It’s been an exciting year filled with great accomplishments and community connections.

As you can see from this report of the first six months of FY20, the impact of arts, culture, history, and heritage has never been stronger. We appreciate the City of Tallahassee and Leon County’s commitment to the creative community and look forward to continuing our good work, together.

You’ll also find COCA’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how we’re adjusting to meet the new needs of residents and visitors alike.

As we move into the next six months of the fiscal year, we will continue to seek ways to align with City and County priorities and engage our community more deeply with arts and culture.

Thank you for your support and all you do on behalf of our City and County.

Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director and Amanda Karioth Thompson, Assistant Director

info@tallahasseearts.org
TallahasseeArts.org
850-224-2500
“I feel so incredibly honored to be selected for this exhibition. This is huge deal for a new artist like myself. A lot of my confidence to submit my pieces came after I met you.”

Jessica Utley, local visual artist

WEEKLY CLASSIFIED EMAILS
COCA now reaches more than 9,000 subscribers with our weekly “Classifieds” email, an increase of 27%. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 7% of subscribers are from outside of Leon Country. This publication includes prospects for job opportunities, calls for musicians, call to visual artists, grants, and more. Content from March-present includes resources to assist subscribers with the impact of COVID-19.

WORKSHOPS
COCA staff conducted six (6) workshops and has more planned during this fiscal year. Workshops topics include social media, tourism marketing and grant writing. COCA hosted a “Zoom 101” workshop for 29 attendees to help them move their meetings to an online platform.

ARTIST DIRECTORY
More than 1,000 total artists from Leon and the surrounding counties are currently listed in the Artist Directory.

TALLAHASSEE ARTS GUIDE "THIS WEEK!"
COCA now reaches more than 13,300 subscribers with our weekly “Tallahassee Arts Guide This Week” email, an increase of 16%. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 6% of subscribers are from outside of Leon Country. This publication now contains “Online” and “Virtual” events, classes and lessons for continued arts engagement while physically isolating.
COCA believes that learning in and through the arts helps to foster creativity, curiosity, and compassion.

**ARTS IN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER**
The number of subscribers to COCA’s “Arts in Education Newsletter” now totals nearly 4,600 educators, an increase of 15%. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 10% of subscribers are from outside of Leon County.

**HELP FOR EDUCATORS**
COCA revamped our “Help For Educators” webpage to include resources for online teaching. These resources span five (5) artistic disciplines and all grade levels and are accessible to local teachers and those outside Leon County.

**COCA FOR KIDS**
COCA for Kids now includes a section for online kids’ classes and workshops. Additionally, COCA has created a new Pinterest board, geared towards parents and teachers, that includes more than 200 kids' arts resources accessible to locals and those outside Leon County.

**VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS**
To date in FY20, COCA has hosted eleven (11) volunteers and/or student interns from area colleges and high schools across all COCA programs and service areas. All COCA interns are still engaged and currently working remotely.

**EXHIBITS**
A total of eleven (11) exhibits were planned during FY20. To date, two (2) exhibits have been extended due to COVID-19 and two (2) exhibits will be postponed until FY21. COCA staff continues to oversee and manage all the coordination, curation, design, and installations of these exhibits.

The call for exhibit proposals will be updated and publicized by June. This call is open to any artist living in Leon or the surrounding counties within a 100 mile radius.

To date, more than 200 comments/signatures have been received for the public gallery spaces. On average, those signatures represent visitors from 40 different states and 12 different countries.

The calls for the annual Creative Tallahassee and Photofest exhibitions are open to any artist living in Leon or the surrounding counties within a 100 mile radius.
Cultural Facilities Matching Grant

For the final cycle of the Cultural Facilities Matching Grant Program, COCA received applications from 5 organizations with a total requested funding amount of $874,978. A total of $461,495 has been awarded to three (3) local arts organizations.

Coca Cultural Grant

Due to COVID-19, COCA is currently working to determine the best course of action for the FY21 Cultural Grant cycle and project the available funding. As part of the annual review process for the Cultural Grant Program, an overall assessment through numerous public meetings and surveys to stakeholders has been completed. In addition, a needs assessment with community input has recently been conducted. Based on those recommendations, available funding, and guidance from the COCA Board, COCA will proceed accordingly with the FY21 Cultural Grant Program guidelines and process.

Potential Cultural Grant panelists will be identified, contacted and secured once the FY21 Cultural Grant process and guidelines have been finalized. COCA is exploring the benefits of including a panelist from outside of Leon County.

The final installment of the FY20 Cultural Grant awards will be administered in May 2020. The deadline for final reports may be extended upon request due to program postponements related to COVID-19.

Funding Resources & Info

COCA is researching and providing up-to-date funding resources and information from local, regional, and national sources to help mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 on the cultural community both locally and outside Leon County.
“Thank you for covering our school so well. COCA’s support is critical to driving arts programs in our region. Thanks for being our cheerleader. It means the world to us.”

Jimmy Gillis, Strings Teacher at Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts

COCA BOARD MEETINGS
To date, Board meetings have been held at COCA in October, November, January, and March. Executive Committee meetings were held in October, December, February and April. Sub-committees meet as needed.

TDC LIAISON
The COCA Board of Directors voted to add a seat for a TDC liaison, who will be asked to serve in a non-voting ex officio capacity when such membership will serve the best interests of the arts and help carry out the objectives and duties of COCA.

CULTURAL PLAN PRIORITIES
Based on resources allocated for FY20, the top priorities from the Cultural Plan include the continuation of the Capital Facilities Matching Grant and a community-wide communication, marketing and advertising campaign that benefits residents and visitors alike. Priorities will be adjusted to meet new cultural community needs as a result of COVID-19.
Additional Accomplishments

- COCA continues to foster earned income opportunities; budget adjusted for 20% revenue loss (COVID-19)
- “Poems To Go” initiative supports literary artists and local restaurants
- "Sounds of Tallahassee" will broadcast and promote local musicians
- Community discussions took place with Sound Diplomacy development firm
- Earned income opportunities identified including grants and other revenue; COCA partners with local community groups to make requests at national levels
- Social media engagement up 18% on Facebook; up 35% on Instagram
- “Poems on Panes” engaged local writers and downtown business owners
- 2020 Arts Census to gather data on artists and organizations within and outside of Leon County underway
- Evaluation of FY21 Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant underway
- Fourth year of COCA’s Arts Education Grant program underway for local arts teachers
- COCA staff partners and meets regularly with local, state and national organizations, businesses, individuals and leaders of various initiatives
- Twenty-six (26) COCA feature articles and 14 COCA arts education articles published in the Tallahassee Democrat
- COCA and Raa Middle School continue the Mentoring in the Arts Program, now in its sixth year
- Hosted visiting students and teachers from Taylor County High School for a free tour of “The Art of Florida Cartoonists” exhibit at the Artport Gallery
- Received a National Endowment for the Arts/Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) grant for annual Arts Day
- Promotes Tall Art project to residents and visitors, in partnership with the Planning Department
- Participated in the Big Bend Quilt Trail in partnership with the Gadsden Arts Center
- TallahasseeArts.org website shows over 85% of visitors are new users; more than half from outside Tallahassee
- COCA portion of the website shows almost 50% of users are from outside Leon County
- Participated in more than 30 community events
- Offered training to organizations and business moving their programming to digital/online platforms
- Partnering with Tallahassee Magazine to highlight artists of all genres in our community with "The Artist Spotlight"
- COCA’s Outdoor Public Art Directory includes 250 outdoor public artworks cataloged and listed along with information, images, links, and a Google map
- COCA maintains the Downtown Public Art Walk and the All Saints Public Art Walk
- Continues to work with state and national organizations to advocate for additional arts and culture funding for Tallahassee and Leon County, to raise the city/county's arts and culture profile throughout the state, and to monitor the impact of the industry's statewide 9:1 ROI. The Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5 economic impact survey show a total economic impact of the nonprofit arts and cultural industry in Leon County of $201,870,286 and a total output of for-profit arts and culture related businesses in Leon County of $526,206,578
- Content generated for Visit Tallahassee's Arts section of the Annual Visitor’s Guide
- Provided more than 200 instances of one-on-one technical assistance to cultural organizations, artists, and educators in Leon County and the surrounding areas

“COCA is amazing. Thanks for filling in the gap for so many of us right now!! Hang in there, and know you are all appreciated as we navigate this crazy time.”

Nancy Morgan, Co-Executive Director of Goodwood Museum and Gardens
In FY20, COCA's funding from Leon County was projected to be $1,230,000 (1-cent), based on historic Tourism Development Tax (TDT) collection trends. Due to the current situation related to COVID-19, it is expected that the funding will decrease to $808,000, which translates to a projected loss of $422,000. Current grant contracts were signed at the beginning of the FY20 and were based on projected TDT collections. Despite the loss in revenues, COCA plans to continue to honor all grant contracts. The $422,000 shortfall will now be covered by the carry-forward, the reserve account, and operating budget cuts. This will negatively affect next fiscal year’s grant cycle. The budgetary planning process for FY21 is underway.

The projected breakdown of funding is the following: $808,000 out of the $1,000,000 contracted for re-granting to local art organizations will be covered by the (1-cent) TDT collections. COCA will receive the funding in four installments. The first installment was received in February with the remaining three due in May, August, and November. An additional $461,495 is received to fund the Capital Facilities Matching Grant program.

The shortfall in funding will be covered by the carry-forward and the reserve account. These funds will also be used for expenses related to the Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant program and additional marketing initiatives and operational costs related to those projects. Cuts in spending will be implemented in order to decrease the operating costs. In addition, there is a current freeze in any non-essential spending, including marketing and travel. The filling of the current vacant grant manager position has also been put on hold for an indefinite period.

In FY20, COCA received level funding from Leon County of $150,000 in general revenue. Currently, all the available funds have been spent; $8,102 was spent on operating expenses related to the Cultural Grant program and ongoing initiatives and $141,898 on Cultural Grant awards.

The 2014 Cultural Plan has a number of strategies that have been addressed in the short-term and some that involve long-term and ongoing planning. Given that this plan also has many stakeholders and partners, COCA ensures that it will work diligently, along with other stakeholders, to see that these strategies are consistently addressed. Funding for these initiatives is also part of the process and will be assessed at the end of each fiscal year to make sure the needs of the cultural community are being addressed. We recognize that this is a dynamic document and that needs and priorities will change as both the City of Tallahassee and Leon County continue to grow and change.
COCA RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted our community, including our local arts and culture industry. COCA swiftly responded, shifting services and support resources online, creating new programs, initiating new promotional and support resources, and sharing several online arts activities and performances as we adjusted to meet new financial needs. This helped organizations, individuals, businesses and agencies carry forward their important work, and provided positive, creative new ways for our community to connect. Here is a snapshot of COCA's response to date, and we continue to work together to meet our community’s need.

- Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director
- Quickly implemented online events on the Tallahassee Arts Guide for use by Visit Tallahassee and other media outlets; these are promoted on social media.
- Strategically boosting social media content to include Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Pensacola in addition to our service area to build awareness of our area in anticipation of future tourism.
- Highlighting "Behind the Scenes" social media albums of our local artists and encouraging online purchases.
- Artist Spotlights in Tallahassee Magazine featuring fun questions will be continued, expanded and boosted online.
- Added new feature called "Creativity Persists" to spotlight COVID-19 responses by artists.
- Regularly offers content to Visit Tallahassee and Leon County and uses the #ihearttally hashtag in all social media posts.
- Participates in weekly industry calls with Visit Tallahassee with frequent content follow-up.
Reviewed all grant programs through public meetings, stakeholder surveys, applicant feedback, conference calls and ad hoc grants committee.

Grantees for all year-round projects were contacted in March & April.

FY20 Cultural Grant - 19 grantees: projects completed, moving forward or postponed. All grantees submitting interim reports by May 1.

FY20 Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant - 30 grantees: projects completed, moving forward or postponed.

FY19 Cultural Facilities Matching Grant - 3 grantees: all projects moving forward.

FY18 Cultural Facility Matching Grant extensions requested and granted for 2 university grantees.

All grant contracts will be funded at 100% of awarded dollars.
FY20 financial budget adjustments:

- 34% revenue reduction from tourism development tax collection (TDT) by Leon County at $435,021.
- 23% reduction in other revenues from advertising, memberships, and license fees renewals.
- 25% cuts in operating expenses budget for the second half of the fiscal year.
- 100% of COCA reserves cover remaining FY20 grantee contract payments.
- Adjustments assume 100% of 1-penny bed tax stays with COCA in Q3 and Q4.
- Freeze on all non-essential spending.
- Hiring freeze on grants manager position.

Community Support:
COCA is researching and posting local, regional, and national funding sources, plus providing consultations and webinars to grantees and community.
Financial, continued:

Grants Program Funding:
In FY20, 89% of COCA’s total TDT dollars are used for regranting purposes. With the projected revenue reduction from the County, COCA is covering these costs through a combination of carry-forward revenue, reserves and budget cuts.

Note that any future reductions in collections revenue will impact organizations that have been determined, through a competitive grants process, to have an impact on tourism. These are key local employers, providing online events and education to residents, children and potential visitors as we stay #SaferAtHome.
Developed "Poems To Go" to support literary artists and local restaurants with printed poems for takeout for residents and visitors.

Developing "Sounds Of Tallahassee" in conjunction with local streaming radio to showcase local musicians to a wider audience.

Hosted a "Zoom 101" workshop for 29 online attendees and is planning additional workshops.

COCA Monday emails of events have shifted to online content with over 13,300 subscribers.

COCA Thursday "Classified" emails include COVID-19 resources for artists and organizations to over 9,000 recipients.

Created an online "Help for Educators" resource across 5 artistic disciplines and all grade levels.

Logged more than 150 individual consultations in March and April.

Revamped and promoted Public Art directory and walks for public viewing and experience.
SOCIAL MEDIA

- 8400 likes, 137,725 post reach in last 28 days: 141% increase
- 3748 followers with expanded content & engagement using posts and Instagram stories
- 3,100 followers and increased engagement with local partners using #IHeartTally and #SaferAtHome
- COCA continues to generate and boost engaging content to highlight our community!

