around the country in their RV and have been blogging about their adventures on the road of life.



Art Innovator
of the year



Jacksonville Art and Music School

JAMS is a Creative Youth Development Program with a mission to “empower the creative leaders of tomorrow,” using arts and culture, social-emotional learning, and leadership development programming as conduits for producing critical thinkers. A nationally recognized after-school and summer camp intensive program, JAMS works with youth in the local Jacksonville urban core community to create positive change by developing young, diverse problem-solvers and innovators.

LEADING WITH CREATIVITY.

We apply exceptional creativity to some of our nation's most complex issues. That's what makes us one of the fastest-growing agencies in the world.

BRUNET | GARCÍA

www.brunetgarcia.com

Art Innovator of the year



Tiffany Manning Artist

Acrylic painter Tiffany Manning's drive to create is fueled by a lifelong fascination with energy. More specifically, the way it moves through people to form the connective tissue that weaves our world together. The aspects rooted somewhere between science and spirit are what excite her the most.

Coupled with a process heavily influenced by music and dance, she creates an environment which allows her to surrender to the experience, and simply be present with the canvas.

There is a palpable energetic presence coursing through her work that is deeply grounded in joy because that is the energy she wants to leave behind, long after the work is done. Tiffany's dynamic paintings are held in private collections across the United States, Central America, and The Middle East. Notable public collections include MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baptist Hospitals, Mayo Clinic, CSX Transportation.

The Art of Giving Award



Presented by PRI Productions

The nominee for this award: A. stewards their resources to fund, support, and sustain arts and culture programs; B. gives to various organizations within the arts and culture community; C. is a philanthropist who willingly gives to benefit the mission of an organization; D. supports through their financial resources as well as their time commitment; E. develops long term relationships to assist with organizational growth.

The nominees for this award are:



Lory Doolittle

Director: The Doolittle
Family Foundation

Lory Doolittle is an active community philanthropist. Lory was a French teacher, then a school administrator for many years, before teaching English as a Second Language. She ultimately became the director of the ESL Program in Greenwich, CT. Lory has a love for languages. She is passionate about teaching at all levels and is committed to ensuring that colleges create excellent teachers. Lory is deeply involved in the Jacksonville community, serving as a docent at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, as well as supporting the Jacksonville Symphony and the University of North Florida. Lory earned a bachelor's degree from Wittenburg University.



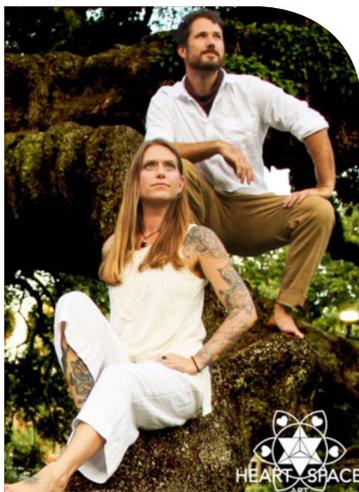
The Art of Giving - Award



Ansley Randall

Artist, Designer, Muralist and owner of JAX IS RAD.

As Ansley was creating she saw a need in her community to uplift other creatives who may not be seen in the eyes of JAX. She also saw so much divide in communities or lack of community and wanted to do something about it. So she built a platform to support others and bring together our city. JAX IS RAD started as a sticker, then t-shirts, then supporting and creating fun events, then interviewing locals and posting on the website and social media. It continues to grow with 20k followers and collaborating with other small businesses and creatives.



Hearspace Art

Artist

Hearspace Art was founded by husband and wife team Ian and Danielle Cleary. They are based out of Jacksonville, Florida and specialize in vivid, temporary and permanent murals, digital art and acrylic paintings. Their company and art is founded in love and they enjoy expressing it in all that they do. They refer to their work as the Conscious Heart Movement- a belief that choices

should be guided by the wisdom of the heart in an attempt to create unity based in truth. The process of creating their work is a sacred experience, and they hope you can feel the love.



