



MARTIN *Arts*
AWARDS

**Celebrating 20 Years
of shining a light on the arts!**

The Lyric Theatre
59 SW Flagler Ave, Stuart, FL



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MAGAZINE

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Dear Patrons & Art Enthusiasts,

Thank you for joining us as we make history together celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the coveted MartinArts Awards aka "the Marties".

"The Arts" are defined as various expressive practices formed by human creativity and imagination. Art touches the lives of everyone in one form or another. Art has been present from the beginning of time; it is all around us, creating a magical sense of wonder and joy. Art is the common thread that connects all of us together and Art is a key that links the past to the present. Art will carry on forever into the future.

Tonight, we present "The Arts" live on stage as we showcase the spectacular talent of Martin County. Enjoy the magic of the evening and please continue to support the Arts throughout the year. The Arts touch the lives of everyone in one way or another and the Arts will live on forever.

A special thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors, volunteers, board members, staff, community leaders, teachers, parents, amazing MartinArts Awards committee team, and of course all the amazing nominees. We are sincerely grateful and thank all of you.

Curtain up... Awaken your senses as "The Arts Come Alive" at the Marties!

Sincerely,
MartinArts Awards Committee

MartinArts would like to say thank you to the following for their generous support of the 2023 MartinArts Awards:

Committee:

Dr. Anita Caswell, Amy Cimber-Snodgrass, Sharon Hagin, Lisa Renee Ludlum, Marney McKee, Debra Melillo, Andy Morejon, Faith Paul, Barbara Wells, Kristal Wion-Eckhardt

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Judges:

Jeanette Mazzella, Rachel McGoye, Linda Miller, Nina Nicolosi, Tom Prestopnik, Lisa Renee Ludlum, Barbara Scharlau, Ginger Shannon, Rob Steele

MARTIN *Arts*

AWARDS

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mariano Garcia IV and Kerry Rocks, Co-hosts

“Art is Calling for Me”, Music by Victor Herbert & Lyrics by Harry B. Smith

Kerry Rocks & Reva Rogers

Accompaniment by Brandon Glick

Welcome

Mariano Garcia IV

“An American in Paris” by George Gershwin & Arrangement by Michele Mangani

Dakota Beurrier & Colin Belville

Accompaniment by Brandon Glick

Presentation of Special Recognition Award

Hank Gonzalez

Presented by Sharon Holt

“This Little Light of Mine” Arrangement by John Helgen

Treasure Coast Community Singers Youth Choir &

Martin County High School OPUS

Accompaniment by Marguerite Krull

Presentation of Arts Leadership Award

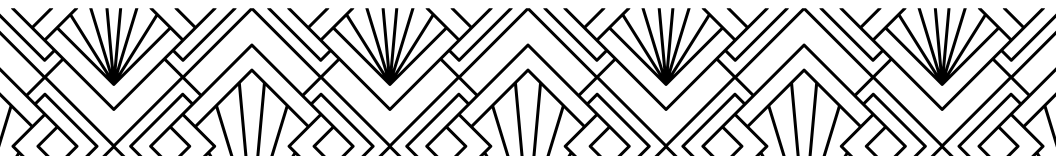
Kia Fontaine

Presented by Sharon Holt

Presentation of Excellence in Arts Education Award

John Egan

Presented by Dr. Anita Caswell



“Sir Duke” by Stevie Wonder, Trumpet Accompaniment arr. T. Ando

Christina Josie, Luis Medina, & Vicky Seegott

Presentation of Corporate Leadership in the Arts Award

Masterpiece Design/Build

Presented by Liz Bonan

“How The Arts Reaffirm” read by Rebekah Madebach

Kayla Bittner & Jazmine Cratty

Comments from the Board Chair, Liz Bonan

Recognition of Professional Artist Nominees

Awards Presentation | Literary, Performing, Visual

Presented by Kristal Wion-Eckhardt & Liz Bonan

Presentation of Arts Service Award

Sue Sokel

Presented by Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish

Presentation of Lawrence A. Sanders Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award

Grace Linn

Presented by Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish

“The Prayer” by David Foster & Carol Bayer Sager

Logan Jacobs & Star Reed, Italian Lyrics by A. Testa & T. Renis

Accompaniment by Brandon Glick

Recognition of Student Artist Nominees

Awards Presentation | Literary, Performing, Visual

Presented by Jeanette Mueller & Karen Vaina

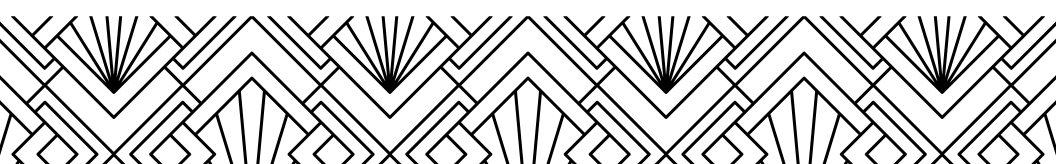
Parting Comments

Nancy K. Turrell, Executive Director / CEO

“Climb Every Mountain” by Richard Rogers & Oscar Hammerstein

David Axton, Kerry Rocks, & Reva Rogers

Accompaniment by Brandon Glick



Lawrence A. Sanders Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

Grace Linn



Grace became 101 years old this past October. She was born to Italian immigrants before the Depression. She says: "I excelled in my studies graduating from high school at age 16. I taught myself computer programming and developed the first computer accounting system for the hospital I worked for. I also developed a Microbiology Reporting System that helped to identify the spread of infections, receiving recognition for the CDC for my role in this new technology." When she and her husband