#TallahasseeArts
#COCACConnects
COCA staff continue to partner and meet regularly with local, state and national organizations, businesses, educators, students, individuals and leaders of various initiatives including FSU, FAMU, TCC, Leon County Schools, OLLI, Blueprint, OEV, Visit Tallahassee, TDC, Downtown Improvement Authority, TCC Innovation Center, INIE, DOMI, Choose Tallahassee, Lively Technical Institute, Leadership Tallahassee, Youth Leadership Tallahassee, Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee Active Lifelong Learners, Sustainable Tallahassee, Railroad Square Art Park, Shop Local Tally and many more.
COCA writes articles and gets coverage about arts in our community at least twice a week in the *Tallahassee Democrat* and is featured in *Tallahassee Magazine*, WFSU Radio, WCTV, WTXL and more!
THANK YOU

TALLAHASSEE ARTS GUIDE
An Initiative of the COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS
TallahasseeArts.org
### COCA Contract for Services - FY20 Mid-Year Report

Amid the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, COCA has worked diligently to execute existing programs and develop new ones to help our constituents as much as possible. Some programs have been put on hold temporarily, while others have shifted to meet the immediate needs of our community. *This report will describe those adaptations where applicable. We recognize that protocols and safety recommendations are changing regularly as the virus spreads. COCA is committed to remaining flexible and nimble in responding to those changes to best serve the cultural community of City of Tallahassee and Leon County.*

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<td>ED&amp;M 10.0, 10.1</td>
<td>Weekly research that provides at least five-hundred annual (500) prospects for: job opportunities, travel opportunities, volunteer opportunities, calls for musicians, call to visual artists, grant opportunities, and job openings.</td>
<td>Weekly research has been provided for more than 1,200 opportunities to date.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, LCGR, TDT, OG, PRV</td>
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<td>Weekly creation of enews that includes the research findings from above to a subscription base of five-thousand (5,000).</td>
<td>Email blasts have been sent weekly from October 1-April 15. To date, subscription base is more than 9,000. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 7% of subscribers are from outside of Leon Country. This email gets hundreds of additional weekly views through Facebook and Twitter. Subscribers grow by 25-35 every week. *Content from March-present includes resources to assist subscribers with the impact of COVID-19. (See example attached)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG, PRV</td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 7.0, 7.1</td>
<td>Documentation of the local economic impact of cultural organizations participating in the Cultural Grant program through surveys are included as a part of the grant process.</td>
<td>The Cultural Grant application process for FY21 has not begun to date. This information will be provided in the end of year report. *Currently, the granting process and guidelines are being updated based on public feedback and completed needs assessment related to COVID-19.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, TDT</td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 4.0, 4.1</td>
<td>Presentation of at least two (2) public workshops on topics supporting the capacity building of local cultural organizations and individual artists.</td>
<td>COCA staff conducted six (6) workshops and has more scheduled during this fiscal year. Workshops topics include social media, tourism marketing and grant writing. *COCA hosted a &quot;Zoom 101&quot; workshop for 29 attendees to help them move their meetings to an online platform.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, LG, PRV</td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 4.0, 4.1</td>
<td>At least thirty-five (35) individual consultations with local artists, art administrators and entrepreneurs to provide guidance and information on starting a business, available resources, starting a 501C3 vs. private business, etc.</td>
<td>COCA staff have logged more than 350 individual consultations between October and April.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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**Goal:** Position and market the arts, culture and heritage as a strategic partner of Tallahassee/Leon County economic development efforts. This shall be achieved through public and private funding for arts organizations and cultural assets.
Amid the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, COCA has worked diligently to execute existing programs and develop new ones to help our constituents as much as possible. Some programs have been put on hold temporarily, while others have shifted to meet the immediate needs of our community. *This report will describe those adaptations where applicable. We recognize that protocols and safety recommendations are changing regularly as the virus spreads. COCA is committed to remaining flexible and nimble in responding to those changes to best serve the cultural community of City of Tallahassee and Leon County.

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<td>ED&amp;M 1.0, 10.0; EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>COCA maintains an Artist Directory, listing local practicing artists in a wide variety of disciplines.</td>
<td>More than 1,000 total artists from Leon and the surrounding counties are currently listed in the Artist Directory. New artists are regularly added and can add and manage their own artist's profile on TallahasseeArts.org. The breakdown of artistic disciplines is approx. 60% visual/40% non-visual artists.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PRV</td>
<td>PRV</td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 1.0, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2; EDUC 2.0</td>
<td>Weekly creation of email blast “Tallahassee Arts Guide” that lists upcoming cultural events.</td>
<td>Weekly publication sent to more than 13,300 total subscribers with 50-60 new subscribers each week. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 6% of subscribers are from outside of Leon County. This publication includes an average of 120 listings per issue with 6-8 featured events per issue, balanced across disciplines. Typically, COCA sees 300 click-thrus to events. *This email now contains &quot;Online&quot; and &quot;Virtual&quot; events, classes and lessons for continued arts engagement while physically isolating. (See example attached)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, TDT, OG, PRV</td>
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<td>City General Revenue: CGR</td>
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<td>County General Revenue: LCGR</td>
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<td>Tourist Development Tax: TDT</td>
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<td>Other Grants: OG</td>
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<td>Private Funding: PRV</td>
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<td>CGR: $26,785</td>
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<td>OG: $8,957</td>
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<td>PRV: $7,952</td>
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### 2. Education Deliverables (ED)

**Goal: Capitalize on the area’s art, cultural and heritage attributes in order to strengthen art, culture and heritage opportunities in schools and the community.**

| EDU 1.0 | Continue the employment of an arts and heritage education coordinator. | Amanda Thompson continues to be employed as COCA’s Education Manager and provides daily assistance to educators. | Ongoing | CGR, OG |
| ED&M 10.0, 10.1, EDUC 2.0 | Locate funding sources and job and lesson plans that will be provided in individual consultations monthly group meetings and through twelve (12) enews distributed to at least 1,000 subscribers including regional teachers, principals and individuals. | Subscribers total nearly 4,600 for monthly email newsletters which have been sent each month from October-April. Analysis of voluntarily submitted data show more than 10% of subscribers are from outside of Leon County. This newsletter has drawn the attention of not only local K-12 educators, but higher education leaders as well, within and outside our area. Monthly arts education meetings are attended and individual consultations occur on a regular basis. *The April issue of this publication contained online teaching resources across five artistic disciplines and all grade levels. (See example attached)* | Ongoing | CGR, PRV |
| EDU 1.0, 2.0, 9.0 | Create and update an annual publication of COCA for the Classroom, listing over 70 opportunities in arts, culture and heritage for grades K-12; connecting arts, culture and heritage organizations with schools and educational outlets. | COCA for the Classroom is on the Tallahassee Arts Guide and has more than 50 listings for supplemental arts programming during the school day. Updates to this resource guide are made regularly and as needed by providers. *COCA revamped our “Help For Educators” webpage to include resources for online teaching. These resources span five (5) artistic disciplines and all grade levels and are accessible to local teachers and those outside Leon County.* | Ongoing | CGR, PRV |
## COCA Contract for Services - FY20 Mid-Year Report

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<td>ED&amp;M 10.0, 10.1; EDUC 1.0, 2.0</td>
<td>Continue to update COCA for Kids, an introduction to the variety of kid- and teen-friendly arts and cultural offerings throughout the Capital Area, adding new activities as they are created, and updating those that are continuing. Maintain a listing for at least 130 providers and 150 individual programs.</td>
<td>COCA for Kids is on the Tallahassee Arts Guide. <em>It now includes a section for online kids’ classes and workshops. Currently, nearly 60 summer camps are listed for this year. Additionally, COCA has created a new Pinterest board, geared towards parents and teachers, that includes more than 200 kids’ arts resources accessible to locals and those outside Leon County.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 10.0</td>
<td>COCA regularly hosts interns and volunteers from local high schools, colleges, and universities.</td>
<td>Since Oct. 1, COCA has hosted eleven (11) volunteers and/or student interns from area colleges and high schools across all COCA programs and service areas. <em>All COCA interns are still engaged and currently working remotely.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Continue to staff the Art in Public Places program.</td>
<td>Amanda Thompson continues to serve in both the Education and Exhibitions Manager position.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Oversee the City’s permanent collection of artwork and relocate pieces of art as requested by City staff for temporary or permanent placement.</td>
<td>Several pieces were relocated during this period and the master inventory catalog has been updated to reflect the new locations.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 4.0, 8.0</td>
<td>Sustain the Art in Public Places Program by producing ten (10) art exhibits in City Galleries each year.</td>
<td>COCA manages all tasks related to art exhibits in City Galleries. A total of eleven (11) exhibits were planned for the public gallery spaces during FY20. *To date, two (2) exhibits have been extended due to COVID-19 and two (2) exhibits will be postponed until FY21. (See list attached)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
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COCA Contract for Services - FY20 Mid-Year Report

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<td></td>
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<td>Schedule the installation and de-installation of each exhibit with COT Facilities and Security offices and the artists</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>City General Revenue: CGR</td>
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<td>Provide required paperwork to COT for insurance purposes</td>
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<td>County General Revenue: LCGR</td>
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<td>Create (select artwork) for each individual show with artist or group of artists in advance of show and schedule the dates for their exhibits</td>
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<td>Tourist Development Tax: TDT</td>
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<td>Secure a signed agreement with each artist at the beginning of the season</td>
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<td>Other Grants: OG</td>
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<td>Install each individual exhibit with all artwork securely in place</td>
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<td>Private Funding: PRV</td>
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<td>Gather information from artist on title, medium, date of creation and title of pieces with their prices for sale to provide the public inquiring about purchasing artwork</td>
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<td>Create and photocopy a simple catalog for each exhibit for the public to inform them of the artist's and artwork's information</td>
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<td>Create, print and place labels for each work with information for public</td>
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<td>Create signage for galleries providing public information on how to contact artists for sales</td>
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<td>Reserve the facility, tables, chairs and other needs with COT Facilities and Security for each of at least two (2) public receptions; host each event</td>
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<td>De-install each exhibit and complete final reports for COT Risk Management</td>
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<td>File claim for any artwork that is damaged or stolen during an exhibit and follow up with artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Manage all tasks required to implement the Art in Public Places Program</td>
<td>To date interactive guides have been printed for four (4) of the Art in Public Places exhibits, each with at least nine (9) interactive challenges. Each gallery goer can participate in these interactive challenges and complete them at their own pace. (See example)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>By June of each year, solicit applications for annual exhibit season from local artists interested in exhibiting in two (2) public galleries for the upcoming season.</td>
<td>The call for exhibit proposals will be updated and publicized by June. This call is open to any artist living in Leon or the surrounding counties within a 100 mile radius.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Exhibit the work of more than one hundred fifty (150) individual local, artists during the fiscal year</td>
<td>Since Oct. 1, more than 200 artists submitted more than 420 pieces for jury review. To date, the work of 173 artists has been exhibited.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Receive at least 750 comments or signatures in the guest books located in the galleries.</td>
<td>To date, more than 200 comments/signatures have been received for the public gallery spaces. On average, those signatures represent visitors from 40 different states and 12 different countries.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Create and print (# as needed) interactive guides for the ten (10) art exhibits held in City Galleries, specific to the exhibit, for children and families to use while visiting the galleries. Each guide will have an average of nine (9) interactive challenges for a child and parent to participate with together.</td>
<td>To date interactive guides have been printed for four (4) of the Art in Public Places exhibits, each with at least nine (9) interactive challenges. Each gallery goer can participate in these interactive challenges and complete them at their own pace. (See example)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Solicit at least three (3) citizen panelists to serve as jurors for the two (2) juried exhibits that are a part of the annual exhibit season. These citizens may be the same as those who asked to review and rank artwork for the upcoming season.</td>
<td>To date, eleven (11) people including Tori Schneider, George Ndoja, Eliza Schneider-Green, Leroy Peck, Rachelle Ashmore, Harris Wiltsher, Erica Passage, Mary Mary MacNamara, David Moynahan, Aja Roache, and Mayor John Dailey have served as volunteer jurors and/or judges for the COCA season of exhibits and the juried art competitions.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 4.0, 8.0</td>
<td>Coordinate an annual Youth Art Exhibit with schools and teachers, with the goal of exhibiting at least fifty (50) pieces of student and teacher artwork.</td>
<td>80 pieces of student work was exhibited in the Annual Youth Art Exhibit.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Create two (2) prospectuses for two City-Wide (2) juried competitions: Creative Tallahassee and Photofest.</td>
<td>Both prospectus were created and advertised. These calls are open to any artist living in Leon or the surrounding counties within a 100 mile radius.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Exhibit at least 40 pieces of artwork from individual local artists in Creative Tallahassee.</td>
<td>The call for artwork submissions is being advertised now. The deadline for submissions is May 1. Once the volunteer jury reviews the submissions, individual artworks will be selected for exhibition. This information will be provided in the end of year report. *COCA is researching online exhibition possibilities.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>Exhibit at least 30 pieces of artwork from individual local artists in Photofest.</td>
<td>More than 200 individual pieces of artwork were submitted for consideration and from those submissions, 38 artists were represented through 38 individual pieces of artwork in the Photofest exhibit.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 4.0</td>
<td>Hold at least three (3) major public receptions - one (1) for Youth Art Exhibit, one (1) for the Creative Tallahassee and one (1) for Photofest Juried Exhibits.</td>
<td>Receptions have been held for the Youth Art and Photofest exhibits. One additional exhibit reception has also been held for the Tallahassee Proud exhibition. The reception for Creative Tallahassee is currently scheduled for July 31.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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| 3. Funding and Facilities Deliverables (FF) | Continue the employment of a Grants Specialist to provide direct contact with applicants throughout the process and to maintain accountability through the analysis of reports and applications. | The Grant Program Manager, Kevin Carr stepped down in July 2019 and the work was redistributed to other COCA staff members to maintain the grant cycle. That work has included all stages of the grants process from consultations and public meetings, to panelist training, panel meeting, contracts and reports. The Grant Program Manager position has been advertised and several qualified candidates have applied. *The timing of this hire is currently under review and being adjusted in relation to COVID-19. | Ongoing | CGR, LCGR, PRV | CGR: $14,121  
LCGR: $141,898  
TDT: $1,461,495  
OG: $4,906  
PRV: $7,564 |
| F&F 3.0, 3.1; PI 1.0, 1.1, 1.2 | Establish a new matching grant program for capital improvements for arts, cultural and heritage organizations. | As part of a 5 year agreement with Leon County, COCA implemented the final cycle of the Cultural Facilities Matching Grant Program which provides funding to assist in the construction, renovation, and equipping of cultural facilities. The grant funds are allocated from 1/4 penny of the TDT funds. The grant panel process for FY19 crossed fiscal years. The FY19 Cultural Facilities Matching Grant panel met on Oct. 11 and Oct. 21, 2019 (in FY20) and made funding recommendations which were approved by COCA’s Board on Oct. 24. After questions of project eligibility were resolved, the final, alternative funding recommendations for the FY19 Cultural Facilities Grant Program were approved by the COCA Board on Jan. 27, the TDC on Feb. 5 and the BOCC on Feb. 11. For the FY19 cycle COCA received applications from five (5) organizations with a total requested funding amount of $874,978. A total of $461,495 has been awarded to three (3) local arts organizations. (See FY19 grantee list attached) | Ongoing | CGR, LCGR, PRV |

Goal: Provide sustainable public and private funding to preserve and improve arts, cultural and heritage organizations and experiences. This effort acknowledges the importance of growing new and emerging projects and facilities but will give priority to existing organizations.
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<td><strong>F&amp;F 3.0, 3.1; PI 1.0, PI 1.1, 1.2</strong></td>
<td>Manage the Cultural Grant Program, including providing instructions on how to apply for grants, noticing grant application timelines, providing applicant with at least a four (4) week period in which to prepare a grant application, and recommending the award of City-funded grants to successful applicants.</td>
<td><em>Due to COVID-19, COCA is currently working to determine the best course of action for the FY21 Cultural Grant cycle and project the available funding. As part of the annual review process for the Cultural Grant Program, an overall assessment has been completed by an ad-hoc committee of COCA Board members and recommendations for revisions have been collected through numerous public meetings and surveys to key stakeholders. Additionally, a needs assessment has recently been conducted to determine how COCA can best serve grantees and potential applicants during the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on those recommendations, available funding, and guidance from the COCA Board, COCA will proceed accordingly with the FY21 Cultural Grant Program guidelines and process.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG, LCGR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ED&amp;M 4.0, 4.1; F&amp;F 3.0, 3.1; PI 1.0, PI 1.1, 1.2</strong></td>
<td>Design, reproduce and make available electronically all application materials and guidelines for the grant program.</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG, LCGR</td>
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<td><strong>ED&amp;M 4.0, 4.1</strong></td>
<td>Use the grant program as an educational tool in business development by providing consultations to any grant applicant who indicates a desire for that service with an average of twenty (20) individual cultural business applicants on presentation of technically superior applications that will also provide them with tools to write other successful applications to other funding organizations and bringing in more cultural grant funds to Tallahassee.</td>
<td>See above <em>COCA is researching and providing up to date funding resources and information from local, regional, and national sources to help mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 on the cultural community both locally and outside Leon County.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, OG, LCGR</td>
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<td><strong>F&amp;F 1.0</strong></td>
<td>Solicit the participation of seven (7) panelists with at least five (5) ultimately serving on the panel.</td>
<td>See above <em>Potential panelists will be identified, contacted and secured once the FY21 Cultural Grant process and guidelines have been finalized. COCA is exploring the benefits of including a panelist from outside of Leon County.</em></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, LCGR, PRV</td>
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**Funding Source:**
- City General Revenue: CGR
- County General Revenue: LCGR
- Tourist Development Tax: TDT
- Other Grants: OG
- Private Funding: PRV

**Total Expenditure for this section:**
- CGR, OG, LCGR
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<td>F&amp;F 3.0, 3.1; PI 1.0, 1.1; 1.2, 6.0</td>
<td>Analyze use of funds by each grantee two (2) times per year in mid-term and final reports.</td>
<td>Final reports from the FY19 Grant Program were reviewed by staff in this period. Interim Reports for the FY20 Cultural Grant Program have been received and reviewed, and the second installment of FY20 grant awards have been administered. *The final installment of the FY20 Cultural Grant awards will be administered in May, 2020. The deadline for final reports may be extended upon request due to program postponements related to COVID-19.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, LCGR, TDT, OG</td>
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<td><strong>4. Plan Implementation Deliverables (PI)</strong></td>
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**Goal:** The Council on Culture and Arts for Tallahassee/Leon County (COCA) will realize its mission as the local arts agency representing culture, arts, and heritage for ALL in Tallahassee and Leon County through grant-making, advocacy, marketing, and education.

