

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is an honor to have been elected president of Arts Advocates.

Arts Advocates has its roots in the Sarasota art scene pre and post WWII. Thanks to John Ringling having started an art school (and mostly glorious weather), painters flocked here to study, enjoy the beaches, the scenery, and the comradery of other painters. They created and left a legacy. It is this legacy of the Sarasota Art Colony.

In the short five years I've lived here, I've seen enormous change in our city. Change is inevitable but I don't think it should totally erase the past. Fifty-five years ago, some prescient Sarasotans decided the same thing. They sought to capture and preserve our Colony Art – the art that had defined our city since the 1930s. They formed the Fine Arts Society and purchased representative art. A few years ago, we changed our name to "Arts Advocates" to indicate that we broadened our scope to embrace all the arts and, consequently, today, with an expanded collection, we are part of Sarasota's thriving art community.

Arts Advocates reaches into the community in many ways: we conduct talks and tours with artists and art historians; we display artwork

in our Gallery; we have monthly luncheons in season that highlight our broad and diverse art scene; and we award scholarships to Sarasota and Manatee County undergraduates studying art – visual, performing arts, creative writing, and architecture. I see it as my responsibility to Arts Advocates to stay true to this mission.

I hope you will continue to join us as we continue to grow, diversify, and connect with the arts.

Carole Schwartz, President





The new Arts Advocates Board of Directors was introduced at our April luncheon.

(L-R) Bill Rusling, Vice President; Sharon Saatsoglou, Corresponding Secretary; Carole Schwartz, President; Evelyn Levin, Recording Secretary; Elaine Foster, Treasurer.

Outgoing President
Jeannette Paladino
was gifted a beautiful jade
and pearl necklace created
by member artist Judy
Levine.



Raffle Winner

Member artist Chris Butcher donated one of her favorite paintings, a delightful take on Renoir's "The Boating Party," for our April raffle. Priscilla Adams was the lucky winner, shown on the right with Chris.

Jeffery Kin informed and entertained the Arts Advocates audience at our April luncheon as he shared his plans and progress toward the development of an annual weeklong arts festival. "Living Arts Festival Sarasota" is set to launch in November 2024.



Arts Advocates Awards \$38,500 in Scholarships to 11 Local Students

Arts Advocates has awarded \$3,500 scholarships to each of 11 Sarasota and Manatee county students for the 2023-2024 year. Since 1969, the scholarship program has awarded over \$1.1 million to students whose studies include visual and related arts, dance, writing, music, theater and architecture. They will be presented at the May luncheon. They will be presented at the May luncheon.” (See their bios at end of newsletter).
May 18, from 12pm to 1:30pm.



[REGISTER HERE.](#) 

We are grateful for the generosity of all our donors, in particular these named scholarships to five returning scholars:

Colin Leonard: *The Fred Endrizzi Scholarship donated in his memory by Joan Endrizzi.*

Lillian Fox: *The Pat Golemme Scholarship*

John Quigley: *The Pat Taylor Scholarship*

Danny Bo Delongaig: *The Debra Altshul - Stark and Brian Stark Scholarship*

Emma Pritchett: *The Fred Endrizzi Scholarship donated in his memory by Nancy Stukenberg*

MEMBER ARTIST

ALICE SUNDSTROM

MAY 6-27 | 2:00-4:00PM

In her show titled “A Journey to Places Unknown” at the Arts Advocates Gallery, Alice invites you to leave behind what you think to be true. Fasten your seatbelt and begin a journey through a world that transforms and strains the boundaries of your current reality as you create an experience that is uniquely yours.



“My art encourages people to exercise their imaginations. We are innately imaginative beings, but that imagination can diminish over time if it is not nurtured and exercised,”

Alice spent her career as an award-winning graphic designer and art director and taught art and graphic design classes part-time.

Now based in Sarasota, Alice devotes much of her time to painting and drawing. She continues to win awards, but for artworks that are very different from the works she created as a commercial artist. She uses a combination of watercolor and colored pencils to create imagery that uniquely blends imagination and reality.

Her artwork is included in numerous private collections can be viewed at www.hawkinscourtstudio.com.



BEHIND THE CURTAIN: EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE

MAY 16TH | 1:30-3PM

Step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide will give you a peek behind the curtain to learn about the many hands that create the Van Wezel's shows. You will see the ropes and pulleys that "fly" the scenery on and off the stage, the movable orchestra pit, dressing room, and loading dock where traveling shows back up their 18-wheelers to move their shows onto the stage. All the while you'll be dazzled by stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

Tours begin in the main lobby and cost \$15 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Van Wezel box office or by calling **(941) 263-6799**. Private group tours can be arranged by calling **(941) 955-7676**. Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/outreach programs.

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15



Azara Ballet on Stage

MAY 19, 2023 | 4:00PM

Azara Ballet is a nonprofit professional dance company creating classical and contemporary works for the Sarasota/Manatee community. Its focus is to change ballet culture for the better with mental and emotional wellness through the lens of dance by encouraging body positivity and unique individuality.

Founders Kate Flowers and Martin Roosaare started this organization with the goal of uplifting people through dance. Kate was unable to pursue her dream career as a

professional dancer. The unhealthy aspects that sometimes exist within ballet culture led her to suffer from eating disorders that turned into drug abuse by age 16. After a decade without dance, she focused on recovery and now, fully dedicated to Azara Ballet, she has fulfilled her lifelong desire to dance professionally, to change the ballet narrative for the better, and to inspire others to never give up on their dreams.