moved to Florida in 1987, she took on a leadership role with Planned Parenthood, taught computer skills to adults at a local high school and was President of the Native Plant Society. She was very active as an artist, particularly in quilting, and won first place awards each year for her art. She also supported a local environmental group and has been very active in Woman's Club raising money for scholarships for women. When she heard over this past year that school boards were beginning to ban books, she became outraged and made a quilt which depicted some of the books that were being banned. Word about this got to Ari Belshi on MSNBC and he interviewed her twice on his program with her quilt. Grace also brought her quilt and spoke at a Martin County School Board meeting. The video of that speech went viral. Later this fall a Paramount Plus Documentary will be released that covers book burning and she will be one of the individuals featured in the documentary.

Arts Service

Sue Sokel



Shortly after Sue and her husband moved to Stuart in 1995 a friend invited her to a concert and told her about the volunteer organization supporting the orchestra, the Stuart Friends of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra. She jumped in with two feet and has over these years served in each officer position and chaired most of the fundraisers since 2004. She has sold ads, solicited raffle prizes, brought in meals to orchestra members between the 4 and 8 pm concerts, served as an usher,

and licked between 2,000 and 3,000 stamps and envelope flaps for mailings before self-sticks. In return she has had the opportunity to experience outstanding musical performances, gain a broader knowledge of composers, and meet some of the guest artists over the 26 years she has been a volunteer with the orchestra. She says my life has been enriched by the experiences I have had as a volunteer and a patron, and I wish the same for anyone who has not yet served as a volunteer.

Arts Leadership Kia Fontaine



Since falling in love with the magic of live entertainment at age 6, singing in The Treasure Coast Opera Society's La Boheme, Kia Fontaine chased her dream to work in the arts. She has a passion for the arts and has spent most of her life performing, producing, volunteering, and advocating for arts and culture.

Kia Fontaine is the President / CEO of The Lyric Theatre and has faithfully served the organization since 2008 in

various positions. During her tenure, she expanded the Arts & Education Programs by developing The Lyric's AWESOME Summer Camp, Family Fun Series, and KidTix and broadened the artistic programming. She has collaborated with local artists and performers and not-for-profit organizations to provide them with a venue for their cultural and artistic programming and fundraising efforts. Kia has made it her mission to ensure that the arts are accessible and affordable for everyone. Before coming to The Lyric, Kia was the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Fort Pierce, administering the City's preservation and design review ordinances to protect cultural and historical resources. Her knowledge of architectural history, planning, and urban design has played an important role at The Lyric, where she oversaw two major renovations to the historic landmark in 2014 and 2021.

Corporate Leadership in the Arts Masterpiece Design/Build



Located on Colorado Avenue in the heart of downtown Stuart, Jeff Bowers and his team of craftsmen and artisans have been serving our local community since 1977. Applying their talents to building custom homes, remodeling and renovations, historical reconstruction and light commercial projects – every project can be seen as a different type of “art”!

While working in much different mediums than most folks in the arts, the team at Masterpiece Design Build appreciates being able to make a positive impact in clients lives and lifestyles. A person's home is much more than just a house – it is where families live and build memories – so the work they do matters greatly. Jeff & Lisa Bowers have been long time supporters of MartinArts. Jeff has served on the Board of Directors and is a Past Chair. They have been heavily involved in Artsfest for many years as sponsors and volunteers. Jeff, Lisa and their team try every day to make Stuart/Martin County a better place to call home!

Excellence in Arts Education

John Egan



Mr. John Egan is beginning his 10th year of teaching at Anderson Middle School. A Martin County native and University of Florida graduate, teaching music has been his primary professional goal since the age of fifteen. During his tenure at AMS, Mr. Egan has grown the music program from 91 students to over 450, received the honor of being named AMS Teacher of the Year in 2018, and received the school's first ever Superior Ratings in both Choir and Band. The Florida Bandmasters

Association has honored Mr. Egan with two prestigious awards: The Tom Bishop Award, which recognizes Band Directors who make remarkable positive impacts on their programs, and The Linda Mann 5-year Superior award, which is given to programs who receive Superior Ratings for 5 consecutive years. Under his direction Anderson Middle is the first Martin County recipient of this award since 2005. Having taught over 1,300 music students in his career thus far, Mr. Egan remains passionate about providing rich and meaningful musical experiences and memories for his students.

Special Recognition

Hank Gonzalez



Hank Gonzalez has spent his life building and creating. He could develop a cost-benefit analysis for a multi-million-dollar real estate project one minute, and then pick up his guitar and write a song the next. He founded Spotlight Players community theatre group in Palm Beach Gardens and either directed, produced, or acted in every show for almost a decade, sometimes taking on all three roles for a single show. His real estate development career produced award winning residential

developments. He has also been the owner's representative for the Kravis Center. On the arts side of his life, he was the President of the Board for the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches for 10 years. He watched the choir grow from 12 children to over 350 members. In May 2023 YSPB dedicated their concert to Hank and brought over 450 children to perform the finale at the Kravis Center in his honor, 'His Light is Mine.' Over the past few years Hank has told everyone how wonderful the Stuart High School project will be for Martin County's cultural community.



