



2022  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# Our mission

Our mission is to encourage, promote, and support all the creative arts in Hernando County and to provide a means to showcase the arts.



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## *A message from the HCFAC Chair*

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In recent years, the Hernando County Fine Arts Council has worked diligently to nurture the art community here in Hernando County. You can see it in the form of murals, bold installations, more participating artists, and well-attended events. Even more importantly, the excitement can be felt by artists and lovers of the arts alike. In 2021, we received the results of our Market Assessment for a New Cultural Facility in Hernando County. Although we were advised that Hernando County was not yet ready to support a standalone arts and culture facility, it was our job to prepare the county for when the time is right. In short, our job was to cultivate a community and culture of broad arts participation and attendance. Since then, the Hernando County Fine Arts Council has worked closely with community partners to bring this dream to fruition.

As we enter 2023, our team is proud of the progress we have made. When I joined the Arts Council in 2019, its sole focus was Art in the Park. And how we've grown! Now, we have expanded offerings, resources, opportunities, and support—all to nurture the growth of our blossoming arts community. While Art in the Park was once the Arts Council's single focus, it is now an event that encompasses all that the Arts Council represents. It is a time for us to celebrate the impact, vibrancy, and importance of the arts here in Hernando County. Now, the arts are celebrated not only at Art in the Park, but

they can also be enjoyed attending events at Gallery 201 or when taking a tour of the county's first public art project—The Tale Trail. With the help and collaboration of our many partners like the City of Brooksville, Hernando County Tourism, and Brooksville Main Street, we have made impressive progress with what is now a vibrant art scene in Hernando County.

The future is even more exciting! We have plans that will keep encouraging a lively, creative, and entertaining future of the arts here in Hernando County. We encourage you to be a part of it all by attending art-related events, taking an art class, watching a play at a local theatre, or simply by spreading the word and supporting a local artist. Our artists need the support of our community just as much as we need our artists. We thank you for caring about our local arts community.

*Allisa Babor*

Chair, Hernando County Fine Arts Council

## Benefits of The Arts

The artists and art-related businesses in Hernando County serve as an important pillar of our community. The artwork and artistic experiences that can be enjoyed throughout the county heighten the lives of those who live, work, and play in Hernando County. Without these creative efforts, we wouldn't be the Hernando County we know and love today.

The beneficial impact of the arts is often overlooked. We aim to bring attention to the many benefits whenever we can!

A green circular icon containing the text "\$32.5 billion" in blue. The "\$" and "billion" are in a smaller, lighter blue font, while "32.5" is in a larger, bolder blue font.

\$32.5  
billion

Arts and Culture contributed \$32.5 billion to Florida's economy in 2020, larger than the Transportation, Utilities, or Agriculture industries. Arts & Culture greatly impacts the United States economy. Florida ranks number 7 in economic impact in Arts & Culture.



The arts provide jobs and attract visitors who spend at local businesses and generate tax revenue. The local economy receives a bump from the buzz that art generates. HCFAC works to create an environment where the art community can also succeed and thrive locally.



Arts events create shared experiences that help build bridges and relationships among diverse people in our community. By ensuring access for all, the arts strengthen the community itself, further fueling its attractiveness to community members and visitors alike.





The arts bring attention and opportunity to Hernando County. Art in the Park brings artists from 12 states and hundreds of out-of-county visitors frequent our art-related events and programs. Calls to artists and opportunities bring the attention of businesses, colleges, and various institutions, further putting Hernando County on the map.



The arts help make a community thrive by providing education, connection, and inspiration.



Engaging children in the arts results in reduced dropout rates, higher test scores, fewer behavior incidents, and better preparation for the workforce by developing creative thinkers.



# Our History

The Hernando County Fine Arts Council (HCFAC) traces its roots back to 1982, when several professional artists in Hernando, Pasco and Citrus counties formed the Tri-County Professional Art League. At that time there was no place in any of the three counties that had a regular yearly show for professional artists. In 1983 Hernando County Library Director Hester O'Leary formed the Hernando County Fine Arts Council. The first art show was held in Masaryktown's Kennedy Park in 1984. In 2022, Art in the Park completed its 37th year and is preparing for its 38th. The festival is still HCFAC's signature event and Hernando County's premier art festival.