Community Impact Award



Presented by VyStar Credit Union

The nominee for this award has: A. a record of visible transformational results that are evident within their community; B. a commitment to impacting other lives; C. community impacts that are measurable.

The nominees for this award are:



Riverside Arts Market

Originally slated to be a retention pond surrounded by a chain-link fence, this unique, historic event venue was the result of a 15-year effort led by activist and Riverside Avondale Preservation founder, Dr. Wayne Wood. His vision was to capture this riverfront setting as a public, communal marketplace, and we like to think he's proud of the market as it stands today. The award-winning design of the market, which features pedestrian pathways, landscaping and picturesque lighting, was created by landscape architect Melody Bishop. The area is a City Park named Northbank Riverwalk Artist Square.

On non-market days, the RAM site is utilized as Black Knight Financial's parking lot. Throughout the week, the Riverfront Amphitheater is widely used as a public park, commonly known as Northbank Riverwalk Artists' Square, which forms the terminus for the Northbank Riverwalk. The Riverside Arts Market is a great example of public and private partnership with funding for its extensive infrastructure obtained from FDOT, the City of Jacksonville, JEA, JTA and Fidelity National.

Community Impact- Award



Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council

Since 1974, we have facilitated positive change in the Springfield historic district through a variety of roles and initiatives. Through the decades, these actions have taken different forms, from painstaking documentation to sweat soaked service. We're your neighborhood advocate. SPAR is organized around five important themes:

1. Preservation – As Jacksonville's oldest existing neighborhood, circa 1869, Springfield contains a diverse catalogue of architectural styles and treasures. But it's not just the Victorian, Prairie School and Colonial Revival homes that make the neighborhood special; it's also the mature tree canopy and historic streetscapes that are worth protecting. Our Design and Review Committee provides expert advice to residents, developers and city officials alike on aesthetic design issues in the historic district, which help preserve our neighborhood's unique character. In addition, we host annual Home Tours which showcase the neighborhood's eclectic nature and encourage new restorations in the community.
2. Quality-of-Life - By focusing on public safety, we have helped to create a more comfortable neighborhood environment. Our Block Captain program coordinates with residents and volunteers to tackle Neighborhood Clean Up projects and works closely with local law enforcement. But Quality-of-Life is so much more than that. Embracing our storied; Emerald Park System, hosting a variety of events, and making our Streets pedestrian and bicycle friendly also add value to our neighborhood fabric.



**Igniting Our Creative
Economy Together!**

Community Impact- Award



3. Commercial Revitalization — We have partnered with the Springfield Area Merchants and Business Association (SAMBA) to support our existing businesses and encourage new business, both big and small, to take root in the neighborhood. Now a SPAR affiliate, SAMBA promotes our current businesses and can help guide those interested in setting up shop in Springfield. In addition, we use the Spar building not only as our home office but also as an incubator for a variety of small businesses.
4. Civic Advocacy - Communication with elected representatives, state and federal agencies, and the City of Jacksonville is essential to ensure effective representation in issues impacting our neighborhood. Our Board and committee chairs make this a priority, and also spark residents to engage in the process when appropriate.
5. Connecting - Through our e-newsletter, email updates, website, and social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, we inform and connect residents with local happenings and each other. By hosting office hours, returning phone calls, and answering email inquiries, we connect with residents, media, and the general public to provide valuable information and guidance. We take the responsibility of being a neighborhood resource seriously.

Community Impact- Award



Cathedral Arts Project

CAP's mission is to empower every child's creative spirit, elevate arts educators in their field and advocate for access and equity in arts education. To support this mission, CAP offers arts learning programs for school-aged children in numerous disciplines, including dance, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts and art as therapy. These build artistic skill while fostering the academic, communication and social-emotional competencies that poise children for long-term success. CAP's arts programs include in-school, afterschool and summer arts learning.

