



CREATIVE PINELLAS

February 2021

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Activity Report

Next Up at Creative Pinellas: Expanding Waters Exhibit

Artists Carol Mickett and Robert Stackhouse, the 2020-2021 Creative Pinellas Artist Laureate, are behind the creation of *Expanding Waters*, which focuses on the issue of climate change and how it is impacting our waters. The exhibition opens March 17th and runs through June 13th, 2021. It is the aim of the artists to shed light on the devastating consequences of increased CO₂ in our environment and explore ways of mitigating the warming and, hence, expansion of our ocean waters. The exhibition will use both visual and performing art and involve social engagement, to raise public consciousness around this critical issue and inspire positive action for our oceans. A large-scale installation suspended from the ceiling at the center of the gallery, will become the setting for live performances of theater, dance, and literature, focused on the theme of the show. *Expanding Waters* will also include a Thought Experiment room where attendees can share their thoughts and renderings of their observations and solutions.



2021-2022 Professional Artist Grantees

Creative Pinellas is pleased to announce the 2021 Professional Artist Grant recipients: Cecilia Lueza, David Manson, Donald Gialanella, Gloria Muñoz, Helen French, Kaitlin Murphy-Knudsen, Kenny Jensen, Sarah Gerard, Takeya Trayer, and Tenea Johnson. This is the sixth cycle of the Professional Artist Grant, awarded annually to Pinellas County artists of outstanding talent and ability who, with a history of increasingly successful work on the local, national, or international stage, bring recognition, awareness, and interest to our community, and inspire other artists and art lovers. Professional Artist Grants are designed to support and sustain Pinellas County's creative community and to enhance the County as an arts and cultural destination. Grantees blog weekly, participate in artist conversations and workshops, write in Creative Pinellas' online magazine, and are invited to show work at the Creative Pinellas Arts Annual, which will be in its fourth year and the Arts Annual BTW program that places work in area hotels and will be in its third year.

Helen French has been chosen as the 2021 Artist Laureate. A native of St. Pete and graduate of Gibbs High School Pinellas County Center for the Arts, French received her BFA from The Juilliard School and was a dancer with the prestigious Buglisi Dance Theatre in New York City. French is committed to arts education and developing the next generation of artists. Throughout the grant period, she will partner and collaborate Creative Pinellas to share her experience, expertise, and energies to advance the arts community in Pinellas County.



Arts Navigator

The interactive digital project, that allows visitors to put together an arts and cultural itinerary designed especially for them, continues to move forward. The Software Engineering Firm SourceToad, that specializes in developing applications for the tourism industry, is under contract with regular meetings with Creative Pinellas staff.

SPACEcraft

SPACEcraft brings creativity into an active environment, sharing hands-on art experiences inside of two converted shipping containers. Both instructor-led and self-guided programs on the themes of Make, Play, Read, and Grow invites people to interact and create together. SPACEcraft travels throughout the county with new stops every eight weeks. In February, the cities of Seminole and Palm Harbor served as hosts. With an Average of 60 visitors per week, SPACEcraft data is recording zipcodes from Tallahassee, Opa-Locka, Spring Hill, Brooksville and New Port Richey.



Gialanella in the Gardens

In partnership with the Florida Botanical Gardens (FBG), Gialanella in the Gardens continues to draw visitors. Sculptor Don Gialanella's welded assemblage sculptures, created from discarded steel objects, are artfully displayed in the lush settings throughout the Gardens. Given the setting, the exhibit has been open to the public since March 2020 and will be featured through March 2021. The Virtual Tour has been featured on the Creative Pinellas Arts In programming as well as on FBG's Social Media.

GIALANELLA IN THE GARDENS

Currently on Exhibit at the Florida Botanical Gardens

12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774
Hours: 7am - 5pm



Virtual Events

February marked the return of the popular Arts In program, *Beauty & the 'Burg* and introduced the 2021-2022 Creative Pinellas Emerging Artist Grantees. Shows are all broadcast live on Facebook, then featured as a part of the Creative Pinellas Arts In platform, available to viewers all over. Each event title below is linked to the Facebook Live video.

[Beauty and the 'Burg: February 12](#)



This month's topic, "Hearts in the Arts" was a tribute to Valentine's Day with conversation with husband/wife duo, fine artist Steven Kenny and psychologist turned visual artist, Diohn Brancaleoni. 52 attendees tuned in with the video viewed 204 times to date. Beauty & the 'Burg is a monthly series produced by Creative Pinellas hosted by Cindy Stovall, who welcomes guests and focuses on interesting and trending topics in the arts and culture space. Beauty & the 'Burg is a collaboration with the Arts In platform, bringing Pinellas County artists to your home.