In 1987 the Hernando County Commissioners created the Hernando County Fine Arts Council authorized by Florida Statutes. Up to 15 county residents can be approved by the County Commission for up to two four-year terms each. The Council's current membership is composed of energetic volunteers from varying backgrounds and experiences, all committed to supporting Hernando County arts, artists, art teachers, and art-related businesses. In addition, the Hernando County Fine Arts Council has been designated as the official Local Arts Agency by the State of Florida. Local Arts Agencies qualify for additional state resources to help them provide

services, support, and programs for arts organizations, artists, and their local communities. This designation also entitles HCFAC to income from Florida "State of the Arts" license plates purchased or renewed in Hernando County. Hernando County provides office space for which the Council is grateful.



## What We Do

The HCFAC works diligently to highlight and support the arts, artists, art lovers, and art-related businesses because the arts bring beauty and life to our community. In 2022, our efforts continued to grow. Besides our Art in the Park held annually the second weekend of March, we increased support for grants to teachers and nonprofits to bring art opportunities to residents and visitors. We offered Art Mark summer art classes for kids, partnered with Brooksville Main Street

on the Mobile Mural Program and Art Stroll, supported Florida's Adventure Coast's Mermaid Tail Trail, continued to help local artists and businesses with our Art Everywhere program, increased opportunities for artists on our online Art Opportunities and Art Directory pages, and we continue to actively support Hernando County's only art gallery—Gallery 201 at Brooksville City Hall. Our programs and partnerships continue to strengthen over time.

### Strategic Planning

In April 2022 the Council held its fourth Strategic Planning retreat and continued to focus on the six initiatives adopted in 2021. Each Initiative has a dedicated team



leader responsible for developing a plan to accomplish the goal(s) of the initiative. These plans include tactics for accomplishing the goal, timelines, and a budget.

## Initiatives & Team Leaders

### *Community, Advocacy, Outreach*

Cheryl Hill

### *Projects and Partnerships*

Allisa Babor

### *Arts in Education*

Alison Papantoniou

### *Fundraising*

Mike Dolan and Linda Allen

### *Facilities*

Mike Dolan

### *Public Art*

Pedram Moghaddam

### *Strategic Planning*

Nina Mattei



## Community, Advocacy, Outreach

Initiative Lead:  
Cheryl Hill

### Purpose

To support the arts community to benefit artists, art organizations, art businesses, and Hernando County's economy.

### Accomplishments

- **Representative membership:** As 2023 begins, half of our members are from Spring Hill and Hernando Beach, and half are from Brooksville.
- **Art Directory expanded:** Our online Art Directory was created to help artists, art-related businesses, and art venues find customers. It is being promoted across the Council's social media platforms and currently has 70 members.
- **Social media accomplishments:** Our social media presence has grown exponentially. Thanks to our three-person social media team, we increased the number of our posts in 2022 by 60%. Our reach has increased 200% consistently the past two years, with hundreds of thousands of people viewing our content. Much of our content features our new public art programs.
- **Art Opportunities:** The Arts Council has continued to enhance the value of its "Art Opportunities" page with resources, grants, vendor events, exhibits, and open calls to artists in Hernando County. On average, we post 3-5 opportunities a month.



- **Newsletter:** In August 2022, we began to publish a monthly newsletter and an Art Events calendar. Community members can now upload art-related events directly to our calendar, request free social media coverage, and be included in our monthly newsletter. We typically add about 15 events to the calendar per month and have 5–10 featured art spotlights in our newsletter.
- **Council emails:** All Council members have been given Council email addresses for better content management and records retention.