**PI 4.0**

COCA will serve as the designated local arts agency for the City of Tallahassee and Leon County and will adhere to the standards of such an agency (See Section 265.32, Florida Statutes). As a local arts agency COCA will, as stated in FL Statute 265.32:

- Service continues

**PI 4.0**

Meet at least quarterly (4 times a year) pursuant to notice and at such times and places as the Council shall determine

- To date, Board meetings have been held at COCA in October, November, January, and March. Executive Committee meetings were held in October, December, February and April. Sub-committees meet as needed. *Since March, all Board and committee meetings have been held via videoconference.*

- Ongoing

**ED&M 8.1; PI 8.0**

Maintain the Board membership of fifteen (15) members in positions as described in the cultural plan and as directed through the appointment process.

- As of Oct. 1, Board members appointed as per statute and serving in designated positions. (See attached list). The COCA Board of Directors voted to add a seat for a Tourism Development Council liaison, who will be asked to serve in a non-voting ex officio capacity when such membership will serve the best interests of the arts and help carry out the objectives and duties of COCA.

- Ongoing

**PI 10.0, 11.0**

Adopt a new Cultural Plan Advisory Committee of stakeholders that will sunset after two years.

- As recommended in the Cultural Plan, the committee officially sunset in August of 2016.

- Ongoing

**PI 1.0, 8.0**

Provide programs and services within the stated purposes outlined in the originating Statute.

- COCA provides programs as per statutory purpose (See coca.tallahasseeart.org)

- Ongoing

**Funding Source:**

- City General Revenue: CGR
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- Tourist Development Tax: TDT
- Other Grants: OG
- Private Funding: PRV

**Total Expenditure for this section**

- CGR: $3,269
- LCGR: $1,307
- TDT: $14,975
- OG: $4,354
- PRV: $5,841
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<td>F&amp;F 1.0; PI 1.0, 1.1, 1.2</td>
<td>Within the funding earned in this annual contract, COCA will deliver a portion of the services and programming as introduced as a part of the Tallahassee Cultural Plan (Cultural Plan) accepted by the City and the County Commissions in 2014. It is understood that it is not possible to provide all services and programming contained in the Cultural Plan within the budgeted funds through this contract alone.</td>
<td>Dependent on resources allocated for FY20, the top priorities from the Cultural Plan include the continuation of the Capital Facilities Matching Grant and a community-wide communication, marketing and advertising campaign that benefits residents and visitors alike. Priorities will be adjusted to meet new cultural community needs as a result of COVID-19.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>City General Revenue: CGR, County General Revenue: LCGR, Tourist Development Tax: TDT, Other Grants: OG, Private Funding: PRV</td>
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<td>TDT: $186,907</td>
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<td>OG: $9,345</td>
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<td>PRV: $10,482</td>
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## 5. Additional Accomplishments

### ED&M 8.0, 12.0

*In response to COVID-19, COCA has developed "Poems To Go," a special initiative to help support literary artists and local restaurants. COCA created a free, printable selection of original poems by local writers. All area restaurants and food service organizations offering to-go or delivery services were publicly invited to include a poem with every meal order. COCA paid for the initial printing costs and provided stipends to the 20 participating poets. This project is offered in partnership with the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) which recently launched "Open for Takeout," an interactive map that shows businesses currently offering take-out and delivery food services.*

### ED&M 12.0; FF 6.0

*In response to COVID-19, COCA is currently developing "Sounds of Tallahassee," a new initiative to help bring attention and support to local musicians. COCA is working in partnership with Moose Magnificat Radio and Cat Family Records to create more opportunities for local musicians to bring their music to both residents and listeners outside Leon County through streaming services.*

### PI 4.0

Kathleen Spehar began her tenure as COCA’s Executive Director in August, 2019. She continues to lead the organization and oversee every aspect of its management.

### ED&M 8.0, 11.0, 12.0

As COCA looks at the next iteration of the Cultural Plan, early community discussions with Sound Diplomacy are underway. Sound Diplomacy is a community and economic development firm that works with cities & regions, the tourism and real estate sectors, and engages unique strategies for growth focused on music and the night-time economy (sounddiplomacy.com)

### PI 4.0

To date in FY20, COCA continues to foster earned income opportunities, including incoming grant dollars, space rental fees, advertising, license plates revenue, membership fees, etc.

### PI 4.0

To date in FY20, COCA has accrued operating expenses related to general overhead for programming, which included equipment purchase, lease, maintenance, office supplies, bank charges, marketing, professional services fees, postage, events, and travel expenses. *Due to COVID-19, our budget has been adjusted for a 20% loss of revenue.*

### ED&M 10.0, 10.1

COCA’s Facebook page has more than 8,400 likes and the breakdown of demographics of users: 73% female/26% male & predominately Tallahassee and Leon County, with additional users in Orlando and Jacksonville as well as other cities outside Leon County. For individual posts, there are 50 average likes, 6 average comments and 6 average shares. COCA follows approximately 500 organizations and local artists on our newsfeed. Many of COCA’s Facebook posts are "boosted" for greater reach and visibility. COCA has more than 3,100 followers on Twitter (grouped by cultural orgs and artists, news media, other for marketing/re-tweeting) and has an average of 20 weekly comments, re-tweets, and direct messages. COCA follows and re-tweets more than 400 organizations and local artists. We have nearly 3,750 followers on Instagram. COCA’s Pinterest page is showing an increase in audience and impressions.
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 8.0</td>
<td>COCA developed the new “Poems on Panes” project. This community building initiative, engages local writers and business owners along with readers in discovering poetry in public places. The project features the work of local poets in street-visible locations in an effort to bring poetry to a wider audience of both residents and visitors alike. In collaboration with the Downtown Improvement Authority, COCA invited area literary artists to create new works with “Tallahassee Proud” as the writing prompt. Eleven participating downtown businesses displayed the selected poems on their storefronts from Jan. 29 - April 13, 2020. COCA provided a stipend to each of the 11 selected poets.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PI 4.0, 6.0</td>
<td>As a complement to the 2020 United States Census, COCA has begun work on our 2020 Arts Census project. COCA will gather information about the arts, culture and heritage organizations and individual artists both within and outside of Leon County. The goal is to make sure we’re reaching as many people as possible with our services and resources.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 5.0, 10.0; FF 1.0; PI 1.0</td>
<td>*Due to COVID-19, COCA is currently working to determine the best course of action for the FY21 Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant Program and project the available funding. This program provides funding to assist in the promotion and advertising of local arts and cultural events, programs, and venues to tourists and residents. As part of the annual review process for the program, feedback has been collected from key stakeholders and a needs assessment has recently been conducted to determine how COCA can best serve grantees and potential applicants during the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on those recommendations and guidance from the COCA Board, and available resources, COCA will proceed accordingly with the FY21 Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant Program guidelines and process.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>TDT</td>
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<td>PI 3.0; F&amp;F 2.0</td>
<td>Annually, COCA applies for local arts agency program support funding through the State of Florida’s Division of Cultural Affairs. COCA consistently earns high grant scores in comparison with our colleagues around the state. Additionally, COCA regularly partners with local community groups in making grant requests to both public and private granting sources at local, state, and national levels. *COCA is currently researching funding opportunities for others and ourselves to help mitigate the financial effects of COVID-19.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 1.0, 2.0, 2.1; EDUC 10.0; F&amp;F 6.0 6.1, 6.2, PI 3.0, 4.0, 4.1</td>
<td>COCA staff continue to partner and meet regularly with local, state and national organizations, businesses, educators, students, individuals and leaders of various initiatives including FSU, FAMU, TCC, Leon County Schools, OLLI, Blueprint, OEV, Visit Tallahassee, TDC, Downtown Improvement Authority, TCC’s Center for Innovation, INIE, DOMI, Choose Tallahassee, Lively Technical Institute, Leadership Tallahassee, Youth Leadership Tallahassee, Tallahassee Democrat, Tallahassee Active Lifelong Learners, Sustainable Tallahassee, Railroad Square Art Park, and many more.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>TDT, CGR</td>
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<td>EDUC 1.0, 2.0, 10.0</td>
<td>COCA is currently in the fourth year of the Arts Education Grant Program for local arts teachers. The goal of COCA’s Arts Education Grant is to remove financial barriers for arts educators to access resources and arts experiences for their students, materials and equipment for their classrooms, and arts specific professional development opportunities for their own continuing education. COCA awarded $5,530.60 in this grant cycle to 12 local arts teachers. Millie Seckel, Aaron Vaughn, and Haley Babcock served as grant panelists. *The continuation of this program will be dependent on the availability of future funding.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 1.0, 3.0, 9.0, 10.0</td>
<td>COCA and Raa Middle School continue the Mentoring in the Arts Program, now in its sixth year. COCA continues to recruit local visual artists, musicians, dancers, and theater professionals to provide mentoring to middle school arts students in Raa’s Fine Art Magnet Program. COCA is also assisting with the training process and the ongoing support for arts mentors. To date in FY20, two (2) COCA staff members and one COCA intern serve as a mentor to students in this program. *Currently all in-person mentoring is suspended while schools are closed during the COVID-19 outbreak.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 11.0, 12.0</td>
<td>In FY20 to date, twenty-eight (28) COCA produced articles have been published in the Sunday TLH section of the Tallahassee Democrat. A balance and diversity of artists, artistic disciplines and businesses and organizations have been represented. These features have a board reach both in print and digital format and are enjoyed by locals as well as those from outside of Leon County. *COCA has implemented expanded promotion of these published articles and will provide additional content for publication in the Tallahassee Democrat, highlighting the ways our community is using the arts to cope with COVID-19. (See example attached)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, TDT, OG</td>
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Amid the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, COCA has worked diligently to execute existing programs and develop new ones to help our constituents as much as possible. Some programs have been put on hold temporarily, while others have shifted to meet the immediate needs of our community. *This report will describe those adaptations where applicable. We recognize that protocols and safety recommendations are changing regularly as the virus spreads. COCA is committed to remaining flexible and nimble in responding to those changes to best serve the cultural community of City of Tallahassee and Leon County.

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<tr>
<th>Objectives and Strategies Alignment</th>
<th>Recommendations: Objectives and Strategies</th>
<th>Outcomes/Actions</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Funding Source:</th>
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<td>City General Revenue: CGR</td>
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<td>County General Revenue: LCGR</td>
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<td>Tourist Development Tax: TDT</td>
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<td>Other Grants: OG</td>
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<td>Private Funding: PRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 2.0, 7.0</td>
<td>COCA also produces articles featuring arts in education topics. In FY20 to date, fourteen (14) COCA produced articles have been published in the Wednesday TLH School and Family section of the Tallahassee Democrat. A balance and diversity of artistic disciplines, schools, teachers, and students have been represented. These features have a board reach both in print and digital format and are enjoyed by locals as well as those from outside of Leon County. (See example attached) *Due to COVID-19 school closures, a temporary hold has been implemented for these articles.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 6.0</td>
<td>COCA continues to publish arts related content and materials on the Leon County School district’s website. COCA posts art in education content weekly on the LCS web page.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
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<td>EDUC 8.0</td>
<td>COCA hosted visiting students and teachers from Taylor County High School for a free tour and talk on the &quot;The Art of Florida Cartoonists&quot; exhibit at the Artport Gallery. Exhibiting artist, Nathan Archer and COCA staff member, Amanda Thompson led the discussion and shared details about the artistic process of cartoonists and career opportunities in the arts.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 7.0; EDUC 2.0, 4.0; 9.0, 10.0; PI 4.0, 6.0, 9.0</td>
<td>COCA received a special “National Endowment for the Arts/Division of Cultural Affairs Initiatives Partnership Program” grant from the State of Florida’s Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and we worked in partnership with DCA to co-present the annual Arts Day, which brings in visitors from across the state, and Chalk Walk at the state capitol on Jan. 23. During this event, COCA presented expanded programing, offering promotional tables for area arts organizations and booking five (5) student groups for live performances. Additionally, two internationally recognized muralists created a special chalk artwork for the students. Because of the grant, all the participating artists and performers were paid. There were more than 225 student and teacher participants in the Chalk Walk event representing 12 area schools.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>OG, PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8.0; F&amp;F 8.0, 8.2</td>
<td>COCA continues to promote the Tall Art project to residents and visitors. In partnership with the Planning Department, COCA designed and implemented a prospectus and call to artists, collected submissions, prepared artwork for review, assisted with selections, made notifications to artists, and worked closely with the Planning Department on the fabrication and installation of that reproduced artwork on wayfinding poles in the downtown area.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, LCGR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 10.0; F&amp;F 2.0, 2.1</td>
<td>COCA continued to offer its upstairs conference space at extremely low rental rates for local cultural organizations to use for meetings, rehearsals, and other activities. *During the COVID-19 outbreak, COCA has temporarily suspended rentals.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PRV</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M</td>
<td>In partnership with the Gadsden Arts Center, COCA participated in the Big Bend Quilt Trail, a public art project showcasing large quilt block murals throughout Gadsden and Leon counties. This regional project encouraged visitors to travel to mural sites and includes more than 20 cultural institutions, businesses, and individual participants.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>TDT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M</td>
<td>COCA continued to expand our “Behind the Scenes” features on social media, which showcase the artistic process of our many arts and cultural organizations as they prepare for an event. We feature user-generated content 2-3 times per week. *To support #SaferAtHome and #TLHCanDo, COCA is now focusing on artists’ home studios to showcase the creative process among artists of all disciplines.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>TDT, CGR, PRV</td>
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COCA Contract for Services - FY20 Mid-Year Report

Amid the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, COCA has worked diligently to execute existing programs and develop new ones to help our constituents as much as possible. Some programs have been put on hold temporarily, while others have shifted to meet the immediate needs of our community. *This report will describe those adaptations where applicable. We recognize that protocols and safety recommendations are changing regularly as the virus spreads. COCA is committed to remaining flexible and nimble in responding to those changes to best serve the cultural community of City of Tallahassee and Leon County.