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Inspiring a participation and passion for the arts in our community.

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Your membership provides us with valuable support that allows us to fulfill our mission of inspiring participation and passion for the arts in Martin County.

As a member of MartinArts, you will enjoy a range of benefits including a subscription to MartinArts Magazine, invitations to exhibitions, as well as complimentary tickets to ArtsFest.



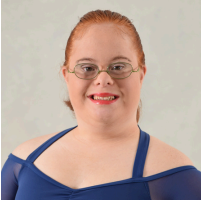
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Faith Beurrier | Performing

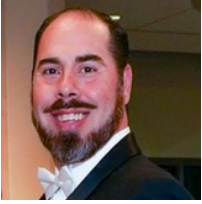
Nominated by: Tara Anstensen



When asked about her passion for the arts Faith said: “Musical theatre is my favorite. I love being on stage.” Here she can combine her passion for dancing, singing, and performing. She has recently started teaching classes at the Florida Arts and Dance Company. She especially likes teaching people with Down Syndrome and helping them learn to dance. “I like how they encourage each other when they are learning.” Faith has been a part of the FDAC productions of The Nutcracker at Lyric Theatre for more than ten years either as a performer or more recently assisting backstage. While being on stage is her favorite, she says that helping backstage is also special. “It makes me feel included and like I am valuable.”

Bryan W. Childe | Visual

Nominated by: Andy Morejon



“My passion for the arts started very young. My mother, a classically trained ballet dancer, and my father, a vocalist with a bass voice, always encouraged the arts. Throughout school and in college I pursued the arts with a focus on theatre. After returning from a career as a professional baseball umpire, I followed my love of theatre back home and accepted the position of technical director at the Barn Theatre. My responsibilities, work, and passion grew exponentially, and I soon oversaw all artistic direction for all mainstage shows each season, as well as many non-mainstage shows, special events and fundraisers. Through lighting and set design the story is conveyed on stage. Though no one element of any production is superior to another, I am passionate about the visual aspects, such as lighting and set design that help tell each story.”

John Ciambriello | Visual

Nominated by: Heather Ivins



“I have always been drawn to the art of creativity. As a child, I would find myself mesmerized by the light as it danced around the room, imagining an entire world within the flickers of dust particles. My father’s keen interest in photography had a significant influence on my own creative journey, particularly his use of in-camera techniques during a time when Photoshop was not yet available. The effort and planning that went into each photograph was truly magical and will forever remain with me. I strive to continue that methodology in my own work. Today there is a heavy reliance on technology and AI within the field of photography. But the genuine human experience is, to me, what makes art so beautiful.”

Jennifer Collins | Literary

Nominated by: Katelyn Anne Johnson



Jennifer began her career as a physical therapist, first as a practicing therapist and then as a Chair and Professor of Physical Therapy. She has more recently become a significant author. The arts had always been a part of her life, but her deep involvement grew in response to deep personal loss in her life. “The sadness and grief rarely

abated, except when I walked outdoors in natural surroundings and observed the beauty of the world ... my attention shifted to seeing beauty in all endeavors.” Her first book is a novel about a love that will not die. One woman’s path into a light she never believed she might bask in again. Her second novel set on Hutchinson Island is also a story of loss, not giving in, the power of hope, and of the redemptive role that water can play. Jennifer is active in numerous community groups here and in New York.

Sherry Dunn | Literary

Nominated by: Mary Ann Loomis

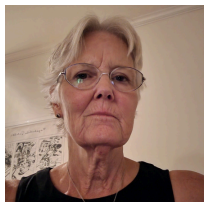


“Art gives us a place to come together as a society ... an opportunity to create social change. This creates passion. In 2023 I published a children’s book, Maddie and Jasmine, the first in a series of three. The idea came about after I adopted my 7th shelter pet – a bullied and battered little tortoiseshell cat named Jasmine. I am passionate about animal rescue

and about children’s literacy.” This book tells the story of Maddie, a little girl who suffers from bullying and exclusion. Jasmine is an abandoned cat who lives in an animal shelter. Both of their lives change when they meet. The book shows being different is normal and everyone is worthy of love and respect. Sherry is also working to provide more accessibility to parents and children needing sign language interpretation using audio recording and augmented reality.

Luanne Dwyer | Performing

Nominated by: Cindy Kessler



“I am a classical pianist focusing on ensemble work. For me, personally, my art engages my emotions. The more skilled I become at playing a particular piece, the closer I get to ‘being in the moment.’ The spectators of art turn their attention to this moment as well. It is a marvel to witness friends and strangers experience the myriad of emotions let loose by a

musical performance. Music can move all of us to tears – of joy, sorrow, triumph, energy, beauty. It envelops our senses, fills our hearts. We are all witnesses to the evocation of what it is to be truly human. Music has the power to heal.”

Dot Galfond | Visual

Nominated by: Jane Lawton Baldrige



My passion for the arts began in high school with an amazing teacher who fostered not only my imagination but the ability to think outside the box and explore unconventional ideas. I've always felt that this speaks to how incredible the arts are in our schools and how just one teacher can make such a tremendous impression on a student. I feel it is imperative to keep the arts alive and active in our community for adults as well. It can challenge the status quo, provoke discussion, and encourage collective action. All of my work in the arts community over the past four years has been with the Artisans Guild of Martin County. I am on the Board of Directors, and we have built the guild to over 60 members. It has been a true labor of love."