## Community Arts Grant

The Community Arts Grant Program offers grants to civic or cultural non-profits or charitable groups that support art and encourage art appreciation in Hernando County. In the last five years, more than 25,000 people have been involved in the arts as a result of these grant-funded projects. From the program's inception

in 2017 through 2021, the maximum grant amount was \$500. Beginning in 2022, the maximum grant amount was increased to \$1,000 each.

# \$35,000

*Since the program was launched in 2017, 58 grants have been awarded totaling \$35,000.*



# Social Media Highlights

## Reach



Facebook reach was 134,856 (up 231% from previous year)

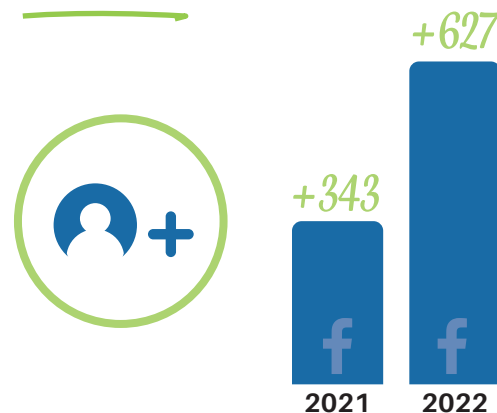


Instagram reach was 12,180 (up 225% from previous year)

## Page Likes



## Followers



Since January 2022, we have gained 627 followers on Facebook, and now have 2,002 page likes. In 2021, we gained 343 new page followers and ended the year with 1,178 page likes.



## Projects & Partnerships

Initiative Lead:

Allisa **Babor**

## Purpose

To create and promote opportunities to experience and appreciate the arts across Hernando County.

## Accomplishments

- **Art in the Park 2022:** The 2022 festival included a juried art show, a new registration system (ZAPP), increased prize money, an expanded children's section, the student art show, a better location for the main stage, and new sponsorship offerings. Despite experiencing a tornado and a freeze on the first day of the festival, Sunday was beautiful, and we had a great turnout.
- **Art Everywhere**, a collaboration among local artists, the Arts Council, the Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, and businesses in Hernando County, was launched in 2021. The program made significant strides in 2022 with five installations and more than 24 pieces of art placed across the county. SenOiH Glass, our first partner, is displaying glasswork at



Caffe Connection. Other pairings are as follows: Watercolorist Kathy Schemmel's works are displayed at NAMI Hernando, and Main Springs Pilates and Wellness. Artwork from photographer Joan Lobianco, painter Guy Kyar, watercolorist Diane Ziemiski, and quilt artist Susan Lumsden is displayed at Hernando County Public Works, Nicole Weeden displayed her work at Crumbled Cookie, and Deborah Nicholson displayed her work at Nautilus Soap Shop.

- **Front Porch Art Walk:** Thanks to Council member Diane Greenwell, we entered into a new partnership to support the monthly Front Porch Art Walk events in Hernando Beach.
- **Art Stroll:** The Brooksville Main Street annual Art & Wine Stroll features 15+ artists & locations sharing local talent and quality works of art. In 2022, the Arts Council became more involved in helping secure new artists, volunteering, and spreading the word about this engaging event.

- **Mobile Murals:** We continue to partner on Brooksville Main Street's Mobile Mural Program, inviting muralists to paint canvas murals, which are displayed in Hernando Park, then hung in several locations around the city of Brooksville before being auctioned. This project infuses beauty and vibrancy into the Community and generates support to artists. In 2022, the program paid artists \$22,000 to create 47 new mobile murals. In addition to monetary sponsorship, the Arts Council supports



this project by promoting the call to artists to our extensive artist list and providing volunteers.