<p>| Objectives and Strategies Alignment | Recommendations: Objectives and Strategies | Outcomes/Actions | Status | Funding Source: |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| ED&amp;M 7.0, 7.1; PI 6.0, 9.0        | COCA continues to work with state and national organizations to advocate for additional arts and culture funding for Tallahassee and Leon County, to raise the city/county’s arts and culture profile throughout the state, and to monitor the impact of the industry's statewide 9:1 ROI. We also continue to share information related to the results of the most recent, two community-wide economic impact surveys. The Arts &amp; Economic Prosperity® 5 economic impact survey of local nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences in Leon County was completed in partnership with the Americans for the Arts. The economic impact study focusing on the for-profit arts-related businesses and individual artists within Leon County was completed in partnership with the FSU Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis. Some of the highlights from these reports are listed below: | Total economic impact of the nonprofit arts and cultural industry in Leon County: $201,870,286 Total FTE jobs supported by the nonprofit arts and cultural industry in Leon County: 7161 Total attendance: 2,846,437 Total nonresident attendance: 455,430 (16%) | Ongoing | TDT, CGR |
| ED&amp;M 1.0, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2          | To date, FY20 analytics for the TallahasseeArts.org website show over 88,000 users and more than 118,000 sessions. There have been 229,468 page views, and 85% of our visitors are new users. COCA estimates that there are an average of 400 event listings each month. More than half of users are visiting the site from outside Tallahassee, with Orlando (14.1%) being the next largest city for site users. | Total output of for-profit arts and culture-related businesses in Leon County: $526,206,578 Total employment of for profit arts and culture-related businesses in Leon County: 5731 Total labor income produced by for profit arts and culture-related businesses in Leon County: $205,634,508 | Ongoing | TDT, PRV |
| ED&amp;M 10.0, 10.1, 11.0, 11.1, 11.2, 12.0, 12.1 | The COCA portion of the website has received nearly 26,550 page views and more than 10,700 users since Oct. 1, 2019. Nearly 50% of users are from outside Leon County, with Orlando, Miami and Jacksonville making up the next top three user areas in the state. Outside of the state, Virginia, California and Georgia make up the top users. | | Ongoing | CGR, TDT, OG |
| ED&amp;M 1.0, 11.0; PI 4.0           | COCA staff continue to participate in area community events to educate residents and visitors about our programs, resources, and services and to represent the entire cultural community and showcase their diverse offerings as well. In FY20, to date, COCA has participated in more than 30 community events, including the Experience Asia Festival, Cat Fest 2019, the Iranian Film Festival, the Frenchtown Historical Markers Unveiling, Gaines Street Fest 2019, the Caribé 2019 Festival, the Afro-Funk Fest, Tally Shorts, and many more. | | Ongoing | TDT, CGR |
| ED&amp;M 1.0; EDUC 9.0; PI 3.0, 4.0, 4.1 | COCA continues to grow our community business partnerships for advertising, sponsored content and program support. We currently work with numerous local businesses in support of our social media initiatives, newsletters, special projects including Cabo's Island Grill and Bar, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Ma's Diner, Red Eye Coffee, Ma's Mobile Kitchen, Jeri's Midtown Cafe, Loftly Pursuits, Brookliny Pizza, Sachs Media Group, The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners, TCC Center for Innovation, Florida Education Association, Adams St. Advocates, Nic's Toggery, SKD Consulting Group, Capital City Trust Company, and the Southern Group. | | Ongoing | CGR, PRV |
| ED&amp;M 4.0                        | COCA staff annually provides support for and incubation of many new and emerging cultural businesses and programs in the region. *In light of COVID-19, COCA has offered training, consultations, workshops and support to organizations and business moving their programming to digital/online platforms. | | Ongoing | CGR, TDT, OG |</p>
<table>
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<th>Total Expenditure for this section</th>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 11.0, 12.0</td>
<td>COCA is partnering with Tallahassee Magazine to highlight artists of all genres in our community with a campaign called “The Artist Spotlight.” Each feature showcases images of the artist and their artwork, and the interview includes answers to fun and friendly questions. The campaign is featured in print and social media. These features have a board reach both in print and digital format and are enjoyed by locals as well as those from outside of Leon County. *Due to COVID-19, COCA is planning to expand this initiative to an online platform.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>TDT, PRV</td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 11.0</td>
<td>COCA’s Marketing Manager generated content for Visit Tallahassee's Arts section of the Annual Visitor’s Guide.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>TDT</td>
<td></td>
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<td>ED&amp;M 12.0; EDUC 8.0; F&amp;F 8.0, 8.1</td>
<td>COCA’s Outdoor Public Art Directory can be viewed from the TallahasseeArts.org website. The Directory is updated regularly and currently includes 250 outdoor public artworks cataloged and listed along with information, images, links, and a Google map. COCA also maintains the Downtown Public Art Walk and the All Saints Public Art Walk on our website. These resources are promoted to residents and visitors alike.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, TDT, OG</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED&amp;M 4.0</td>
<td>COCA staff annually provides more than 200 instances of one-on-one technical assistance to cultural organizations, artists, and educators in Leon County and the surrounding areas. We offer guidance in marketing, grant writing, program development, and strategic planning.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, TDT, OG</td>
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<td>F&amp;F 1.0, 2.0</td>
<td>Nick Pavlovik serves as the Business Manager for COCA. His role is to provide financial information to the COCA ED and BOD and for various reports, maintain contractual agreements, track receivables, and pay invoices, process payroll, staff the annual financial audit, maintain financial records history, and other responsibilities related to the financial health of the organization.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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<td>F&amp;F 2.0, 2.1</td>
<td>COCA is a membership-based organization and, annually, staff solicits new members and encourages the retention of current members through renewal notices. Staff maintains a membership database and corresponds with members in regard to various COCA services and programs that might be of particular interest to them based on their membership category. COCA staff also researches new and enhanced membership benefits. COCA is now using Neon, a membership management software program to more efficiently oversee our membership database and communications.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CGR, PRV</td>
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The 2014 Cultural Plan has a number of strategies that have been addressed in the short-term and some that involve long-term and ongoing planning. Given that this plan also has many stakeholders and partners, COCA ensures that it will work diligently, along with other stakeholders, to see that these strategies are consistently addressed. Funding for these initiatives is also part of the process and will be assessed at the end of each fiscal year to make sure the needs of the cultural community are being addressed. We recognize that this is a dynamic document and that needs and priorities will change as both the City of Tallahassee and Leon County continue to grow and change.
The weekly email is your source for recent arts-related opportunities from the tallahasseearts.org Classified section.

View ALL Classifieds on our website here.

Have an arts related listing to share? Visit our site and submit a free Classified.

In This Issue

COCA Announcements

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Emergency Funding
Funding
Jobs
Professional Development
Promotions
Auditions
Visual Artists
Writers
Submit to the COCA Classifieds

COCA Announcements

COCA's "Classifieds" newsletter content will continue to include links to online cultural programming, administrative resources to help artists & cultural organizations during this time, and COVID-19 updates.

The COCA office will remain open, and we are available via email, telephone and virtual meet-ups. All COCA services will continue, and consultations will be handled via remote meeting technology. Please email COCA staff at info@tallahasseearts.org - we will get back to you quickly.
Don't let COVID-19 steal the show!

Donate back ticket refunds make a donation!

Here's an idea:
Support Arts & Culture

+ Gift your time & services
+ Take an online class yes

Buy artworks or memberships as gifts!

Please share this graphic to support the arts!

Friday! COCA Grant Program Listening Session - Conference
Call (March 27)

COCA is planning one additional grant program listening sessions and we'd welcome your participation. This session will focus on cultural organizations that have applied but have not been awarded grant funding, cultural organizations that no longer apply for grant funding, as well as those who haven't ever applied for grant funding but are eligible to.

A listening session will be on Friday, March 27 from 10:00-11:30 AM. The format of these two sessions will be identical and will be held via conference call. If you unable to call or wish to make a comment, please email info@tallahasseearts.org. More info here.

Leon County COVID-19 Operational Update

Leon County Emergency Management is committed to actively monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness efforts with local health officials, healthcare providers, first responders, and other critical emergency response functions. Now is the time for everyone in Leon County to stay informed and stay prepared for any occurrence of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness. More info here.

Latest COVID-19 Recommendations

Americans for the Arts continues to closely monitor recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Federal and D.C. governments as developments evolve concerning the coronavirus. While the situation continues to unfold, they will keep this linked page updated daily as news and information becomes available. More info here.
Preparing for Potential Impact of the Coronavirus

ArtsReady, an online emergency preparedness service by and for arts/cultural nonprofits, provides arts organizations with customized business continuity plans for post-crisis sustainability. More info here.

Advocacy

COCA Arts Advocacy Updates

COCA will keep you up to date with the latest news about funding and support for arts, culture, history and heritage. Here is one of the stories we are following:
3/24/20: Florida Cultural Alliance

Final appropriations for 20-21 DCA Grants per the Legislative Session Conference Report:

- Cultural And Museum Grants: $13,600,000 - 31% (up $250k after conference).
- Culture Builds Florida Grants: $2,881,168 - 100% (maintained 100% funding)
- Cultural Facilities Grants: $3,778,871 - 40%

Their newsletter also includes links to resources and ways to contact and thank elected officials. More info [here](#).

3/25/20: Arts Action News

Late last night, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed (96-0) the third phase of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response relief package. The $2 trillion emergency stimulus package included important provisions supporting the arts sector and creative workforce. The nation's arts and culture industry is experiencing devastating economic losses with closed venues and cancelled performances, exhibitions, and events as a result of the pandemic. The U.S. House plans to vote on the bill tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. ET and President Trump, who has already signaled his support of the legislation, is expected to sign it into law shortly thereafter. More info [here](#).

Community

New! Financial Strategies for Freelance Artists in a Time of Crisis (March 26)
Howlround Theatre Common’s live-streamed session will be about both the practical (emergency funds, safety net programs, debt management, taxes, negotiating with lenders) and the philosophical/emotional (understanding shame and impostor syndrome, building collectives, modeling radical transparency) elements of financial preparedness, and offer resources and support to help freelance artists get through this challenging time. More info [here](#).

**New! Creative Isolations: The American Artists Project (Deadline: April 2)**

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association is putting together a virtual SportsAbility event called #MySportsAbility. The program will be held on Facebook and is called MySportsAbility. They are looking for art and recreation activity providers to post videos or do live streams of activities for people of all abilities to do at home.

They invite you to share and participate by posting an activity that can be done by people of all abilities or something you are doing. You are welcome to decide for yourself if you want to post a pre-recorded video or do a live stream (preferably on Facebook LIVE) and when you want to post it. The #MySportsAbility event is Thursday, April 2 through Saturday, April 4, so it is preferable that you post between those days, but not required. More info [here](#).

**New! Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

This new law provides some relief and requires businesses with 50-500 employees to offer Sick Pay to employees AND also offers tax credits to self-employed people that will act as Sick Pay. For the Self Employed, the rules say that you must keep documentation of how you are affected and for how many days. There is a maximum $200/day if you are forced to stay home to care for family and are unable to work. More info [here](#).
New! TRG 30: Virtual Roundtable Webinar Series (March 25 - April 30)

TRG 30 is a special series of weekly 30-minute virtual roundtables with CEO Jill Robinson for the next 6-weeks. As the economic and industry impact continues to unfold from COVID-19, TRG Arts wants to be a resource to arts and cultural organizations and provide insight into the counsel that we are providing our clients on how to manage the short-term impact and focus on their business model for long-term gain. More info here.

New! How to Host a Watch Party on Facebook

With Facebook's Watch Party feature, you can watch tons of videos and shows with members of groups you're in on Facebook. This could be helpful for filmmakers or other artists whose screenings had to be cancelled. More info here.

New! Women and Hollywood Amplify Filmmakers Affected by SXSW Cancellation

With the cancellation of SXSW - and numerous other festivals and events - due to the coronavirus outbreak, many filmmaking teams are struggling. If your project has been affected by the cancellation of SXSW or another festival or event, and you're crowdfunding or doing something else to recoup the costs or attend another event down the road, they want to help you amplify your campaign. More info here.
New! The Economic Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the Arts and Cultural Sector

This survey is designed to collect information about the financial and human impacts that the spread of the coronavirus has had on arts and cultural organizations. The survey also collects basic information about the participating organizations so that the data can be parsed by specific geographic regions, artistic disciplines, and budget categories. More info here.

Preparing Your Organization for Coronavirus Outbreak Webinar

This webinar video by the Event Safety Alliance provides some helpful information around planning and crisis management. More info here.

Coronavirus Preparedness for Theatres

This webinar by the Theatre Communications Group provides a holistic take on preparedness for theatres, including general preparedness strategies, how to forecast budget shifts should productions be cancelled, how to navigate insurance, and more. More info here.
COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the United States, Creative Capital has created a list of resources for artists working in all disciplines, as well as arts philanthropists, and arts professionals. This list is specifically designed to serve freelance artists, and those interested in supporting the independent artist community. More info here.

How to Plan a Virtual Event on Vimeo (March 26)

As businesses and organizations shift their in-person event strategies to virtual experiences, Vimeo's live production team is here to help navigate these changes successfully under tight deadlines. Vimeo's live production team offers advice on how schools, event coordinators, marketers, and more are evolving their event strategies to optimize engaging live streaming experiences. More info here.

Census Data Info Needed

Did you know that Census data is used to help determine federal grants for arts funding? By making sure you get counted, Leon County and the City Tallahassee will be properly represented and our region can receive all the appropriate arts and cultural funding for the next decade. Get the facts about the 2020Census here.
New! COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief (CEDR) Grant Program

The COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief (CEDR) Grant Program is designed to offer a lifeline to local small businesses, which will result in greater continuity of operations, and sustain their viability during the application period for State and Federal relief programs and incentives. It will provide a rapid local grant benefit to businesses, to bridge their limited cash reserves as they are proactively taking steps to amass financing and capital from other sources. More info [here](#).

New! Emergency Grant for Humanitarian Non-profit Organizations (Deadline: April 12)

The Kinkade Family Foundation is proud to administer new Emergency Grants for humanitarian non-profits that are supporting women, children, families or art initiatives. The Emergency Grants provide funding to support organizations that are greatly impacted by challenges due to COVID-19. The Kinkade Family Foundation will provide one-time grants of up to $2,500 for unexpected emergencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. More info [here](#).
New! Emergency Grant for Curators (Deadline: April 12)

The Kinkade Family Foundation is proud to administer a new Emergency Grant for curators who are developing projects that promote artwork of contemporary and experimental nature. The Emergency Grant provides funding for a curatorial project that sheds light on the world during this time of darkness. Priority will be given to curators who have a venue secured for their project and are greatly impacted by challenges due to COVID-19. More info here.