Brandon Glick | Performing

Nominated by: Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish



"Music, and particularly the arts in general, is a language which can express deep feelings. It can also be shallow and full of ego. As we, I, let go of ego our positive impact will be greater. My reason for doing what I do, is to offer a slice of hope, 'anticipation of good,' in a time of 24 hour negative news on TV. If for an hour or two someone is able to dispel the fear, the 'anticipation' of something bad, through the arts, then it is a success. My hope is when people experience live concerts of Bach, Gershwin, tango, jazz, people's lives can be altered for the better because they have been infused with hope. Great art is honest, and the arts are always challenging us to slow down and experience the 'now.' A toe-tapping simple song by Stephen Foster can have as acute an effect on a soul as Samuel Barber's profoundly emotional Adagio for Strings."

Charles Douglas Jones | Performing

Nominated by: Karin A. Leone



"Music is me and I am music. Music brings me great joy and comfort. My purpose on this earth is to create and help spread love through the power of music. Yes, singing is my primary musical gift, but I am a piano/keyboard player as well. Music is the universal language, and I am its goodwill ambassador! I share my gift to help bring people together, speak to people's hearts and souls, and to heal and inspire. The arts are a vital art of human experience. I am always appreciative and humbled by my various interactions. I relish the opportunity to perform ... this is how I help impact and change lives."

Heidi R. Lee | Visual

Nominated by: Amy Cimber-Snodgrass



"In 2012 I began to explore abstract painting as a hobby and my interest led me to participate in art lessons with locally renowned abstract artist Elisabeth Gross-Marks in Ithaca, NY. I fell in love with the process and realized, during a time of introspection, personal growth, and healing, that there was a loving consciousness that seemed eager to connect with me through painting. Unexpectedly, heartache and anger were were transmuted into forgiveness as paint hit canvas. In the summer of 2022, I opened my very own are studio/gallery in downtown Jensen Beach. It was open to the public every day, so I was able to paint, explore new techniques, and engage with people as they came in. It has been a very exhilarating and liberating experience."

Samantha Messina | Performing

Nominated by: Amy Thornton



"My passion for the arts began when I was first handed a clarinet in grade school. In high school I joined the Treasure Coast Youth Symphony and became principal chair. After graduating from high school, I went on to pursue music as a career at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Conservatory of Music with a full scholarship. Throughout my four years I held numerous principal positions among masters and doctoral candidates. I had an internship with the Youth Symphony of Kansas City where grant writing and fundraising became my specialty. I found then that my calling was to work for non-profits in a fundraising capacity, helping to promote the arts." Samantha also performs with the Stuart Community Band, the Indian River Pops Orchestra, and the Treasure Coast Wind Ensemble. She also teaches clarinet.

Sonja Mongar | Literary

Nominated by: Shelby Cofrances



"Why do I write? Because my stories matter and I have something to say that somebody needs to hear. I love the creative process of invention, imagination, and improvisation. I look at creative writing craft as an artist's pallet of many colors. Do I dip my pen into sensuous details, scene and dialogue or metaphor and simile or characterization and so on? I paint with words." Sonja has also shared her creative process and writing experience in the classroom, teaching the art and craft of creative writing as well as the creative process for over twenty years. She has founded and published digital and print literary and arts publications that helped many young writers get published for the first time. She has also been involved in theatre, music performance, plays the harmonica and guitar, writes original songs, and dabbles in photography.

Andy Morejon | Performing

Nominated by: Bryan W. Childe



Andy is a local choreographer to theatres, schools, churches, and businesses in the Treasure Coast. He is also a private instructor. In 2017 he started an artistic journey through song and dance that has led him to perform on cruise ships and stages all over Florida, providing a sense of love and community. Speaking about his passion for the arts Andy

says: "It's more than just a passion for the arts, it's an expression of your soul. Art is one of the most beautiful things this world can provide. Being able to simply let go and allow it to take you on an emotional journey is something everyone should experience in their lifetime. It's an expression of yourself, your vision, your love, hate, fear, joy, heart ache. Art truly lives in ways that cannot be described or put into words."

Jordan Silvia | Visual

Nominated by: Michelle Hance



"As a child sketchbooks became my closest companions, allowing me to translate the world around me into vibrant, tangible expressions of my inner vision. As I grew older my fascination with art deepened, fueled by an insatiable curiosity to understand the techniques, theories, and histories. However my love for the arts was not limited to my own self-expression.

As an art educator, I made it my goal to become a guiding light for inspiring artists, imparting my knowledge, fostering their growth, and encouraging them to fearlessly explore their own artistic visions. My work as an educator inspired me to become a better artist by practicing what I preach and maintaining a regular practice. My work is inspired by the interconnectedness of art and the natural world."