- **Gallery 201:** Gallery 201 at Brooksville City Hall provides an ideal location for local and regional artists to display their work. Gallery 201 hosts new exhibits throughout the year, each introduced by a reception drawing visitors from Hernando County and surrounding areas. Working closely with the Art Gallery Curator Pedram Moghaddam (also the Arts Council Vice Chair) and city staff, we work to make each reception unique. These events are always free and open to the public and offer live entertainment as well as light refreshments.
- **Art on Fire:** We promoted and participated in the City of Brooksville's Art on Fire program, inviting artists to decorate fire hydrants in downtown Brooksville. Fourteen were completed in 2022, with more planned for 2023.
- **Mermaid Tale Trail:** In collaboration with Florida's Adventure Coast Visitors Bureau, Brooksville Main Street, and local artists, we have partnered to create The Mermaid Tale Trail to honor the 75th anniversary of Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, home to the world-famous mermaids. The Mermaid Tale Trail comprises 27 mermaid statues throughout Hernando County. Mermaid statues grace streets in Brooksville, Hernando Beach, and Spring Hill.







## Arts in Education (AIE)

Initiative Lead:  
Alison **Papantoniou**

## Purpose

To engage more children in the arts to improve their developmental and academic success.

## Arts in Education Grants

AIE Grants are offered to arts educators working in K—12 classrooms in Hernando County Schools. The purpose of this grant program is to support arts educators in delivering and promoting arts experiences for students.

In the 2022—2023 school year, the Arts Council awarded 6 grants totaling **\$2,269.82** and HCEF matched \$1,740.08 for a total of **\$4,010** to support Hernando County art teachers in the following schools:



Mural at Entirety K—12 created through AIE Grant

 entirety**K12**



## Accomplishments

- In 2022, the Arts Council began a new partnership with the Hernando County Education Foundation (HCEF) to distribute its Arts in Education (AIE) grants. In addition to managing the grants, HCEF matches the grant funds we approve for public and charter schools as its budget allows.
- The Arts Council also funds grants to private schools and, new this year, offers grants to schools that don't have art programs by allowing the school's administrator to apply in lieu of an art teacher.



## Art Mark

The Council's Art Mark program offered affordable summer classes for grades K—12 for nine weeks in the summer of 2022. The unique art classes included mural painting, dance, character design, culinary, and Anime. In addition, one week was devoted to STEAM Art (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and

Math), and was taught by a different Arts Council member each day. Our interactive classes are designed to increase students' interest in various art mediums, expand art perspectives, and provide affordable art education for students. In 2022, we doubled our registrations, reaching more than 120 kids. Because the Arts Council received a grant from the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, prices for the classes remained affordable, and the artists who taught the classes received payment for their time and talent.





## Fundraising

Initiative Leads:

Mike **Dolan** & Linda **Allen**

## Purpose

To expand our financial resources to fund programs that promote the arts and improve our capability, sustainability, and efficiency as an organization

## Accomplishments

- The 37th Annual Art in the Park was held the second weekend of March 2022. We launched the Children's Experience to inspire creativity for kids ages 3—11 and this was made possible by the participation of more than 30 local nonprofits. To bolster attendance, the 38th Annual Art in the Park plans to add more interactive components like mural creation and a live glass-blowing demonstration. Additional sponsorship levels were added as well.
- Grant writer Dr. Lori Romano is under contract to provide support for future grant opportunities.
- HCFAC received a \$22,300 Culture Build's Florida grant from the Florida Division of Arts and Culture to support Art in the Park and a \$15,000 grant from the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation for Art Mark.

Several fundraising ideas in addition to events are being explored for 2023: improving our donate page, setting up an annual gifting program, exploring an online fundraising activity, and updating our donation opportunities to include individuals who want to support our mission and provide a stable income stream.



## Facilities

Initiative Lead:  
**Mike Dolan**

## Purpose

To provide and/or acquire a flexible arts programming space to showcase the arts in Hernando County.

## Accomplishments

- The Facilities Team continues to explore opportunities for flexible programming space to be used for offices, classes, workshops, small performances, art shows, and other art-related activities.
- True to our mission of supporting all the arts in Hernando County as well as to our consultant's recommendation for us to build audiences and participation in the arts, we have worked hard to foster relationships with arts organizations and individual artists who provide classes in the arts. We promote these classes and programs.
- We offer free advertising for local art events and opportunities to help meet community needs until we have a facility of our own.