CERF+ Emergency Relief Fund (Deadline: May 1)

Have you or an artist you know experienced a recent, career threatening emergency, such as an illness, accident, fire or natural disaster? CERF+ emergency assistance includes grants and/or brokered assistance, such as booth fee waivers and discounts or donations on supplies and equipment. More info here.

Emergency Bridge Loan Program (Deadline: May 8)

Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. More info here.

PEN American Writers' Emergency Fund (Deadline: October
1) The PEN America Writers' Emergency Fund is a small grants program for professional-published or produced-writers in acute or unexpected financial crisis. Depending on the situation and level of need, grants are in the range of $2,000. The Writers' Emergency Fund is for U.S.-based writers or journalists whose primary professional occupation is writing. More info here.

New! Artist Emergency Relief Fund

Arts Greensboro encourages any artist in need of support due to cancellations from the COVID-19 outbreak to fill out this application. This fund is a money-in, money-out fund. They will disperse funds weekly, based on the amount donated. This fund is directed to working artists, not organizations or nonprofits. More info here.

New! American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) Relief Fund

This fund, created by the Soze Foundation, taskforce, and invisible hand, will support artists and activists whose work has been impacted by Covid-19. They will be making $250 grants to selected applicants on an ongoing basis, and they currently have $42,000 total for this first round of grants. More info here.

New! American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) Relief Fund

If you are a musician who has lost income due to a cancelled gig as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, please fill out the form available on the AGMA site to
apply for support from Equal Sound's Corona Relief Fund. As donations come in, they will pay them out to those who have completed the form, first come first served. More info here.

New! Gospel Music Trust Fund

The purpose of the Gospel Music Trust Fund is to give financial assistance to individuals who derive or have derived a substantial portion of their income from the field of gospel music, in the event of an emergency or major catastrophe, terminal or severe illness without efficient insurance. An individual requesting assistance within the purpose of the Trust Fund, for themselves or their children must have ten years of full-time employment within the Gospel/Christian music field. More info here.

New! Bluegrass Trust Fund

This fund is meant for people in the bluegrass music industry who are facing financial hardship. Applicants may request the amount of money they need during a financial emergency, and while the amount request has no cap, artists are commonly given between $500-$5,000. Applications can also be submitted on behalf of someone else. More info here.

New! Arts Leaders of Color Emergency Fund

Arts Administrators of Color Network has set up the Arts Leaders of Color Emergency Fund which folks can donate directly to in support of BIPOC (Black,
Indigenous, People of Color) artists and administrators (consultants, facilitators, box office staff, seasonal/temporary employees, etc.) who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. If you are a BIPOC, you can apply for this fund to receive $200 in financial relief. More info here.

New! The Creator Fund

ConverterKit is providing financial assistance to active creators who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. With their generous partners, they have established a $154,000 fund to cover up to $500 per creator, which can be used toward medical expenses, childcare, groceries, or your rent or mortgage. More info here.

Authors League Fund

Since 1917, the Authors League Fund has helped professional authors, journalists, poets, and dramatists who find themselves in financial need because of medical or health-related problems, temporary loss of income, or other misfortune. The fund exists to help professional writers continue their careers with dignity by providing no-strings-attached "loans" to pay for pressing expenses. More info here.
Musicians Foundation gives grants for medical and allied living expenses in emergencies, and pay these debts on behalf of the musicians we help. Soon, they will be launching a CV19 Emergency Aid Grant Program to give eligible applicants modest grants up to $200. They expect very high numbers of applicants, so they must limit amounts in order to spread available resources. More info here.

Actors Fund Entertainment Assistance Program

This Entertainment Assistance Program functions as an entryway and guide through the fund's many programs when you're facing personal or work-related problems. It is also a conduit for emergency financial assistance in times of pressing need or in response to catastrophic events. More info here.

Rauschenberg Emergency Grants Program

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) is proud to partner with the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation to administer the Rauschenberg Emergency Grants Program, which provides one-time grants of up to $5,000 for unexpected medical emergencies. The grants are available to visual and media artists and choreographers who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the United States, District of Columbia, or U.S. Territories. More info here.
The Blues Foundation HART Fund

The Blues Foundation established the HART Fund (Handy Artists Relief Trust) for Blues musicians and their families in financial need due to a broad range of health concerns. The Fund provides for acute, chronic and preventive medical and dental care as well as funeral and burial expenses. More info [here](#).

Funding

**New! INIE Grant-Writing Contest (Deadline: April 10)**

Participate in the INIE Grant Writing Contest for the opportunity to not only receive a grant from the donor, but also the chance to win over $3,000 in prizes. 15 Finalists will be selected. This contest is for INIE members only. A pre-selected grant has been identified with eligibility requirements that apply to most nonprofit organizations. With the help of the Revenue Research Center team, your grant will be reviewed and editing services provided before submitting the grant to the judges and the donor. More info [here](#).

**2020 Grants for Visual Artists (Deadline: April 17)**

This award provides direct support to under-recognized artists 21 years or older. The deadline to submit an application for the 2020 grant cycle is April 17, 2020 11:59PM Pacific. Applicants must use the foundation's online application system to submit the following: artist resume, artist statement (up to 200 words), and work samples (up to 10). More info [here](#).
$1,000 Artist Grants | All Media Eligible (Deadline: May 19)

The Hopper Prize is offering multiple individual artist grants totaling $5,000 USD awarded through an open call art competition juried by leading contemporary curators. Their aim is to advance artists' careers by providing them with unrestricted financial support that is coupled with a platform for increased visibility. More info here.

NEA Grants for Organizations - Grants for Arts Projects (Deadline: July 9)

Grants for organizations support exemplary projects in artist communities, arts education, dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literary arts, local arts agencies, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting and multidisciplinary works, theater, and visuals arts. These grants support artistically excellent
projects that celebrate our creativity and cultural heritage, invite mutual respect for differing beliefs and values, and enrich humanity. Cost share/matching grants generally range from $10,000 to $100,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required. More info [here](#).

**New! 2021-2022 Grant Guidelines Available Now (Deadline: September 1)**

After reading through the Florida Division of Cultural Affair's guidelines, use their online application system to submit applications for General Program Support, Specific Cultural Projects and Cultural Facilities. Applications will be accepted April 1, 2020 through June 1, 2020. To apply for Cultural Endowment grants, visit the program page for application instructions. More info [here](#).

**See all Funding Classifieds [here](#)**

**Jobs**

**Community Relations Coordinator (Deadline: March 30)**

Goodwood Museum & Gardens is looking for a new Community Relations Coordinator. This job will be 40 hours a week and will assist in the development and execution of marketing and public relations strategies at Goodwood. This position will also cultivate volunteers, donors, and patrons. More info [here](#).
COCA Grants Manager (Deadline: March 31)

The Grants Manager performs advanced-level professional work to ensure alignment with COCA's grant programs and overall mission and goals. This full-time position includes securing and administering all aspects of the grant programs; managing grantee portfolios; building City, County, Board of Directors, applicant and grantee relationships; leading grant activities in coordination with the Executive Director and COCA staff; preparing and presenting reports; and growing COCA's outgoing and incoming grants portfolio. Special focus of this position includes converting to an automated application process and strengthening administrative practices.

An ideal candidate for this position will be detail-oriented, service-focused, tech-savvy, community-minded, and enjoy working in a creative, unique, and collaborative environment. More info here.

See all Job Classifieds here

Video communication tools, like ZOOM, are keeping people and communities connected as we learn new ways to engage and market our organizations and businesses. Join COCA / Tallahassee Arts and Brian “B-EZ” Wyatt, President & CEO of B-EZ Graphix, for a live tutorial on how to use ZOOM.

You will learn:
* How to get set up Zoom
* How to join a meeting
* How to create and schedule a meeting
* How to host a meeting

You will also get access to TWO helpful checklists to help you get started with ZOOM Video Communications from set up to hosting a meeting. More info [here](#).

Online Teaching Resources for Theatre Design & Technology

Through his Scenic Lighting & Design website, Matthew Kizer, a Professor of Theatre Design and Technology at the Plymouth State University, offers various practice activities, articles, and helpful resources for learning and teaching
New! The Performing Artist's Audience Workbook

Created to inform the 'audience benefit' element of Creative Scotland's Touring Fund application, this workbook's uses aren't limited to just that. This workbook is designed to support artists in de-institutionalising their thinking and language, find new ways to explore/articulate how their purpose, practice and audience experience all inter-relate, and develop their audience sensibility. More info here.

See all Professional Development Classifieds here

Promotions

New! Online and Streaming Events on www.TallahasseeArts.org

Event producers can now add ONLINE and Streaming Events, Classes, Workshops & Lessons to our site - all events need to be from event-producers
the 100-mile radius around Tallahassee and need to have an arts and culture focus. Questions? erica@tallahasseearts.org.

TALLAHASSEE ARTS GUIDE
ONLINE EVENTS

- Add YOUR Events
- Local Artists
- Family Friendly
- Virtual Classes
- Online Public Art

TallahasseeArts.org
COCA wants to show the community all the wonderful work that goes into your art. **Behind the Scenes with COCA** is showcasing our artists at work in their studios! We will share this on our social media platforms for you!

Click [here](#) to submit your BTS album and click the image above to see the latest feature.

See all Promotional Opportunities Classifieds [here](#)
table. They are renting these out temporarily at the rental rate of $99. If interested, please email Lillian at manager@railroadsquare.com. More info here.

Auditions

New! Creative Isolations: The American Artists Project (Deadline: March 27)

Creative Isolations is calling on artists to submit their personal stories, apply to create a new piece of art in response stories, and participate in a live-streamed original performance. Help them advocate, increase visibility, and raise funds for twenty selected artists from around the country. Performers, writers, and visual artists of every medium encouraged to submit work based on how COVID-19 has affected them. More info here.

New! Video Auditions for Into the Woods (Deadline: April 26)

Wanderlust: Theatre on Location is thrilled to announce their next site-specific adventure: they're bringing "Into the Woods" into the woods of Tallahassee this summer. They have decided to hold auditions via video submissions, so take advantage of your self-isolation to send them your audition. More info here.
Visual Artists

Note to Applicants:

Please check with the individual galleries to confirm their exhibition plans and gallery schedules.

col*lide20 Mural Takeover (Deadline: March 31)

Thomasville, GA comes alive for six weeks with murals installed on historic brick buildings throughout The Bottom Creative District. Artists must design and paint murals depicting a person, place, or idea that contributes to Thomasville's identity. More info here.

2020-2021 Exhibition Season Open Call (Deadline: March 31)

621 Gallery is excited to welcome proposals for their new exhibition season. Building on the past few year's success, they are seeking local, US-based, and international artists to submit to their open call. They are accepting: solo, duo, collectives, and curatorial proposals that will create discussions and debate in Florida's State Capital. They urge emerging and established artists to apply with no limitations on medium or style. More info here.
Call to Artists for the 32nd Art in Gadsden (Deadline: April 24)

Artists living within 200 miles of Quincy, Florida, or former Gadsden County residents, are invited to apply to participate in the 32nd Art in Gadsden: Regional Exhibition of Fine Art. This exhibition draws visitors and patrons from across the region each year, showcasing art by the area's top artists. New and returning, established and emerging artists are welcome to apply. More info here.

2020 Congressional Art Competition (Deadline: April 24)

U.S. Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) is now accepting submissions for the 2020 Congressional Art Competition. This annual art contest, held by members of the U.S. House of Representatives, highlights the creative talents of students in each of the congressional districts. The competition is open to students in grades 7-12. Winners from each congressional district will receive two tickets to fly to Washington, D.C., to attend a congressional reception and see the unveiling of their artwork in the U.S. Capitol. More info here.

See all Calls to Visual Artists Classifieds here

Writers

Southern Shakespeare Company's Sonnet Contest (Deadline: April 26)
The Sixth Annual Sonnet Contest is open and is accepting submissions now through April 26, 2020 from middle and high school students. They also have a college/adult category, and welcome sonnets on all subjects in any voice, so long as they adhere to sonnet form. Prizes valued over $1,000. More info here.

See all Calls to Writers Classifieds here.

COCA Online Calendar

If you're planning any type of event, be sure to post it on the Tallahassee Arts Guide - COCA's official interactive web calendar for arts and culture.

Submit to the COCA Classifieds Email

Click here to submit information for the weekly COCA Classifieds email. Deadline for submission is 5:00 pm on the Wednesday of each week. COCA reserves the right to include or exclude any listing at its discretion and to determine the content and placement of all listings. Items will be listed for a maximum of two editions.

COCA does not endorse any artists, organizations, or programs listed herein, nor imply stature through their
inclusion in this newsletter. While we have made every effort to ensure that this information is correct, we cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information.

Connect with COCA

COCA's programs are sponsored in part by the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.
The Tallahassee Arts Guide "This Week!" has expanded content. We have added features and listings for online cultural programming and will continue to list a link to local resources. If you visit TallahasseeArts.org you will also find listings for events that might have been postponed or are held at locations that are currently closed. We are doing our best to keep all of the information up to date, but please check with the event producers for more info.

The COCA team is available via email, telephone and virtual meet-ups. Updates will be available on COCA’s social media outlets (see email footer) and in our Classifieds listings. Please reach out to us at info@tallahasseearts.org or just reply to this email.

The Floating World: Virtual Exhibit
Presented by Venvi Art Gallery
Online

Support Local Artists and Cultural Organizations
Bryce Speed’s *The Floating World* exhibit will be available to view on the Venvi Art Gallery’s website. This virtual exhibit will provide the art community with an uplifting experience that can be enjoyed from home during this period of isolation and uncertainty.

**More Info**

**Inclusive Visual Art**  
**Presented by Making Light Productions**  
**Online**

Making Light offers individual and group art classes online, as well as classes in stagecraft including costume, prop and set design. At the end of each semester, they showcase the talent of our artists in an end-of-semester art show.

**More Info**

**NSSOnline: Chris Seepersaud**  
**Presented by Northside Stage**  
Monday, March 30, 2020

Northside Stage is seeking ways to stay connected with local artists and music lovers. Grab a drink, pay a cover charge of your choosing, and enjoy the Chris Seepersaud concert right on their Facebook page from the comfort of your own home.

**More Info**

**WNLS Online**  
**Presented by Jim Crozier Music**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Presented by Tallahassee Film Society
Online

Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band is the story of a band that went from backing up Bob Dylan to becoming one of the most influential groups of its era. This is an online screening from the Virtual All Saints Cinema.

More Info

COCA Arts Education: Resources for Educators

The Wednesday Night Lab Session Online is returning for Episode 3 which will be streamed on Facebook. Jim Crozier will be performing covers and original songs. In the true spirit of the Lab, it's all one big experiment.

More Info

Poems on Panes Project
Presented by Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) at Downtown Tallahassee
January 29 - April 13, 2020

The project features the work of local poets in street-visible locations in an effort to bring poetry to a wider audience. In collaboration with the Downtown Improvement Authority (DIA), the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) invited area literary artists to create new works with "Tallahassee Proud" as the writing prompt.

More Info

COCA Spotlight: Powell Kay Kreis

Behind the Scenes with COCA: Studio of Erica Passage
This new spin on our Behind the Scenes features takes us into the studios of some of our favorite artists of all genres! Enjoy this sneak peek in the studios where the magic happens and get a glimpse of the hard work that brings the art process to life.