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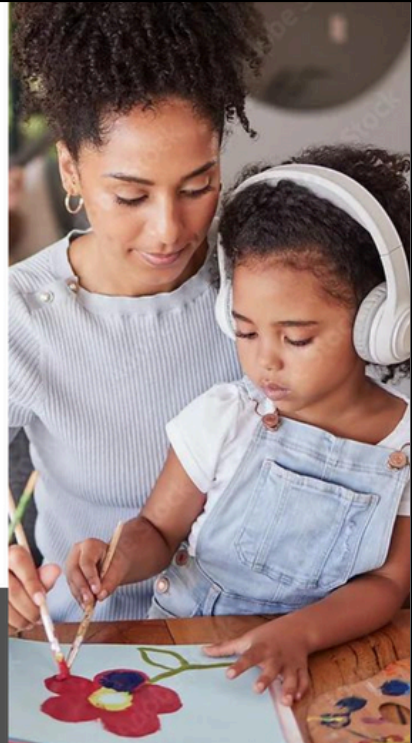


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Aidan Alvarez | Student Visual

Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble



Aidan is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center and says: "No matter what I create I look on the bright side of things whether it came out as I intended or not because I still like the process and the art. Art helps me to learn and improve every one of my art pieces so I can succeed even further through the arts. My future plans include the arts either

through architecture for theme parks or character animation for Disney or Dream Works. I want to go to the University of South Florida because it is a perfect spot for Disney, Illumination, and other animation studios.

Julia Argraves | Student Visual

Nominated by: Tami Conrad



"I would describe my passion for the arts as being linked to my passion for history because I see art as the documentation of a specific moment in time by an artist in the context of their life.

This means that we can look back on cave paintings made 20,000 years ago or the remains of pottery across different continents, or the painted face on a child's cloth doll, or the

intricate carvings in a wooden chest and see that our ancestors were just like us. The emotion and expression preserved centuries ago in their art can still be felt today. I'm in the International Baccalaureate Program at South Fork High School and for my year end project I'm organizing summer art kits for 5th graders in Hobe Sound. I plan on taking art as a minor in college and majoring in archeology.

Colin Belville | Student Performing

Nominated by: Tom Dougherty



Colin is a student at Jensen Beach High School. "Having a passion for music, and for anything you do well in life, requires commitment and means you have to put in the hard work necessary to become accomplished. For me practicing, taking lessons, performing with other musicians is something I genuinely enjoy." After preparing over many weeks and hours for

my first solo performance the event was canceled. I was very angry. Then I picked up my clarinet and began playing the piece from my heart. Then I discovered the real satisfaction that comes from hard work, challenges, and commitment. Recently I have been given the role of Band Captain for the 2023-2024 year. I hope to attend Florida State College and pursue a career as a professional musician.

Dakota Beurrier | Student Performing

Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble



Dakota is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center. "I have been dancing since I was three years old, performing ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, modern, and musical theatre. I have performed in over 40 shows, including the Nutcracker, Cinderella, Coppella, and The Little Mermaid. I have also shared my dancing at nursing homes around Martin County. Over the past two years I have taught students ranging from the ages of 2-10 years old. Though I do not plan to pursue a career in dance I still plan to expand my knowledge of dance and to teach dance. It has become a true passion of mine."

Kayla Bittner | Student Literary

Nominated by: Don Hessler



On May 24, 2023 Kayla was awarded the Martin County High School Outstanding Creative Writer Award. She would like to study writing in college and one of her faculty admirers says "I believe that she will be a writer in Hollywood upon her graduation from college." Kayla says, "I have always found interest and comfort in writing. Whether it was writing a story or writing my feelings, or a creative writing assignment in school, it opens a door to endless possibilities. It has also helped me through a lot of difficult times. It's more of a safe place for me to express how I feel. I would love to have a career in writing. In particular I would love to publish poetry books with small sections so people can relate to what I am writing about, and have a sense of comfort, and not feel alone."

Addison Boyer | Student Visual

Nominated by: Alicia Jones



Addison is a home school student who started attending the Visionary School of Arts at eight years old. "I started volunteering in classes when I was 12 years old and was promoted to a teaching position for the school. It was when I began to teach younger kids new techniques and saw the results that I fell in love with the arts. I loved seeing kids grow and blossom as young artists and enjoy creating." Recently Addison volunteered at the annual Visionary Arts Rising Arts Show guiding the students to create their own artwork and participate in the show. The show raised money for the Florida Disaster Relief Fund. In college Addison will continue a passion for the arts and plans to give back to the community by teaching children and using art to fundraise for causes.

Danielle Boyle | Student Visual

Nominated by: Jordan Silvia



Danielle is a student at Jensen Beach High School. "I love doing art, viewing art, learning the history of art, and sharing with others. I enjoy seeing how one little piece of art can bring so many people joy and emotion. I usually strive for happiness. Currently I am in the process of making a mural on a fence at the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Stuart. I few years ago I collaborated to complete a large mural on the outside wall of the Palm City Post Office. This mural depicts some of our local heroes such as firefighters, service members, and police officers. It was truly an honor to create a work of art that pays tribute to them. When I started high school I joined theater and found a love for set building. I help design, build, and paint sets. I plan on attending a college with a good arts program."

Jazmine Cratty | Student Literary

Nominated by: Don Hessler



Her passion for the arts comes from her family that allowed her to be free to express herself through painting, piecing together miniature models, and writing all her thoughts into notebooks. As she got older, she began to write stories and books and to pick up programming, writing stories through interacting with the characters. Jazmine has used her coding skills to create multiple websites, one of which is for a large company based in Kentucky. She is a member of her school's Digital Art Honors Society. Her future plans are to go on to college to study game design and development to create virtual worlds for stories to take place and then create the stories to go with them. After college she would like to work for a company that produces and writes video games, and perhaps have a company of her own.