## Public Art

Initiative Lead:  
Pedram **Moghaddam**

### Purpose

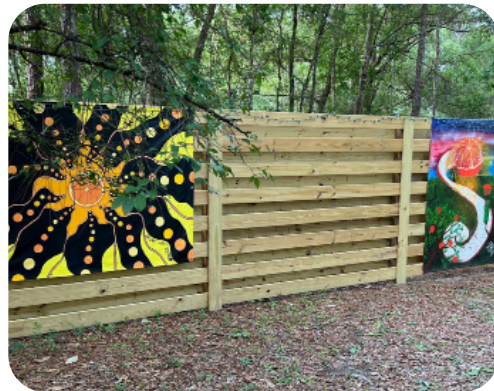
To develop a master plan for public art in Hernando County & provide permanent public art installations throughout in Hernando County.

### Accomplishments

- **Mermaid Tale Trail:** In 2022, the Arts Council played a key role in organizing and presenting the county's first Public Art Project—The Tale Trail! In partnership with Florida's Adventure Coast and Brooksville Main Street, the project was created to celebrate the 75th Anniversary at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. A mermaid sculpture trail was designed to cover the whole of Florida's Adventure Coast, from the rural countryside in Brooksville to the coastal community of Hernando Beach, FL. Each of the six-foot tall statues is hand-painted by an artist who calls Florida home and has a unique tale to tell. The Tale Trail was presented to the public on January 12, 2023.
- **Art On Fire:** In 2022, the Arts Council partnered with the City of Brooksville and the Brooksville Fire Department to present Art on Fire. Artists are permitted to "adopt" fire hydrants within the corporate limits of Brooksville and create artistic designs for them. The goal of this program is to embrace the artistic talents of local individuals while displaying creative artwork throughout the community. The Arts Council hopes to one day see this program span the county.



- **Art Everywhere** continues to expand and bring art to the public eye. New in 2022, Brooksville Main Street graciously provided Mobile Murals for use of the Art Everywhere program, bringing more murals to Hernando County.
- **Nature Heals:** Planning for Nature Heals began in 2022. The project will use local artists' work to wrap utility boxes at intersections in Spring Hill. The art project is organized by the Hernando County Fine Arts Council and highlights the restorative power of nature on the human spirit, wellness, healing, and rejuvenation. This project is funded by the Florida Department of Health in Hernando County through an Overdose Data to Action grant (OD2A) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The call to artists went live in March 2023. The publicity for this installation will include traditional media, social media, events, and publicity, and will include resources and references to OD2A in Hernando County.



# Financial Highlights

The Council has traditionally relied on Art in the Park to provide the bulk of our operating funds. Because of the pandemic, reduced attendance at the 2020 Art in the Park event, the cancelation of 2021 Art in the Park, and the cancelation

of a planned 2021 fall gala resulted in a projected loss of about \$40,000. Prudent management in prior years provided a reserve that was bolstered by the sale of two lots bequeathed to the Council.

## Grants Received



# Financial Summary

Hernando County Fine Arts Council is on a Fiscal Year budget and accounting calendar that runs from October 1st to September 30th of the following year. The Hernando County Fine Arts Council's financial picture going forward is strong with the following 2021-2022 year-end balances:

Assets	
Operating Account	13,854.14
Reserve Account	10,256.01
License Tag Account	6,836.23
<b>Funds Available for Operations*</b>	<b>30,946.38</b>
Investment Account (MMA)	50,327.65
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>81,274.03</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$81,274.03
Net Operating Income	\$6,980.82
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$88,254.85</b>

\*As of Fiscal Year-end September 30, 2022

# Thank you

to our generous donors

Because of your generosity, we have made great strides in our mission to encourage, promote, and support all the creative arts in Hernando County. We thank you all equally for your support.