All of CAP's art programs are provided at no cost to children and families. We intentionally target arts programs to under-resourced public schools and community sites to bring the arts to the children who need them the most—but have the least access to them.

CAP's arts learning programs were completely virtual for the 2020-2021 academic year and were open to children across Duval County. CAP continued to focus enrollment efforts on children in the communities in which it typically has a physical presence. Keeping children connected to the arts and education is especially vital during the pandemic, which is exacerbating existing inequities and creating barriers to engagement that are particularly acute for children in under-resourced communities.

Community Impact- Award



Each quarter, CAP offers six-week courses that meet once or twice per week, primarily during after school hours. These included programs in art such as therapy, dance, music, theatre and visual arts. All courses had end-of-course virtual exhibitions or performances.

Amid the chaos of the pandemic, children need outlets for exploration of their feelings and creative expression more than ever. Arts enrichment helps provide continuity and stability for children in this tumultuous time.

CAP also furthers its mission through advocacy on behalf of expanded arts education for all children in Jacksonville. Through the Landscape of Education in the Arts in Duval (LEAD) initiative, CAP surveyed all DCPS schools to assess and document arts learning opportunities. CAP also surveyed local arts organizations to ascertain their involvement with or capacity to engage with schools.

To share this information with the community, CAP launched the LEAD artlook® map earlier this year, which provides public data about arts opportunities in all public schools in DCPS. artlook® provides real-time data for CAP and other arts organizations to use to better target arts education resources to areas of greatest need.

Beyond any project or performance, the arts add up to a well-rounded life. This belief inspired a group of volunteers to create a neighborhood dance class in 1993. And it continues to inspire CAP today, nearly 30 years and more than 30,000 students later. Through its programs, CAP invites children to celebrate their creative spirit and share it with the world.



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People's Choice Award

The nominee for this award has: A. tremendous influence in arts and culture; B. is a popular figure in the community; C. has a unique following of friends, supporters and/or customers. The winner of this award will be determined by the total number of nominations received.



People's Choice Awards



Ansley Randall

Artist, Designer, Muralist
and owner of JAX IS RAD.

As Ansley was creating she saw a need in her community to uplift other creatives who may not be seen in the eyes of JAX. She also saw so much divide in communities or lack of community and wanted to do something about it. So she built a platform to support others and bring together our city. JAX IS RAD started as a sticker, then t-shirts, then supporting and creating fun events, then interviewing locals and posting on the website and social media. It continues to grow with 20k followers and collaborating with other small businesses and creatives.



People's Choice Awards



Chris Clark
Artist

Chris Clark is a self-taught visual artist, illustrator, and muralist living and working in Jacksonville, FL. Art, to him, is a form of journalism. Using acrylic, oil, ink, and spray paint, he explores the rich culture and history of the Black community across the diaspora and the social issues affecting them today. For Clark, reflecting the human figure is very powerful, which is why he uses graphic-style portraiture and figurative works to depict Black life in America through his personal lens of a Black man, husband, and father. At the core of his work is the notion that representation matters. As the artist explains, “By telling my story, I want to help the viewer rediscover theirs.”

Clark’s artwork has been shown in exhibitions around the U.S. and abroad, including “21 Piece Salute: A Salute to the Ancestors Who Lost Their Lives in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre” at the Black Wall Street Gallery in New York, NY, and “Through Our Eyes: Journey To South Africa” at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He has received multiple grants and was chosen to participate in the House of Sedulo Artist Residency in London, UK and the Chateau Orquevaux Artist Residency in Champagne-Ardenne, France in 2022.





