MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Members

Emily Andrews,
Fine Arts For Ocala

Jaye Baillie,
Commission Chairman
Marion Cultural Alliance

Arnold Barbaro,
Member-at-Large

Tito Comas,
Member-at-Large

Jean Floten,
Member-at-Large

Dr. Leslie Hammond,
Member-at-Large

Brooke Hutto
Marion County School Board

Darian Mosley,
Commission Vice-Chair
Member-at-Large

Greg Thompson,
Ocala Civic Theatre

David Reutter,
College of Central Florida

Natalie McComb,
Ocala Symphony Orchestra

OCALA

City of Ocala
Ocala Municipal Arts Commission
2024 Annual Report

The Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) is comprised of 11 individuals representing the fields of fine arts and performing arts, nonprofit and arts administration, local business leaders and the community at large. To ensure that the commission provides a broad and knowledgeable representation of Ocala's arts and culture industry, six of the board seats are reserved for representation from the following leading cultural arts organizations: College of Central Florida's Visual and Performing Arts Department, Fine Arts for Ocala, Marion County Public Schools, Marion Cultural Alliance, Ocala Civic Theatre, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra. In addition, the membership of this commission provides leadership for city government in supporting the cultural arts and to recommend programs and policies that develop, sustain and promote artistic excellence in the community.

The purpose of the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission Grant Program is to provide non-profit organizations and individual artists financial support to pursue artistic endeavors that will benefit the community by fostering the awareness and development of the cultural climate in Marion County, Florida.

Commission 2024 Accomplishments:

- A total of $16,500 in community grants were awarded:
  - Strategic Community Alliance, Inc. for 2023 Diwali Celebration, $1,500
  - Art Army Ocala, Inc. for Ocalian Knights – Heros Wanted Project, $2,000
  - Marion Cultural Alliance, Inc. for Ocala Metro Art Scene Project, $3,000
  - Ocala Steel Orchestra for International Jazz Fest, $2,500
  - Ocala Civic Theatre for The Academy West, $2,500
  - Reilly Arts Center, LLC. for Community Music Conservatory, $3,600
  - Strategic Community Alliance, Inc. for 2024 India Fest, $1,400
- Reviewed and approved two public art projects in accordance with the Community Cultural Arts Plan established in 2019.
- Reviewed the results of the American for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity six study completed in 2023.
- Reviewed the current grant application to update and clarify requirements for awards.
- Reviewed and approved Cultural Arts deaccession policy and approved deaccession of three permanent collection artworks.
- Regularly engages in discussion about the state of local, state, and federal arts funding. This allows member organizations and the arts community at large to work and prepare for the current climate and upcoming trends.
- In FY25, the upcoming Commission votes on:
  - New grant application
  - Announce a new call for artist applications to the Public Art Roster
  - Investigate the need for an updated Cultural Arts Plan