Daphne Dalton | Student Visual

Nominated by: Shelby Hart



Daphne is a student at South Fork High School. With a focus on classical and contemporary dance for eight years, an injury forced her to change to watercolor painting. Needlepoint and watercolor on fabric are some of her projects. Though her medium for art has evolved, her passion has remained strong. At the beginning of her junior year, she set out with a partner to create a fundraiser for underprivileged sailors in need of safety gear. From this the Giving Gear Project was born. Understanding that the project was going to be full of community engagement Daphne set out to create media campaigns that would spread their message and goal. Creating posters, flyers, and infographics is something she has become very passionate about and her love for marketing grew. She plans to major in college in Graphic Design and Business Marketing.

Logan Jacobs | Student Performing

Nominated by: Reva Rogers



Logan is a student at South Fork High School. "I have always had a love for music and have performed in one capacity or another over my whole life. I have found music very intriguing, as there are so many layers to go into and I cannot wait to discover them all. Recently when my choral teacher was out for surgery, I taught her classes. As it was the week leading up to Solo and Ensemble State it was very stressful. I was also the only student from my high school chosen to go to FMEA All-State. After High School I would like to attend Stetson University to earn a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and then attend Florida State University for a master's degree. My career goal is to teach music in high schools and give private lessons."

Christina Josie | Student Performing

Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble



Christina is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center. She started singing and dancing before she was five years old. She danced at the Dance Academy of Stuart throughout elementary school. In sixth grade she focused on musical theatre and began a continuing involvement at StarStruck Performing Arts Center where she has participated in seven productions and four Showcase recitals. She has gone on to audition for NEXTStar Productions and was accepted for the International Callback/Showcase production in August 2023. She recently finished Acting Night at StarStruck, as well as Mean Girls in April, 2023. She has also been an aide to her teachers. She would like to go to Florida State University for a BFA in Musical Theatre. She plans to audition for both Film and TV along with Broadway for her professional career.

Patrick Martin | Student Visual

Nominated by: Tami Conrad



Patrick is a student at South Fork High School and writes: "My friend had a skill in art and I wanted it. I learned how to draw with cartoon characters, and later learned how to draw with different styles. I taught myself comic style, 3D, Realism, Sculpture, and Digital Art. I recently started teaching myself film making with editing, camera placement, voice memos, and acting." Patrick recently participated in a two week program at UCLA where he learned how to create films and infographics, to create websites, and to create video game worlds. He plans to go to a film school for college and want to work in the film industry either as a director, screen writer, actor, or voice actor. He also wants to be a comic book illustrator, or comic book writer.

Luis Medina | Student Performing

Nominated by: Emily Cleghorn



Luis is a student at Martin County High School. He says, "Although my curiosity for the arts was awakened in elementary school, I had the wonderful opportunity of becoming involved in the band and choral programs at Anderson Middle School. My decision to take a deep dive into music and pick up the trumpet was the best decision that I think I will ever make. I learned what it means to be dedicated to honing my skills and created a deeply rooted work ethic. In the near future I hope to audition and place in the best world class competitive marching band groups such as the Carolina Crown, the Bluecoats, or the Cadets. I would like to go to the University of South Florida and major in Music Education. I believe that music was a major gift to me, and I want to appreciate the gift by passing it down."

Star Reed | Student Performing

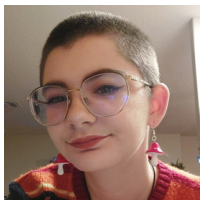
Nominated by: Michelle Hance



Star is a student at Jensen Beach High School. From a young age she has been singing and dancing. In Elementary School she was involved in many music classes. In Middle School she joined the choir. In High School she discovered theatre and also participated in choir. Late afternoon of the opening night of JBHS fall production one of the leads sustained an injury and Star was asked to take the lead. She had not had a role but had been assisting during rehearsals and knew the part, the blocking, the general idea. Although she was quite frightened over the responsibility, she took on the role successfully. She plans on going to IRSC for a dual major in Nursing and Musical Theatre.

Sidra Rowell | Student Visual

Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble



Sidra is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center. Her focus is on water color painting. She says that when she was younger she was terrified that she wouldn't be remembered so she dedicated herself to art in an attempt to stay around. Since then it has just become soothing and something I find calm and joy in. She plans to be a high school theatre teacher and use her art to plan scenes and paint backgrounds with her future students. Over the past several years she has participated in four musicals as an actor and working on sets.

Victoria Seegott | Student Performing

Nominated by: Priscilla Rodriguez



Victoria is a student at Martin County High School. She says: "My passion for the arts runs deep and colorful, just like the world of fashion that enchanted me while growing up in Ukraine. But life took an unexpected turn when my family had to flee Ukraine. Moving to Florida in 2014 was a big change, and I found it challenging to make friends and connect with others, mainly because of the language barrier. However, I discovered theatre, which became my refuge and a way to express myself. Acting allowed me to transcend language barriers and connect with others on a deeper level. Through different roles, I could immerse myself in diverse characters, their emotions, and their stories. I also started experimenting with music production. My dream is to extend my passion for fashion, theatre, and music beyond the stage to produce and act in films.