People's Choice Awards



Taryn Wharwood

Poet, writer, author, emcee, motivational speaker, entrepreneur and curator

Taryn "LoveReigns" Wharwood is a multi-hyphenate creative who uses the arts to create change. Poet, writer, author, emcee, motivational speaker, entrepreneur and curator of dopeness, LoveReigns has been a staple in the Jacksonville community for over 15 years. She is the Owner and Chief Marketing Strategist of IAmLoveReigns Enterprises LLC; Co-Founder of the longest running open mic in Jacksonville history, The Cypher Open Mic Poetry & Soul; Founder of The Closet Jax, a speakeasy that provides performance opportunities for LGBTQ+ artists and entertainers and so much more. Taryn currently sits on the Board of Directors for The Performers Academy of Jacksonville, JASMYN and The T.R.U.T.H. Project of Houston Texas.

Most recently, Taryn was one of five Jacksonville writers chosen to take part in what will be the largest art display in Jacksonville history, These Truths Art project, by world renowned sculptor, Cliff Garten, that will reside in front of the courthouse downtown slated for completion summer 2022. She has also taken part in several Jacksonville collaborations and initiatives like: JaxbyJax Literary Arts Festival; Jax Poetry Festival, of which she was a recipient of The Poet of Influence Award in 2018; Women Writing for Change; The Jacksonville Artsy's "Love", as she is affectionately called, is a youth mentor and creative writing instructor currently facilitating workshops for youth who are considered to be "at-risk" and in out of home care through Hope at Hand Inc & The Performer's Academy. Taryn truly believes that everyone deserves the opportunity to be heard no matter what their story is. In the midst of the pandemic in 2020, as shows and events began to get cancelled across the country, Love launched her own podcast: The Random Thoughts of Reign, inspired by conversations between Nikki Giovanni and James Baldwin. To date, Love has produced over 120 episodes!

In her words "I am who I AM because of who I was. It's never too late to be who you might have been. Our stories MUST be told." Taryn is definitely in a lane of her own and isn't afraid to create another one if she has to.



Special Recognition



Liz McCoy

Executive Director at Friends of James Weldon Johnson Park.

Liz McCoy's life-long passion for the arts started at age 14 on her first professional theatre tour. From there, she attended Florida State University's well regarded Musical Theatre Program, which helped her launch her career in New York City, although she quickly found she was more interested in working behind the scenes. She was an associate producer on Broadway and Touring shows such as JEKYLL & HYDE, ANNIE (30th Anniversary tour), SWEET CHARITY with Molly Ringwald and RENT. In association with Nickelodeon, Liz produced the touring productions of BLUES CLUES LIVE! and DORA THE EXPLORER LIVE! giving more than five million young fans their first theatrical experience. Internationally, she has co-produced the Italian production of CHICAGO, THE MUSICAL as well as the Irish musical group CELTIC WOMAN. After a few decades of living in New York City, Liz set her sights on moving to Jacksonville where she had often vacationed. In 2013, she joined ASM Global as the Director of the Times-Union Performing Arts Center and The Ritz Theatre & Museum. In 2016, ASM promoted her to General Manager of a large amphitheater in Cary, NC. Although the excitement of presenting legendary artists like Paul Simon, Willie Nelson and The Lumineers excited her, she missed Jacksonville so much that she returned to helm Friends of Hemming Park (now James Weldon Johnson Park), where she is today. She loves the welcoming atmosphere of the park, and the opportunity to bring music, art and culture to downtown in an environment that all can enjoy. In her spare time, Liz enjoys cheering for her Seminole Football and Basketball teams. She also enjoys all the things that she couldn't do easily in New York City, such as camping, hiking, and kayaking. Her performances these days are limited to impromptu dance parties in her own living room with her husband, Bryan, while their son, Frank, rolls his eyes and their dog, Thelma, keeps time by wagging her tail.

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We thank **Maria Montoya and MiAddVantage** for designing and developing the Arts Awards program book.

We thank the many people who served as **Arts Awards Ambassadors** by connecting and sharing with others the message of the Arts Awards.

Thank you to the **Arts Awards Committee** for your continued help and support to ensure a successful event.

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