*We strive for an error-free list. If we made a mistake, omitted you entirely, or you don't wish to be listed in the future, we apologize. Please contact us to let us know.*

## Donors

### Up to \$1,000

Kiwanis

### Up to \$500

Brooksville Rotary  
Blick  
Publix  
Target

### Up to \$100

Dolan, Michael  
Hill, Cheryl  
Cross, Milton  
Crouse, Mary  
Network for Good  
Nolen, Michael  
McElroy, Carol  
TisBest Philanthropy  
Everett, Judy

## Sponsors

### Over \$1,000

Southwest Florida Water  
Management District  
Lokey Suburu of Port Richey  
EliteCare Health Centers  
Family Chiropractic

### Up to \$750

Luigi's Pizza

### Up to \$500

Air Source Heating & Cooling  
Briybag Law  
Coastal Engineering  
Associates, Inc  
Eye Center  
Anonymous  
Publix  
Putnam, Beth

### Up to \$100

Browning Insurance  
Cavallaro, Maureen

## In Kind

### Up to \$6,000

Roots Creative Co.

### Up to \$1,000

Jesse Simon Videography  
Clovis Dean Rusk

### Up to \$600

Nature Coaster

### Up to \$150

Cristina Stenstrom  
Signs By Connie

# A Special Thank You to Our Council Members & Staff

## Executive Committee

Allisa Babor  
HCFAC Chair & Projects  
and Partnerships Chair

Pedram Moghaddam  
HCFAC Vice Chair &  
Public Art Chair

Cheryl Hill  
Treasurer & Community Arts  
Grant Chair & Art in the Park  
Exhibitor Coordinator

Alison Papantoniou  
Secretary & Arts in  
Education Chair

## Council Members & Staff

Linda Allen  
Fundraising Chair

Michael Dolan  
Council Member

Max Grey  
Council Member

Diane Greenwell  
Outreach & Advocacy Chair

Isaiah Haddon  
AIR Entertainment  
Coordinator

Jessica Knutilla  
HCFAC Administrative  
Assistant & MMP Coordinator

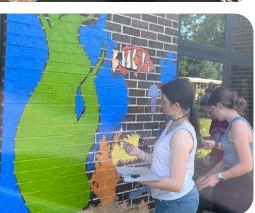
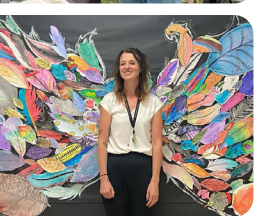
Nina Mattei  
Strategic Planning Chair &  
Art Everywhere &  
Nature Heals Chair

Nidia Pierre  
Council Member

Judy Polatschek  
Palais  
Council Member

Autum Proctor  
Council Member

Beth Putnam  
HCFAC Chair Emeritus &  
Children's Experience Chair



We need your help

The Hernando County Fine Arts Council needs you.

[www.hernandoarts.org](http://www.hernandoarts.org)

*We are continuously working to create new art-related experiences, opportunities, and resources for artists and lovers of the arts. To do so, we need your generous support.*

## Donate

Consider donating to directly support our programs and art offerings. Consider monetary gifts or gifts of art or in-kind donations for services and support that you or your business organization may provide. Your funds will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission. Most importantly, through your contributions, you have the opportunity to transform the lives of artists, residents, and visitors of Hernando County by helping shape and support our art community.

## Advocate

Show your support for Hernando County Fine Arts Council by advocating for all that we do! You can do this by following us on social media and signing up for our newsletter, as well as sharing and liking our content on Facebook and Instagram. Help us grow public awareness by mobilizing friends, families, and community members to get involved with our programs, events, and partnerships, and recommend our services to artists and art-related businesses. Encourage others to become patrons in the arts!

## Volunteer

The Arts Council is made up of 15 volunteers and 1 administrative assistant. Outside of that, we lean on our dedicated volunteers to help us execute our mission and bring new projects and programs to life. Sign up to volunteer with us. Any member of the public is invited to our monthly meeting, taking place on the second Thursday of each month, and to join our committee meetings (date and time varies). If there is a specific program or initiative you are passionate about, we urge you to get in touch with us to learn more about how to get involved.





*fine* **arts** COUNCIL  
HERNANDO COUNTY

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