Piper Sturdivant | Student Visual

Nominated by: Alexandria Gribble



Piper is a student at Clark Advanced Learning Center who has focused mostly on the world of traditional sketch art but has grown into costuming and wig design in the last five years. Piper plans to continue to create outfits, wigs, and prop designs, with the goal of helping out on big theatrical productions in the future.

Chloe Tolton | Student Visual

Nominated by: Laura Dervin



Chloe is a student at Martin County High School. Chloe says, "I have always been able to find beauty in everything, and over time, this ability has fostered a passion to contribute to that beauty, a passion to create, and to discover. Innate curiosity has driven my discovery of both new artistic techniques and parts of myself previously unknown. Photography has become an important creative outlet for me. I hope that in the future my passion for the arts will take me to new heights and guide me to continue spreading my love for artistry and imagination. Currently I am interested in museum studies and curating. I could see myself studying something like that in college and working in a museum.



Dakota

Congratulations on your nomination!
We are in awe of your determination and commitment.

Love, Mom, Dad,
Taylor, & Bailey



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Celebrating 20 years of the MartinArts Awards!

What are the MartinArts Awards?

The MartinArts Awards were created to shine a light on the most creative people in our community and to nurture the talent our young artists are developing. From the early days in 2003, the event has evolved into a beautiful tribute to our arts community. The award categories, Legacy and Nominated, were selected by the founding committee of the event to recognize key elements that make an arts community vibrant and sustainable. We have over 180 former award recipients that have been honored over the past two decades! That is a lot of creative energy we've celebrated over the years with the MartinArts Awards!

And the recipients are...

Honorary Awards

Selected by the MartinArts Foundation Board of directors, these awards are an integral part of the MartinArts Awards program to represent a legacy of commitment to things such as leadership, service, arts education, philanthropy and lifetime achievement, that have allowed the arts to be a part of the treasures this community has to offer its residents and visitors.

Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

The individual has shown a lifetime of commitment to the improvement of the quality of life in our community through dedication, leadership and inspiration. They may be a professional artist or a lifetime advocate for the arts as an integral part of the fabric of our community. Recipients: Charlotte Clayton, Nancy O'Malley, Phil Kavanaugh, Janeen Mason, Marie Jureit- Beamish, Sandra Thurlow, Rita Vallis, Jane Davis Doggett, Jane Miller, John Whitney Payson, Dr. John Enyart, James Hutchinson, Guy Coheleach, Conney Dahn, Elmar Oliveira, Grace Linn

Excellence in Arts Education

Recognizes an individual for a career in arts education and for being an inspiration to his/her students to aspire to greatness in the arts. Recipients: Ron Corbin, Tom Wetzl, Krystal Wion-Eckhardt, Karen Haines, Joe Flanagan, Tracy Canada, Marcus Raab, Bridget Glass, John Stiles, Lynne Barletta, William Lindner, Thomas Dougherty, Cindy Kessler, Ashley Monks, Amanda Jones, John Egan



Philanthropy in the Arts

An individual or family who has through significant contributions given to and enhanced the cultural life of our community. Recipients: Richard and Dana Kibbey, Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation, Women Supporting the Arts, OPUS Boosters, Vianne Nichols, Peter and Julie Cummings, Barbara Trimble, Frances Langford Foundation, Maureen O'Connor-Deighan & Family, David Smythe, Jerome and Phyllis Rappaport, Craig and Elizabeth Price

Arts Leadership

An individual who has served as a consistent driving force to keep the arts alive in Martin County. This person is perceived to be constantly on the front line keeping the arts visible. A true passion for the arts is demonstrated in their every effort. Recipients: Ernie and Helen Berlin, Janet Hutchinson, John Loesser, Cecelia Serra, Craig Price, Ethel Christin, Bob Valle, Jeanette Mueller, Ron Hart, Tom Servinsky, Doug Smith, Tom Prestopnik, Karen Barnes, Neil Capozzi, Al and Lindsay Hager, Kia Fontaine

Corporate Leadership in the Arts

A corporation with a commitment to funding, supporting and participating in the arts and cultural life of our community. Through their gifts, arts and cultural activities and events have been consistently enhanced. Recipients: Dunn Capital Management, Northern Trust, Massey Yardley, Palm Beach Post, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, UBS, Publix Super Market Charities, Wilmington Trust, Fox Wackeen Dungey Beard Bush Goldman Waters Robison van Vonno & McCluskey, LLP, The Terrio Group, PNC Arts Alive!, Seacoast Bank, Palm City Art & Frame, Masterpiece Design/Build



Arts Service

Honors an individual that participates in donating volunteer time to an arts organization/cause or is an unsung hero for the arts. An award recipient encourages support for the organization through action and is truly dedicated to the cause of the nonprofit(s) that benefit from their attention. This award may not be given every year. (Previously a nominated award category entitled "Volunteer in the Arts") Recipients: Margaret "Peggy" Meissner, Connie Bass, Ginger Baldwin, Rita Jenkins-Gaines, Graham Monk; Pamela Fogt, Karen Vaina, Francine Beckstead, Ethel Christin, Glenn Webber, Mary Ann Loomis, Pat Pendergast, Joann Gallagher, Sue Sokel

Special Recognition

Serves to recognize a special happening in the arts and cultural life of Martin County that is unique and deserving of special attention and thanks. This award may not be given every year. Recipients: Edward and Suzan Sellian, Mary Shaw, HCG, BOCC / Arts Tourism, Peggie O'Neill, Water Birds Project / City of Stuart, MCHS Visual Arts Team and The Prescription Shop for the Martin County Historical Mural, The Barn Theatre in honor of their 50th Anniversary, Henry "Hank" Gonzalez



Nominated Awards

Nominated Awards are selected from nominations submitted from the community to recognize artists and student artists. The nominations represent a very important part of the arts community, and that is the artists themselves who are giving back, enriching the community through their creativity and expression of their talent.