In her small backyard studio, Erica Passage creates one of a kind handmade pottery inspired by the lush Florida landscape, fleeting moments found in nature with her favorite cat Lil Sheba. Using white porcelain clay, dark illustrations and bright runny glaze Erica captures a creative stillness that can only be found in the rich ceramic traditions.

Learn more about [Erica Passage](#).

See her Behind the Scenes feature on [Facebook](#).

Submit your own Behind the Scenes feature [here](#).
**COCA Classifieds:** Info for artists working in all disciplines, as well as arts philanthropists, and arts professionals, including COVID-19 resources. Classifieds are listed on the Tallahassee Arts Guide newsletter and there is a Classifieds newsletter every Thursday. Update your email preferences [here](#).

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**HISTORY & HERITAGE**

**History in Your Hands Historical Map**  
Presented by Leon County Government at Virtual  
Mar 16, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020

**KIDS**

**School's Out Story Time**  
Presented by NRM Performance Studio at NRM Performance Studio  
Mar 27, 2020 - Mar 26, 2021

**MUSIC**

**WNLS Online 3rd Edition**  
Presented by Jim Crozier Music at Online/Virtual Space  
Apr 01, 2020

**Streaming Live from the BBC (Bradfordville Blues Club)**  
Presented by Moose Magnificat Radio at Online/Virtual Space  
Mar 21, 2020 - May 30, 2020
**THEATRE & LITERATURE**

**Poems on Panes Project**
Presented by Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) at Downtown Tallahassee
Jan 29, 2020 - Apr 13, 2020

**VISUAL ART**

**Gadsden Arts @ Home Virtual Museum Programming**
Presented by Gadsden Arts Center & Museum at Gadsden Arts Center & Museum
Mar 24, 2020 - Apr 03, 2020

**EXTENDED - The Art of Florida Cartoonists**
Presented by Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) at Artport Gallery
Jan 15, 2020 - Jun 01, 2020

**Virtual Exhibit - The Floating World**
Presented by Venvi Art Gallery at venvi art gallery
Apr 03, 2020 - Jun 07, 2020

**WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**

**Online French Class : Beginner 1**
Presented by Alliance Française de Tallahassee at Alliance Française de Tallahassee
Mar 23, 2020 - May 15, 2020

**Online French Class : Conversation**
Presented by Alliance Française de Tallahassee at Alliance Française de Tallahassee
Mar 23, 2020 - May 15, 2020

**Online French Class : Beginner 2**
Presented by Alliance Française de Tallahassee at Alliance Française de Tallahassee
Mar 23, 2020 - May 15, 2020

**Online French Class : Intermediate 2**
Presented by Alliance Française de Tallahassee at Alliance Française de Tallahassee
Mar 23, 2020 - May 15, 2020

**Online French Class : Advanced 2**
Presented by Alliance Française de Tallahassee at Alliance Française de Tallahassee
Mar 23, 2020 - May 15, 2020

**ONLINE Inclusive Theatre @ Making Light Productions**
Presented by Making Light Productions at Making Light Productions
Jan 21, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**ONLINE Inclusive Visual Art @ Making Light Productions**
Presented by Making Light Productions at Making Light Productions
Jan 21, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**ONLINE Inclusive Music @ Making Light Productions**
Presented by Making Light Productions at Making Light Productions
Jan 21, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**ONLINE Inclusive Dance @ Making Light Productions**
Presented by Making Light Productions at Making Light Productions
Jan 21, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**ONLINE Inclusive Arts-Centered Homeschool Tutoring**
Presented by Making Light Productions at Making Light Productions
Jan 07, 2020 - May 29, 2020

**Stay at Home Photography Series with Kira Derryberry Photography**
Presented by Kira Derryberry Photography at Kira Derryberry Photography
Mar 22, 2020 - May 31, 2020

**Online Music Lessons - Piano, Dulcimer, Cello**
Presented by Cabin Hill Music at Cabin Hill Music Studio
Mar 23, 2020 - Jun 30, 2020

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For consideration in the weekly Tallahassee Arts Guide email events must be listed on www.tallahasseearts.org by FRIDAY of the previous week.

Questions? Comments? Contact us!
erica@tallahasseearts.org ~ 850.224.2500
www.tallahasseearts.org

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In This Month's Edition:

COCA Announcements

COCA Arts in Education Articles

NEW! Resources for an Online Curriculum

Creative Writing/Literature.

Dance

Music

Theater

Visual Arts

Opportunities

Professional Development

Around Town

Job Opportunities

Did You Know?

Quick Links

COCA's Help for Educators Page

COCA's Home Page

TallahasseeArts.org
The world has changed considerably since COCA’s last Arts in Education Newsletter was published a month ago.

We want you to know that COCA is still here for arts educators and arts education advocates.

Your work is more important than ever!

We've made some changes and additions to our services and programs and this newsletter will connect you to those details.

As things continue to evolve, we are committed to sharing info that will keep you informed, connected, and creative!

To stay in touch with COCA, click here to sign up for our other newsletters.

We're interested in learning more about your needs. If there's anything we can help you with, please email Amanda Thompson at amanda@tallahasseearts.org.

If you have resources or educational content to share that's of particular interest to arts teachers, please email it to Amanda Thompson at amanda@tallahasseearts.org.

Remember,
we're all in this together and we'll all get through it, TOGETHER!

ONLINE events are a NEW category on our Tallahassee Arts Guide at www.TallahasseeArts.org.

List all your VIRTUAL arts classes, workshops, and more in the "Events" category on our site.

ALL ONLINE EVENTS will be listed and featured in our weekly Monday Tallahassee Arts Guide "This Week" email that goes to over 13,000 individuals. Anyone in the 100-mile radius around Tallahassee can add listings to the Tallahassee Arts Guide.

Questions? Feel free to contact Amanda Thompson at amanda@tallahasseearts.org or 850-224-2500
In this short video, COCA's Education Manager Amanda Thompson shares her top 10 tips on the best ways to keep your artsy kids engaged.

Click [here](#) to watch.

**We'd love to have you as a COCA member!**

COCA exists to serve the arts community and memberships are a big part of what allows us to do that. We provide services to educators and students and if you have benefited from COCA's support and resources, won't you consider become a new or renewing COCA member? You can learn more by clicking [here](#).
Questions? Feel free to contact Amanda Thompson at amanda@tallahasseearts.org or 850-224-2500.

Order Today!

Show your support for the arts wherever you go!
Arts license plates support arts education in Leon County and Tallahassee.

TinyURL.com/IM4Arts
Art and gardening cultivate math skills at magnet school
March 18, 2020

With plantings of loquat, banana and peach trees, muscadines vines and blueberry bushes, Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts may seem more like an orchard than an elementary school. That's the goal of art teacher Ashley Chandler as she transforms the campus into an artful garden filled with edibles as well as artworks inspired by famous artists.

In graduate school at Florida State University, Chandler studied art education and was encouraged to identify a social justice issue to focus on during the development of her thesis. "I realized gardening and taking care of the environment has always been with me. I did my research on integrating art making with building structures, gardening and landscape design. The COCA grant gave me the opportunity to have my graduate research actually come to fruition."

Chandler applied for and received an Arts Education Grant from the Council on Culture & Arts. With the grant funds, she was able to purchase materials to implement her "Growing Light" project. With a friend's help, she started with the garden trellis. Chandler recognized the geometry of the trellis structure would provide an opportunity to introduce students to Piet Mondrian, a Dutch artist who helped shape modern abstract art.

Read the rest of the story here. Check out our archived arts education articles on the COCA blog.

NEW!
Resources for an Online Curriculum

While live interaction is often an integral part of an arts-based curriculum, we've compiled a list of resources (below) for moving teaching into the digital sphere. When in-person instruction is not possible, online tools, content, and protocols can offer new approaches to technique, performance, and collaboration.

You can also visit COCA's Help for Educators webpage to find
Please share these resources with others and if you’ve found resources that could help other arts teachers, please email them to Amanda Thompson at amanda@tallahasseearts.org.

**Click here to visit our Pinterest page** for a huge, COCA curated list of creative, educational, and entertaining arts activities in all disciplines. These resources are sure to keep little ones, tweens, and teens learning and growing artistically.

**Creative Writing/Literature**

**Resources for all grade levels:**

**PBS Learning Media**
FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more just for teachers. Browse standards-aligned ELA resources for students in all grades.

**Teacher Vision**
Create a free account and start a 7-day trial that give you access to thousands of worksheets, lesson plans and projects.

**Creative Writing Worksheets and Activity Prompts**
Downloadable, printable writing prompts, games and more.
Creative Writing Worksheets
Free printable writing resources aligned with educational standards, including printable worksheets.

Grades K-12 Printables Guide
Gather free downloadable and printable worksheets to strengthen your students' reading and writing skills.

Elementary:

Story Starters
Scholastic's Story Starters kids' writing activity generates creative writing prompts, from general fiction to adventure, fantasy, and science fiction. The teacher guides inspire students to write by serving up hundreds of writing prompts in creative combinations.

Story Online
A children's literacy website that streams videos featuring award-winning actors reading children's books with illustrations. Each book includes a supplemental curriculum developed by an elementary school educator.

International Children's Digital Library
Provides free access to high-quality digital books from around the world. Offers books for kids ages 3-5, 6-9, and 10-13.

Middle and High:

Independent Reading Activity
Worksheet with questions related to setting, characters, plot, language, point of view and more.
Shmoop Learning Guides
Shmoop's learning guides break down some of the texts most frequently taught in high school classrooms. Everything from Mark Twain to Ayn Rand to Shakespeare.

Dance

Resources for all grade levels:

**PBS Learning Media**
FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more just for teachers. Encourage and explore the participation, analysis, appreciation, and history of dance.

**Kennedy Center Media & Interactives**
Offers free featured content and media for students of all ages sortable by grade level and arts subject.

**Dance Studies Association Resources**
Resources for moving dance-based pedagogy online.

**Dance Lesson Plans & Activities**
Find dance lesson and unit plans, webinars, PowerPoints, and resources.

**Sharing Dance in the Classroom**
Inspire creativity and build physical literacy skills with fun dance lessons and activities. Best of all, no dance experience is necessary to facilitate or participate in these lessons and the resources are completely FREE.
Music

Resources for all grade levels:

**PBS Learning Media**
FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more just for teachers. Encourage students to perform, analyze, and appreciate music with resources that explore music from various time periods and cultures.

**Kennedy Center Media & Interactives**
Offers free featured content and media for students of all ages sortable by grade level and arts subject.

**TeacherVision**
This project encourages students to survey family members, neighbors, or friends about vocal music groups they have enjoyed over the years.

**TeachRock**
This standards-aligned, arts integration curriculum uses the history of popular music and culture to help teachers engage students. TeachRock has crafted engaging and meaningful material for every classroom. All for free.

**Elementary:**
**Magic Flute Orchestra Game**
This game provides a fun way to strengthen students' knowledge of the musical instruments and their listening skills.

**Rhythm Trainer Exercise**
This free, Flash-based program helps with learning and practicing rhythm. At the end of your session, you can email your results to anyone (for example, your teacher) and they can then see how you are doing.

**Chrome Music Lab**
This website makes learning music more accessible through fun, hands-on experiments. Check out the Song Maker experiment, which lets you make and share your own songs.

**Carnegie Hall's Orchestra Instrument Safari**
Takes your students on an online safari to find all of the instruments in the orchestra in the wild. It is up to you, Violet, and her Uncle Ollie to find them, collect them, and guide them to the orchestra stage.
Classics for Kids
Introduces elementary and middle school children to classical music in a fun and entertaining way. The site gives you access to famous pieces of classical music online and also related lessons plans and activity sheets.

A Child's Introduction to Jazz
In 1961, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley, the jazz saxophonist best known for his work on Miles Davis' epic album Kind of Blue, narrated a children's introduction to jazz music. Features music by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Coleman Hawkins, Thelonious Monk and Cannonball himself.

Resources for all grade levels:

PBS Learning Media
FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more just for teachers. Discover the world of theater with lesson plans, videos, interactive activities, and more.

Resources for Theatre Educators Teaching Online
A compilation of the latest resources for theatre educators to utilize during this unprecedented time.

Kennedy Center Media & Interactives
Offers free featured content and media for students of all ages sortable by grade level and
Elementary:

**Role play lesson using narrative texts**
Role play and drama can offer an authentic context for students to engage in new discourses. These contexts can provide situations where students can be comfortable to speak, respond, initiate ideas, argue, be tentative and reflect.

Middle and High:

**How to Write a Radio Play Activity**
The BBC World Service asked two award-winning radio dramatists to share their secrets and to explain what makes an effective radio play.

**Khan Academy & Pixar, The Art of Storytelling**
You'll hear from Pixar directors and story artists about how they got their start and what stories inspire them, and you'll begin to think about what kinds of stories you might want to tell.

**Shakespeare Learning Zone from the Royal Shakespeare Company**
This site gives you loads of information about Shakespeare's plays. You'll find key facts, key scenes, pictures from past productions, videos of actors and directors working on and performing the plays AND find out about all the main characters and how they relate to each other.
**Production Process Webquest**
You are the Executive Director of a theatre production company and need to collaborate with your production team to make artistic decisions in order to produce a meaningful production of Romeo and Juliet.

**Monologue Rehearsal Log**
Downloadable log to help students develop skills in projection, blocking, character work, and memorization.

**Visual Arts**

**Resources for all grade levels:**

**PBS Learning Media**
FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more just for teachers. Explore the many forms of visual art, from basket weaving to painting, and glasswork to furniture, with resources that encourage analysis, research, and practice.

**MoMA Learning**
Browse by themes or artists to see MOMA created educational resources including slideshows, worksheets, and videos. Find questions, hands-on activities, and other opportunities for enrichment.

**FAEA Distance Learning Resources**
Compilation of videos, activity ideas, social media groups, online tools, and virtual collections put together by the Florida Art Education Association.
Getty Resources for Students
Enhance students’ understanding of artists, art history, materials, and techniques with interactive web pages, online games, activities, and videos. Enliven your classroom teaching with select activities or encourage students to explore these resources independently.

Nasco Arts & Crafts Lesson Plans and Activities
All lesson plans and activities are free to download and feature a variety of methods, materials, and themes.

Remote Learning using Artsonia
This page provides a number of tips how you can use Artsonia to engage in remote-learning with your students. You can also use these ideas as supplemental activities or extra credit for at-home work.

Art Video Links
Compilation of video links in categories such as historical, instructional, inspirational, contemporary artists, and just for fun.

Google Art Project
This new tool gives access to more than 1,000 works of art appearing in 17 great museums across the world. Using Google’s Street View technology, you can now tour collections at 184 museums worldwide.
ArtThink
Created by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, this site offers theme-based activities in visual arts, language arts, history and social studies. The site lets students investigate artists' work, lives, and their historical context.

1.8 Million Free Works of Art from World-Class Museums
This is a meta list of great art available online. Find links to online collections of several hundred art books to read online or download.

Elementary:

Aminah's World
Combining traditional art materials with found objects and everyday materials, artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson created magical two- and three-dimensional works of art. Welcome to Aminah's World where you can take a peek into the mind, work, and processes of this artist and make your own digital artwork inspired by her.

High:

The Art Assignment
This video series introduces you to innovative artists, presents you with assignments, and explores art history through the lens of the present.