[Press on Beauty & the Burg: duPont Registry](#)

[Friend of a Friend: Zulu Painter & Reid Jenkins: February 18](#)

A monthly interview series from Creative Pinellas drawing connections between artists, inspirations, friends and mentors, showcasing the individuals that together make a creative community. Each month an artist interviews another artist in Pinellas County that has been an inspiration to them. The next month the interviewee becomes the interviewer, speaking with a Pinellas artist that has inspired them in turn. This month, painter, muralist and public artist Carlos Culbertson interviewed painter and muralist, Reid Jenkins. 79 people joined in on the conversation, including attendees from Arkansas, with the video viewed 179 times to date.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ARTISTS



Carlos Culbertson
(aka Zulu Painter)

Thursday, February 18th 7-8pm
Live at Facebook.com/creativepinellas/live



Reid Jenkins

[Conversation with Emerging Artist Grantees: February 25](#)

Emerging Artist Grants are designed to assist artists early in their career with the tools to make the leap to their next step as professional artists. The program is a vehicle for supporting and showcasing innovative and exciting work, contributing to the expansion of Pinellas County's status as a vibrant arts and cultural destination. The 2021 Creative Pinellas Emerging Artist Grantees are Tatiana Baccari, Chelsea Catherine, Nick Davis, Nikki Devereux, John Gascot, Mason Gehring, Gabriella Krousaniotakis, Yuly Restrepo, Sara Ries, and Emily Stehle. This exciting group of artists working in theater, filmmaking, poetry, fiction, and visual art are currently blogging about their grantee experience and creating new work to premier at an exhibition that opens July 14. 52 viewers learned more about their process, their work, and their challenges connected to the conversation through the Creative Pinellas Facebook page with the video viewed 267 times to date.

FEBRUARY 25TH, 7-8:30PM



Emerging Artist Conversation



Arts and Culture Outreach Key Meetings/Events

Feb 4: Shaping St. Petersburg's Comprehensive Arts Strategy Focus Group

Feb 8: Meeting with Heritage Village

- Discussed partnerships with their First Thursdays Music Series

Feb 10: Meeting with Jerri Menaul, World Innovation & Creativity Week

- Discussed involvement with 2021 program

Feb 11 Meeting with Aileen Carey, City of Largo

- Discussed City of Largo partnerships

Feb 11: Meeting with Bryan Volitan, Dunedin Arts & Culture Committee Member

- Discussed Arts & Hotel partnerships and attending Feb Council Meeting

Feb 17: TDC Meeting

Feb 17: [Suncoast Tiger Bay Club's Changemakers Event](#)

- Served as a panelist on Celebrating the Arts & Culture of St. Pete's Black Community

Feb 19: Youth Art Month Planning Meeting

Feb 23: Clearwater Arts Alliance Meeting

- Discussed Clearwater Art Walks on every 3rd Saturday at 10:30 AM & 4:00PM

Feb 26: Dunedin Arts & Culture Committee

- Discussed potential public art & hotel/condo partnerships

Arts In

Arts In, the new video platform, continues to showcase close to 200 Artists, Arts Organizations and Arts and Culture experiences in Pinellas County. This one stop source of high-quality online arts and cultural experiences developed by the creative community-be it music, theatre or opera performances, gallery tours, artist talks, literary readings, and film-on the platform.



The Arts Coast Journal Magazine

Under the leadership of managing editor, Sheila Cowley (playwright, writer/producer of the Shine Mural Tour app and multiple Dali Museum audio tours), the Creative Pinellas Magazine, *The Arts Coast Journal* has covered a range of visual, performing and literary arts in the County. A special coverage section, called Experiencing Art in Times of Social Distancing was developed in rapid response to COVID-19 closures. At the end of 2020, a new section Art That Makes You Feel Like Celebrating debuted. And this month, a new quarterly creative writing series called The Rookery was launched. Other February highlighted articles include:

- [The Dalí's Innovation Labs – Where Creativity is Serious Business](#)
- [The St. Pete Arts Alliance Imagines a New Future as John Collins Retires](#)
- [Autistic Teen Thrives as Pinellas County Center for the Arts Piano Major](#)
- [A Conversation with Poet Bernice Willis](#)

February Web & Social Media

Web Site

- Users: 6184
- Page Views: 12,041

Twitter

- New Followers: 35
- Impressions: 5785
- Engagements: 40
- Total Followers: 3536

Facebook

- New Fans: 44
- Post Impressions: 33136
- Post & Page Engagements: 2100
- Total Fans: 5411

Instagram

- New Fans: 63
- Impressions: 9019
- Total Fans: 3,888