Literary Artist (new in 2017)

Kris Landry, Amika Devi, Betty Jo Buro, Gale Baker, Kristal Wion-Eckhardt

Performing Artist

Christina Burr, Cynthia Kessler, Gayle Mingledorf, Peter Jones, Constantinos Jafferis, Douglas Jewett, Jennifer Jones, Terry Barber, Al Hager, Karin Leone, Jeanette Mazzella, Rowdy Carlton, Tasha Shirley, Lorrianna Colozzo, Jackie Robbins

Visual Artist

Tom Prestopnik, Caesar Cirigliano, Margaret Gray, Brenda Leigh, Tom Winter; Ruthann Hewson; Cristina de la Vega, Jane Blatt, Dan Mackin, Geoffrey Smith, Mia Lindberg, Mallo Bisset, Suzanne Connors, Chris Kling, Jane Lawton Baldrige

Digital Media Artist

Jeff Younglove, Steve Martine, Mitch Kloorfain
(no longer awarded – merged into Visual)



Student Literary Artist (new in 2017)

Jillian Sechrist, Bianca Grosso, Julian Heidelberg

Student Performing Artist

Angelica Melillio, Michael Wood, Kendra Eaton, Megan Moran, Ryan Weiss, Martha Sturm, Kevin James Connor, Cory Jeacoma, Spencer Ballantyne, Kevin Paul, Savanna Webber, Ryan Cox, Victoria Bartolotta, Valerie Grau, Sophie McClung (theatre), Daniel Bentz (music), Eliza Levy (theatre), Brandon Gunter (music), Hannah Roebuck (theatre), Alexander Cooper and Sarah Spector (music) Katie Vitale (theatre), Ava Gunter (music), Andrea Martine

Student Visual Artist

Tracy Cochran, Sara Brokaw, Alex Fogt, Ellen Krebs, Ashley Baldwin, Sarah Tranter, Ariana Martinez, Jordan Schulz, Cristina Perez, Madelene Wishart, Shelby Baillie, Ryan Chimelis, Theresa Legein, Jacqueline Rouse, Isabella Gallese, Alexandra Trejo, Christopher Carnes, Sophie Araque-Liu

Student Digital Media Artist

Christopher Mennuto, Nicholas Lively, Jesse Forbes, Amanda Wind (no longer awarded – merged into Visual)

MartinArts Special Awards

Given for unique circumstances and exceptional reasons. Innovo Award: Jesse Forbes; Sanders Award: Brett Taylor, Connor Hadel, Mika Fowler; and Recognition in memory of Debi Owens: Charlotte Strohl

MartinArts invites you to Nominate a Professional or Student Artist in Literary, Performing, or Visual Arts for a 2024 MartinArts Award!

All Nominees must conduct most of their civic activities in Martin County. Student Nominees must be a Martin County resident entering their Senior year of high school in August 2024. A scholarship will be awarded to the recipient in each student category.

Nominations for the 2024 MartinArts Awards will be accepted through April 1.

Visit MartinArts.org or scan QR code for more information.



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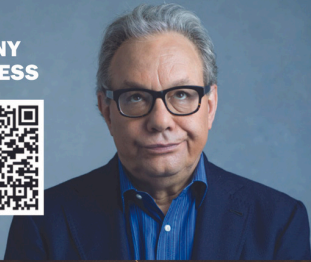
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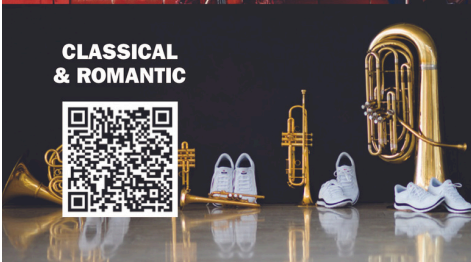
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Establishing an Endowed Scholarship Fund for Students

In honor of the 20-year anniversary, MartinArts has launched a restricted fund with the intent of endowing future scholarships for many years to come. Our goal for 2023 is to raise \$20,000 to open the restricted account which will be added to over the years with contributions. To date (as of print deadlines), we have already reached nearly 50% of our goal and we hope that tonight you will be generous with your support. An envelope has been included in your program book to leave a donation tonight, or to send a gift later.

Inspiring students to explore their creativity is a core belief of MartinArts. Studies show that the students who engage in the arts, are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools. And further, as Daniel Pink notes in his book "A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future":

"Today, the defining skills of the previous era—the "left brain" capabilities that powered the Information Age—are necessary but no longer sufficient. And the capabilities we once disdained or thought frivolous—the "right-brain" qualities of inventiveness, empathy, joyfulness, and meaning—increasingly will determine who flourishes and who flounders."

Students learn how to use "right-brain" qualities through their engagement in the arts and civic activities. MartinArts is committed to fostering this for the next generation of students in our community. It will position us to be a vibrant community for decades to come.

Help us grow the arts together and donate to the scholarship fund today!



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