Opportunities
FREE Black Violin Masterclass Series (Starts April 3 at 2pm)
This free YouTube series focuses on the foundations of finding your sound san depressing your self musically. It will be held every Friday and Tuesday staring April 3 - May 15. Click here for Black Violin's YouTube channel.

2020 Congressional Art Competition (Deadline: April 24)
U.S. Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) is now accepting submissions for the 2020 Congressional Art Competition. This annual art contest, held by members of the U.S. House of Representatives, highlights the creative talents of students in each of the congressional districts. The competition is open to students in grades 7-12. Winners from each congressional district will receive two tickets to fly to Washington, D.C., to attend a congressional reception and see the unveiling of their artwork in the U.S. Capitol. The artwork will remain on display in the U.S. Capitol for one year, where it may be viewed by the millions of visitors. Learn more about this opportunity by clicking here.

NAfME 2020 Student Songwriters Competition (Deadline: May 15)
The National Association for Music Education is seeking original music by student songwriters for featured performance at the 2020 NAfME National Conference. Teachers and students are invited to submit original student songs for the All-National Honor Modern Band. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners and honorable mentions. Up to ten selected composers will receive cash awards. All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions. Click here for more details and to apply.

VSA Emerging Young Artists Program (Deadline: May 20)
This program amplifies the voices of emerging artists with career development and professional empowerment. The competition seeks excellent work from emerging artists with disabilities, ages 16-25, residing in the United States. VSA invites artists to consider the intersections and combinations of their creative process and disability identity. In art, the juxtaposition of ideas can blur distinctions or reveal something new. This year’s exhibit theme, Merge, explores uniting
paths and asks what we can learn when it all comes together. Click here for more details.

Awesome Tallahassee (Deadline: Rolling)
Each month Awesome Tallahassee awards a $1,000 grant to people doing awesome things in our community. If you have a great idea for the Tallahassee area apply for a grant today! Click here for more details.

Professional Development

Applications are open for CAELI (Deadline: April 14)
The Community Arts Education Leadership Institute (CAELI) provides an intensive, transformative experience through which both seasoned and emerging leaders advance their skills by engaging with top leadership trainers, nationally renowned practitioners, and a diverse cohort of peers. The eight-month program includes a five-day seminar at Bryn Mawr College (Philadelphia, PA), from July 21-25, 2020, a 360-degree feedback process, peer-mentoring, and follow-up coaching. To optimize the learning experience, participation is limited to 26 individuals selected through a competitive application process. Check more info here.

STAR: State Teacher/Artist Residency (Deadline: April 24)
A cooperative program of the Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE), the STAR program is designed to honor and nourish the artist in the educator by providing five public school educators from Florida with the opportunity to pursue their artistic work in the inspiring environment of the prestigious Hermitage Artist Retreat. Four-week residencies will be offered to two visual artists; two writers (fiction/non-fiction/poetry/playwriting); and one composer. Click here for more details and to apply.

Around Town
New ONLINE content on Tallahassee Arts Guide
Check out all the family-friendly, local, virtual offerings including events, classes, workshops, and lessons. Please visit us at www.TallahasseeArts.org to access our resources and to add your own arts-related listings.

Leon County Sheriff's Office: Covid Countdown "Poster" Contest (Deadline: April 17)
This virtual poster contest invites kids in grades K-5 to draw what you're dreaming of doing, somewhere to go, or someone you want to see as soon as the COVID-19 quarantine is over. Click here to learn more about how to enter.

Southern Shakespeare Company’s Sonnet Contest (Deadline: April 30)
The Sixth Annual Sonnet Contest is open and submissions are being accepted from middle and high school students. There will also be a college/adult category. Sonnets on ALL subjects in ANY voice are welcome, so long as they adhere to sonnet form. Prizes valued over $1,000. Time to dip that quill and channel some Will. Click here to learn more.

2020 Internship at The Grove Museum
The Grove Museum is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for fall semester internships. We are seeking undergraduate and graduate interns from a diverse range of academic backgrounds, including history, museum studies, the humanities, and the social sciences, to spend 12 weeks working and learning at the museum. Interns will complete a project over the course of their term under the supervision of professional museum staff. Click for details about the Summer Internship and the Fall Internship.

Job Opportunities
Tallahassee Museum Now Hiring
Summer Camp Teachers (Deadline: April 12)
Seeking active and engaging summer camp teachers for Tallahassee Museum summer camps! Teachers must be enthusiastic about the outdoors! We offer a healthy balance of indoor and outdoor activities in a 52 acre classroom of wild habitats, historic buildings, exhibit space, nature trails, lakes, and shared forestry land. Candidates must provide a clean level 2 Federal background screening & First Aid CPR certification. Previous experience leading outdoor nature-based programming preferred. Lesson plans and training provided. To apply, submit resume to hr@tallahassemuseum.org with "camp teacher" in the subject line. No phone calls please. See more here.

LeMoyne seeks Summer Art Camp Teachers (Deadline: April 17)
Every year, LeMoyne Arts offers an exciting art camp for students ages 6-12. This year's camp theme is "Art Around the World." The organization is looking for dynamic and creative artists who love working with kids. Positions currently available for teacher with experience in mixed media, drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics. Interested? Send your resume/CV, images of your work, and, if possible, images of past student work to Gabriela Denton at education@lemoyne.org. Click here for more.

LeMoyne seeks Summer Art Camp Counselors (Deadline: May 1)
Camp counselors are responsible for open/close duties each day, keeping the building clean, assisting instructors, planning fun crafts for free time, and supervising campers during lunch, snack, and free time. Applicants must be good with children, friendly, and responsible. A level two background check is required to work this position. Reach out to Gabriela Denton at education@lemoyne.org to express your interest. Click here for more.
Independent Dance Instructors Wanted (Deadline: May 16)
USA Dance 6010 is looking for independent ballroom dance instructors to teach a 45 min group lesson at our monthly dances. Styles include Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Foxtrot, Waltz, Cha Cha, EC Swing, WC Swing and more. Bronze and beginning Silver Level syllabus, steps, posture, arm styling, patterns, etc. For more info, click here.

Did You Know?

"William Shakespeare wrote King Lear in quarantine" is exactly the type of exaggerated story you’d expect to see spread during a wild news cycle, but this is one viral tidbit that’s rooted in truth.

Shakespeare was an actor and shareholder with The King’s Men theater troupe when the bubonic plague forced London theaters to close in the early 17th century. The official rule was that after weeks, when the death toll exceeded 30, public playhouses had to shut down. This meant that the theater industry was paralyzed for much of 1606 when the plague returned to the city. After suddenly finding himself without a steady job and lots of free time, Shakespeare got to writing. He composed King Lear, Macbeth, and Antony and Cleopatra before the year was over.

William Shakespeare wasn't the only person who produced some of his best work during a pandemic - click here to learn about some other great artists and thinkers who used physical distancing to their advantage.

About the Arts in Education Newsletter

Amanda Karioth Thompson
Assistant Director
Education & Exhibitions Manager
Council on Culture & Arts
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To submit listings for COCA's Arts in Education Monthly Newsletter, send a description of 50 words or less to Amanda Karioth Thompson at
amanda@tallahasseearts.org. COCA reserves the right to include or exclude any listing at its discretion and to determine the content and placement of all listings. Deadline for submission is 5:00pm on the fourth Monday of the month.

COCA does not endorse any artists, organizations, or programs listed herein, nor imply stature through their inclusion in this newsletter. While we have made every effort to insure that this information is correct, we cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information.

COCA’s programs are sponsored in part by the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.
Art in Public Places
Exhibition Schedule for FY20 (2019-2020)
Dates subject to change due to COVID-19

City Hall Gallery 2019-2020

November 19, 2019 - January 28, 2020: Annual Winter Festival Youth Art Exhibition
(publicized dates: Nov. 20, 2019 - Jan. 27, 2020, reception Dec. 6)
Artworks by K-12 grade students attending local public, private, and home schools. Individual artworks selected by more than 35 local art teachers.

Jan. 28 – April 14 extended to June 30: Tallahassee Proud
(publicized dates: Jan. 29 – April 13 extended to June 29, reception March 4)
A specially curated multi-media, group juried fine art exhibition celebrating the place we call home. Volunteer panel members were convened to review and recommend individual artwork submissions.

April 14 – June 30 *Rescheduled for 2021: Celestial Photography
(publicized dates: April 15 – June 29)
A group exhibition of seven local astro-photographers showcasing the night sky.

June 30 – Sept. 15: 2020 Creative Tallahassee
(publicized dates: July 1 – Sept. 14, reception July 31)
Annual multi-media, group juried exhibition. Volunteer panel members will convene to review and recommend individual artwork submissions.

Sept. 15 – May/June 2021 (TBA): Commissioner’s Main Conference Room
(publicized dates: Sept. 16 - TBA)
Annual extension exhibition of Creative Tallahassee multi-media artworks. Individual artwork selected by Mayor’s staff from the Creative Tallahassee exhibition on the 2nd floor.

Sept. 15 – Nov. 17: 2020 Brush Strokes
(publicized dates: Sept. 16 – Nov. 16, reception Sept. 24)
Annual Tallahassee Watercolor Society (TaWS) juried exhibition. Individual artworks are reviewed and selected by a TaWS juror.

Nov. 17 – Jan. 2021 (TBA): Annual Winter Festival Youth Art Exhibition
(publicized dates: Nov. 18 – Jan. 2020, reception Dec. 4)
Artworks by K-12 grade students attending local public, private, and home schools. Individual artworks selected by more than 35 local art teachers.
Artport Gallery 2019-2020

(publicized dates: Nov. 6, 2019 – Jan. 13, 2020, reception Nov. 15)
An annual juried fine art exhibition showcasing creative and high quality photography by talented artists/photographers of the Big Bend Area.

Jan. 14 – March 31 extended to June 2: The Art of Florida Cartoonists
(publicized dates: Jan. 13 – April 1 extended to June 1, school tour March 12)
This exhibit showcases a wide variety of visual treasures created by cartoonists, illustrators, and storyboard artists who have lived or worked in the Sunshine State.

March 31 – June 2 *Rescheduled for 2021: Forgotten Coast, Not Forgotten
(publicized dates: April 1 – June 1)
This specially curated, invitational exhibition showcases works by artists in the areas affected by hurricane damage and will highlight the strength, resilience, and natural beauty of the Forgotten Coast.

June 2 – Aug. 11: Children’s Book Illustrations by Elizabeth Lampman Davis
(publicized dates: June 3 – Aug. 10, reception TBA)
A solo exhibition designed to increase the visibility of multi-ethnic, multi-abled children in children’s literature as main characters with both power and empathy.

Aug. 11 – Oct. 27: Artworks by Terrie Corbett
(publicized dates: Aug. 12 – Oct. 26, reception TBA)
A solo exhibition featuring encaustic non-objective and abstract artworks using traditional painting and drawing techniques combined with personal mark-making.

(publicized dates: Oct. 28 – Jan., 2021, reception TBA)
An annual juried fine art exhibition showcasing creative and high quality photography by talented artists/photographers of the Big Bend Area.
COCA's Art Exhibit Treasure Hunt is entertaining and educational for little ones and parents alike. There are so many fun things to discover and talk about, together. Each question gives children a purpose for looking more closely at the artwork and lets kids use their curiosity and imaginations. Go ahead, get lost in an artistic adventure. Just remember, art explorers use their eyes not their hands. Good luck and happy hunting!

Can you find...

- A man in a cowboy hat?
- A flower vase?
- A dog giving kisses?
- A rainbow above the trees?
- A trolley?
- A purple capitol building?
- A frog?
- Cascading yam?

- What's your favorite artwork in the whole exhibit?
- What do you like about it?
- What kind of story can you tell about it?
Summary of FY19 Cultural Facilities Matching Grant Program Outcomes

On Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, the grant panelists assembled and reviewed the grant applications. At the time, the total funding amount was unknown, due to the bed tax collection cycle, and the panelists made funding recommendations based on an estimated amount provided by Kerri Post at Visit Tallahassee. On Oct. 18, 2019, COCA received the official collections report and calculated the amount available to allocate to grantees. There was a shortage when the panelists’ original funding recommendation was applied.

The panel was notified, reconvened for a public meeting on Oct. 21, 2019, and made funding recommendations which were approved by COCA’s Board on Oct. 24, 2019. After questions of project eligibility were resolved, the final, alternative funding recommendations for the FY19 Cultural Facilities Grant Program were approved by the COCA Board on Jan. 27, 2020, the TDC on Feb. 5, 2020 and the BOCC on Feb. 11, 2020. The following projects were approved for funding:

1. **Name of Applicant:** Goodwood Museum and Gardens, Inc.  
   **Name of Project:** Goodwood’s Water Tower  
   **Project Description:** Rebuild the upper story of the Water Tower, restore its exterior, reactivate its deep water well, and rehabilitate the interior for interpretation.  
   **Funding Recommendation:** $133,000.00

2. **Name of Applicant:** Tallahassee Community College Foundation  
   **Name of Project:** Tallahassee Community College Hurst Museum  
   **Project Description:** Renovations to the Hurst Museum  
   **Funding Recommendation:** $104,995.00

3. **Name of Applicant:** Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, Inc.  
   **Name of Project:** Securing the Future  
   **Project Description:** Purchase of approximately 69.03 +/- acres of property directly adjacent to and north of the Museum.  
   **Funding Recommendation:** $223,500.00

**TOTAL FY19 Funding Amount Available:** $467,188.00  
**TOTAL FY19 Funding Amount Recommended:** $461,495.00 ($5,693 returned to TDC)

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**FY19 Cultural Facilities Matching Grant Program Panelists**  
Kenneth Taite, President, Haggai Construction  
Erika Hagan, Architect and Principal, HoyStarkHagan Architects  
George Johnson, Jr., Project Manager, Barkley Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Aaron Milner, President, Johnson and Milner, Inc.  
Maxim Nasab, Founder and Principal, Apexx Architecture  
Beth LaCivita, COCA Board Representative  
Kathleen Spehar, COCA Executive Director
# COCA Board of Directors Contact Sheet (FY20)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Position/Seat</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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## Ex Officio Members

| Comm. | Kristin   | Dozier   | County | Leon County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32301 | dozierk@leoncountyfl.gov |
| Comm. | Jeremy    | Matlow   | City   | City Hall, 300 S. Adams St., Tallahassee, FL 32301 | jeremy_matlow@talgov.com |
| Mr.   | Jamal     | Coleman  | FAMU (non-voting) | 515 Orr Dr., Tucker Hall, Tallahassee, FL 32307 | jamal.coleman@famu.edu |
| Ms.   | Calla     | MacNamara| FSU (non-voting) | 1125 East 7th Avenue, Tallahassee FL 32303 | cmanamara@fsu.edu |
| Dr.   | Tracy     | Woodard  | TCC (non-voting) | 3785 Overlook Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32311 | woodart@tcc.fl.edu |
| Ms.   | Alva      | Striplin | LCSB (non-voting) | 3607 Donegal Drive, Tallahassee FL 32309 | alvastriplin@yahoo.com |

Not yet designated  TDC (non-voting) 

## Staff Contacts

| Ms.  | Kathleen  | Spehar | Executive Director |
| Ms.  | Amanda    | Karioth Thompson | Assistant Director, Exhibitions & Education Manager |
| Ms.  | Erica     | Thaler | Communications & Marketing Manager |
| Mr.  | Nick      | Pavlovik | Business & Finance Manager |
| Ms.  | Pre       | Reid   | Community Engagement & Membership Coordinator |

Position currently open  Grants Program Manager
In January, Forbes traveled to the 35th edition of the International Jazz Plaza Festival in Havana, Cuba, with The Common Taters Southern Funk Band.

LIL FORBES, GETTY IMAGES ILLUSTRATION

TRIP TO CUBA INSPIRED LIL FORBES AND THE COMMON ‘TATERS

Amanda Siersdzki, Council on Culture & Arts

Musician Lily Forbes can’t shake the Caribbean from her bones. Hailing from Sint Maarten, Dutch Antilles, she longs for home where she says rhythm, movement and storytelling commingle in every imaginable way.

For her, that meant waking up every morning to music, whether it was Bob Marley or her mother’s favorite gospel tunes. As an independent artist, it means writing and playing songs that bring the ocean’s whispering waves and world flavors to Tallahassee.

In January, Forbes traveled to the 35th edition of the International Jazz Plaza Festival in Havana, Cuba, with The Common Taters Southern Funk Band. Horns and guitars kept a steady triple meter, while Forbes said the crowds—who had a hard time sitting still—jumped to their feet as the music moved them. The band had planned to reggae and bring that set to The Moon on Sunday, but the event was canceled due to the coronavirus.

“I’m looking forward to bringing that life onstage locally,” says Forbes. “When I first hear funk, my feet are already tapping. I love that it has a element of storytelling to it too with a rhythm that just

See FORBES Page 3C

“Music is like life and breath itself. It is a language everyone understands no matter their philosophy.”

LIL FORBES
Forbes

Continued from Page 1C

pushes. People should come ready to dance." 

The group is comprised of musicians Michael Lewis, Jan DeCosmo, Israel Campbell, Kirk Gwin, Jordan Greer, Joel Johnson, Sam Johnson, Aaron Watson, Baba Olusegun "Segun" Williams, as well as Forbes' husband, pianist Andre Forbes, and twin sister Ilismo Johnson.

Forbes first met Jan DeCosmo through the Cross Cultural Coalition, an organization whose mission is to share Caribbean and Afro-American music and culture. She jumped at the opportunity to perform with the group given their funky style and high energy set. However, she wasn’t always eager to be onstage.

Forbes’ mother encouraged her and her sister to sing by bringing them to church choir rehearsals. They were eventually hooked, memorizing every song and participating in competitions. Eventually, they formed a quintet with a few friends and won a trip to South America. Soon after, she released her first album at age 15.

“We toured the Caribbean for many years after that,” says Forbes. “We won a Caribbean Gospel Music Award for our second album which was a huge accomplishment at the time.”

Though she has traveled and sung across the U.S. and America, the Bahamas and Trinidad remain her favorite places to perform. The musicians from St. Maarten still influence her style as well. In elementary school she shadowed a steel pan orchestra and she credits her elementary school music educators for encouraging her talents.

“Our teachers were very creative and made music available and easily accessible,” says Forbes. “We could take our instruments out of the class, and during our free period the music room was open, so we were able to form bands and our music. Our teachers really did help us fall in love with music.”

Inspired by her early exposure, Forbes attended Florida A&M University to pursue a degree in music education and theater where she was continually in awe of her professors’ techniques and talent. Full of ideas, she moved back to the island after graduation to teach elementary, middle and high school students.

At the lower levels, storytelling and folk songs gave her students an appreciation for the form. Forbes says her work at the high school was most challenging as the classrooms lacked musical instruments and other supplies. Unfazed, she thought outside the box, literally using recyclable containers and cans to teach music theory. Within her first year, she formed classical music ensembles and her students gave a special performance for the Minister of Education.

“How we use music is so important,” says Forbes. “It should always be used to bring people together, especially with the next generation coming up. It is so important to keep music alive in children because it shapes their minds. If it wasn’t for music, I wouldn’t be the adult I am today.”

Forbes returned to Tallahassee as an instructor for Woodville K-8 school, and continued to produce, write and release six albums with her sister under their duo act, Jumelle. In 2017, she struck out on her own with her first solo EP “I Won’t Hold Me Back.”

Composing music comes second nature. Forbes says melodies and poetry often come to her quickly. Many songs appear as she travels, flying through the air or looking out the car window. Forbes allows her world experience to filter into her sound, with reggae, jazz, calypso and gospel marrying together into a can-denced fusion. No matter if she’s singing on her own or in a group like The Common Taters, Forbes allows herself to be taken by the melody.

“Music is like life and breath itself,” says Forbes. “It is a language everyone understands no matter their philosophy. Even in a world that is so divisive, it brings so many colors together because music itself is colorful. Everyone can find something they recognize in themselves in music.”

Amadinda Sierdzki is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).
Local books for COVID-19 and the restless soul

M.R. Street
Guest columnist

It’s Day 21 (or something – the days run together now) of social distancing, and you’ve binge-watched all the movies and series Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ have to offer.

You are not so desperate that you will clean the toilet again before designated date (what I call Funday Monday). Before you tear your hair out and (again) break into your emergency stash of chocolate/spaces/key lime Greek yogurt/cheese/white chocolate/vine/cookies – chip cookie dough/all of the above, reach for an adventure!

That’s right: a book!

Midtown Reader (midtownreader.com) is offering curbside pick-up or free delivery, the Wakulla County Library (wakullacountylibrary.org) has curbside pick-up, and you can check out ebooks and audiobooks from the Leon County Public Library (leonlibrary.org).

So, what are you waiting for? Suggestions?

Well, I happen to have a few, and because these authors, libraries, and bookstores are local, you are supporting your community. Today, I feature children’s books, poetry, and Southern charm. Future columns will highlight middle grade/young adult, romance, literary fiction, travel and history, memoir/authobiography, inspirational, and nonfiction.

Children’s Books

Carol Hair Moore, a retired second grade teacher, has written a series of five picture books, all delightfully illustrated by Michael Hartell. From “Marvin the Magnificent Nubian Goat” (CyPress Publications, 2009) to “Friends Who Sparkle Like Stars” (CyPress Publications, 2017), the animal friends in Moore’s books will charm young readers while teaching them the importance of save, kindness, sincerity, and support. Moore’s books can be found on Amazon and through the author’s website, ivishusetrereasmandake.com. They are also available through both the Leon and Wakulla County libraries.

In “The Zoopendous Surprise” (Pleasant St. Press, 2009) by Boots Hensel, two Asian elephants at the Little Rock Zoo in Arkansas try to find out what surprise the zookeepers and other zoo animals have planned for them. The story is based on Hensel’s daughter’s real-life adventures as an elephant keeper at the Little Rock Zoo.

Jan Annino won the Florida Book Award for her illustrated biography of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, “She Sang Promise” (National Geographic Children’s Books, 2010). The first woman

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Derryberry

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photographers and businesses coping with the pandemic across the country.
She has been heartened by many professionals who are turning to social media to create similar projects. Her first assignment, “Make Faces” directed parents to have their children stand against a neutral wall near a window and make as many silly faces as they could conjure. Then, using different accessible phone applications and editing tools, Derryberry instructed them on how to create an image collage.

“We have this gift of time with our family we didn’t expect to have, which is actually a great thing,” says Derryberry. “I think we are taking for granted some of those little moments to remember. Every person has a camera in their hand, and I just wanted to give people ideas on how to document those moments.”

Derryberry fell in love with portrait photography from the moment her father gifted her a film camera. She spent most of her high school in the dark room and majored in fine art at the University of Alabama. She says her father remains the artist she most admires and he has given her unconditional support over the years.

She was delighted to photograph him recently in a fully styled shoot to capture his distinguished essence. Her brother also found himself in front of her lens and wound up as the cover photo of “Professional Photographer Magazine” — something Derryberry counts among her greatest accomplishments as an admirer of character and celebrity portrait photographers like Mark Seliger and Annie Leibovitz.

“A character portrait makes you feel like you know the person better through the image,” explains Derryberry. “Sometimes it is completely mocked up and sometimes it is a genuine portrait of that person by way of lighting, scene or clothing choice. You get a feel for their personality and demeanor.”

Portraits tell stories for Derryberry. She most enjoys capturing families and artists, and has photographed musicians Avis Berry and Mary Ann Hoffman.

“These are always fun because artists know how to perform in front of the camera, and I get to focus on creating the image while they give me the emotion,” adds Derryberry.

Derryberry’s portraits use clean, neutral backgrounds, usually in white or shades of gray. She prefers this minimalistic style as it provides a modern look and allows the person to shine through the photograph. She will take 60 to 80 images in any given session and enjoys sitting with clients and guiding them through the selection and editing process.

One of her biggest challenges is capturing the right light in her studio while balancing the positions of the body. Derryberry will often mirror poses and go through a specific series of shots in order to arrive at the place where her subjects look their best. She enjoys working one-on-one and building trust to get to a place where the client feels comfortable.

While she doesn’t consider herself a historian, she hopes people in the community will take up their cameras to document the historic nature of this time, and all the moments that are happening right now in our homes.

“We will have documentarians out there doing the hard hitting work that we need for history, but I think for our own purposes we also need to remember how it was for those of us that were staying at home and trying to make the best of it,” says Derryberry.

“People are missing graduations, weddings and major parts of their life that usually get documented by professionals. We should be documenting this time because it is an important part of history that we’ll never forget.”

Amanda Sierzchuzi is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area’s umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).

How to see it
What: Stay at Home Photography Series with Kira Derryberry Photography
Cost: Free
Contact: For more information please call 850-583-1644. To access the series, please visit kiraderryberryphotography.com.

Kira Derryberry’s brother “The Skeptic” also found himself in front of her lens and wound up as the cover photo of “Professional Photographer Magazine.” KIRA DERRYBERRY

ASTROLOGY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19) When you follow your own leadership, reward, encourage and treat yourself. The more you reinforce a preferred behavior, the more likely you are to exhibit it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You’ll ask yourself, “Is this who I want to be?” and then make little adjustments from there to either reinforce your choice or turn it in a new direction.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The sky is not falling, so some people feel better about it, and there’s always going to be a Dum-Dum. You can choose to participate in it or not. Do what’s right for you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Lving is easier than communicating love, which can be tricky, laden in expectation and the pressure to get things right. For today, just focus on loving.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can move the world by doing as much as you can in the tribes you belong to. If you feel limited by the group, then you’ll join another. Your capacity for friendship and service is higher than most.

HOME SECURITY YOU CAN TRUST

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For more information please call 850-583-1644. To access the series, please visit kiraderryberryphotography.com.
Real-life advice

Godby theater students aim to ease middle school angst with ‘Hold On’

Amanda Kariloth Thompson
Council on Culture & Arts

Middle school is a notoriously difficult stage in a child’s life. It’s an awkward, in-between time when the world seems topsy-turvy and things don’t always work out as you hope. The transition phase from youngster to young adult can be painful and sometimes traumatic, but Godby High School theater students are using a creative strategy to help.

Inspired by her own high school theater experience, Randi Lundgren, director of theatre arts at Godby, recognizes the theater’s potential to spread a message of compassion and support. In that spirit, her students have created an original variety show titled “Hold On, It’s Just the Middle.” The production reinforces the idea that it does get better and offers skits, poems, scenes, monologues, choreography, songs, and pantomimes, about life during and after the middle years.

“The world has changed since I was in high school,” Lundgren said. “Middle schoolers need this now more than ever. There are many more things that we need to talk about, especially with the uptick in the teenage suicide rate and social media. The bullying doesn’t happen physically so much anymore, it’s now virtual.”

The show deals with parent and child relationships, suicide prevention, depression, social media responsibility, positive body image, anti-drug and alcohol abuse, anti-violence, acceptance of others and understanding and loving oneself.

The subjects are rooted in reality because

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When: 7 p.m. Friday, March 6
Where: Godby High School Auditorium, 1717 W. Tharpe St.
Tickets: $5. Those who wear their Green Dot gear can get in for $1.

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Show

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they are written by Godby theater students about their own personal experiences. They explore deep topics, but all the scenes end in a positive and uplifting tone. There will be three days of performances for Leon County middle schoolers as well as a public performance.

“I cast it by saying who identifies with this situation, who feels this way, who’s been through this. Let’s face it, kids can see right through something that’s not authentic. I’ve been hitting that home with my students, saying don’t make it superficial.”

Theater is an especially useful tool for exploring these difficult subjects because it’s a natural outlet for self-expression. “They’re able to take all the stuff they went through, and what they’re still going through, and express it cathartically, which allows them to heal,” Lundgren said.

Chokwe Bennett is a senior and, though he’s relatively new to the stage, he’ll continue to hone his natural talent at the New York Conservatory after he graduates. He’s passionate about theater. “I realized that I look up to so many performers without even knowing it,” Chokwe said. “That feeling they give me, I want to give that to other people.”

A powerful connection exists between the actors and the audience. Chokwe knows he can create poignant moments by tapping into his own memories and experiences. “I went through a lot during my middle school years,” he said. “There’s stuff I wish I would have known in middle school. Mostly, I want them to understand it’s OK to feel and have emotional awareness.”

The stage is a perfect tool to represent the wide emotional swings many middle schoolers experience. Actors are trained to project and amplify so the audience gets the message. Chokwe explained “when middle schoolers feel emotion, they feel it in an exaggerated sense. Our exaggeration on stage, I’m hoping will come across as how they’re actually feeling inside, even if they’re not expressing it. Expressing yourself in such an exaggerated way equates to understanding your exaggerated feelings.”

Katelyn Cummings, is in 11th grade and her character has an unreciprocated crush which causes heartbreak and insecurities. “These are some of the things that middle schoolers experience, and it’s honestly just hard,” she said. “I’m an example to them that I’ve been through this, so you can get through it too.”

“I hope this show helps them find themselves before they get in a place of deep sadness,” Katelyn shared. “I want them to see that there’s more to life than getting out of middle school. Coming to high school is like a whole new world. Going from high school to college is going to be a whole new world for us. So, it’s step by step. Someone is always going through the same transition as everybody else before them so, there are always people they can talk to, who know what they’re going through.”

The public performance of “Hold On, It’s Just the Middle” is on Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Amos P. Godby High School Auditorium at 1717 W. Tharpe St. Tickets are $5 for all. This is a Green Dot Movement event. Those who wear their Green Dot gear can get in for $1. The Green Dot Movement aims to shift campus culture and prevent violence with the help of bystanders.

Excerpts from ‘It’s Just the Middle’

Excerpt from Godby’s original, student written production “Hold On, It’s Just the Middle”

What do you wish someone had told you in Middle School?

1. Everyone does not have your best interests at heart.
2. It’s OK to stand out.
3. Standing up for others is the right thing to do.
4. It may be a bad day, but it’s not a bad life.
5. Grades do matter.
6. Trust your gut. If it doesn’t seem right, it isn’t. So don’t do it.
7. Be yourself and love yourself.
8. Find someone that you can confide in so you don’t bottle everything up.
9. It’s OK to not understand something.
10. It’s OK to fail.
11. Everything isn’t as hard as it seems.
12. One mistake doesn’t make you a failure.
13. Your body is perfect just the way you are.
14. Try to understand each other.
15. Don’t give people the opportunity to expose you.
16. Violence is never a good answer.
17. One choice can lead to a lifetime of regret.
18. You don’t have to try so hard to fit in.
19. It’s OK to admit when you are not OK.
20. It really does get better.

Sisters

Continued from Page 1C

FAMU Department of English Presents 12th Annual Celebration of Women Authors

Meet Chokwe Bennett

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