Martin has danced for the last 20+ years with over a decade of accomplishment in his professional career. After being diagnosed with autism at age 28, he was able to reflect on the many struggles he faced as a young, undiagnosed child. He now attributes much of his success and happiness to the structure and discipline of ballet and its ability to be a non-verbal form of expression.

Kate and Martin are passionate about being inclusive and representative of the LGBTQ+ and neurodivergent communities through their outreach programs as well as bringing arts education to the community in a revolutionary, body positive and mentally healthy way.

Learn about this new company and the incredible impact they are making in the Sarasota community.

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key Mall

Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members



[REGISTER HERE.](#) 

Art Talk: KINSEY ROBB - SUPPORTING THE VISUAL ART MARKET IN SARASOTA

JUNE 23, 2023 | 4-6PM

Kinsey Robb is the executive director of Art Center Sarasota. As one of Sarasota's oldest cultural organizations, Art Center Sarasota has a rich history and connection with both artists and the public. The organization started in 1926 as the Sarasota Art Association, a gathering place for artists and art lovers.

Kinsey comes to the art center with over 15 years of experience working with emerging, mid-career, and established artists. She has worked with studios, blue chip galleries in NYC, museums, and academics within the visual and performing arts industry.

Her goals for Art Center Sarasota are boosting their visibility while maintaining current members and attracting others through the kind of community engagement that has long been a mainstay of Art Center Sarasota – the juried show. She also wants to expand on the center's bustling education programs and classes.

With her knowledge of the industry, we look forward to learning about Sarasota's art market and how we can all support the visual arts that are essential to the art ecosystem..



Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, Crossings at Siesta Mall

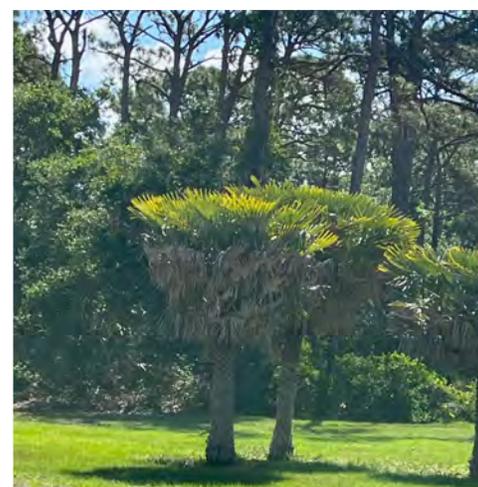
Cost: \$20 members/\$25 non-members

[REGISTER HERE.](#)





Five visionary artists who are building communities of artists to showcase their art works were panelists at a recent Art Talk in the Arts Advocates Gallery. Representing Creative Liberties, Sarasota Studio Artists Association and Palmer Modern are, from left: Judy Levine, Barbara Gerdeman, Elizabeth Goodwin, Craig Palmer, and moderator Stephenie Frasher.



Arts Advocates members and guests enjoyed an educational tour of the Elling O. Eide Center. This research library and nature preserve, with dozens of rare bushes and trees, is dedicated to the study of classical Chinese literature and art.

GALLERY ARTIST **COSETTE KOSIBA**

Member Artist
Cosette Kosiba
during her gallery
opening
and reception.





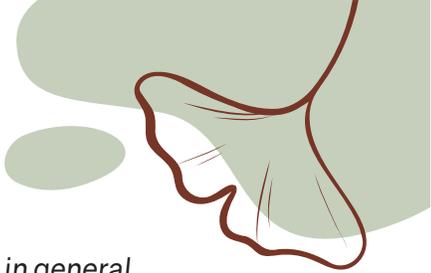
Arts Advocates members visited the home-studio of painter Gudrun Newman

DONATE TO DESIGNING WOMEN FOR ARTS ADVOCATES

Doing spring cleaning and discarding those serving dishes you don't need and the clothes you know you'll never wear again? Please consider donating them to the Designing Women Boutique. Arts Advocates is a member of its Groundworks program. We receive 60% of the income from the sale of items our members donate. This can include women's clothing and accessories, jewelry, furniture, rugs, glassware, decorative items like lamps and mirrors, plus home goods like dishes, crystal, vases, and silver flatware.

Please be sure to mention that your donation is for the benefit of Arts Advocates. Thank you!





Thank you

Arts Advocates members, and the Sarasota arts community in general, owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jeannette Paladino. She jumped in to lead our organization in the throes of the pandemic. Jeannette brought her marketing skills to Arts Advocates and consequently helped raise its profile in the community at a time when Sarasota – and the world – had shut down.

Bolstered by her passion for the arts, we have benefited from her many innovations. Jeannette worked to preserve a piece of Sarasota history – the outstanding art of the Sarasota Colony. We own the only significant collection of Colony artists in the world.

She is eager to learn and to experience all she can. And most of all, she is indefatigable in her quest to connect the community with the arts. But she isn't going anywhere. She will continue to support Arts Advocates in her role as Past President.



Arts Advocates 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Danny Bó Delongaig

Danny is a two-time recipient of an Arts Advocates scholarship. He is entering his senior year at Baldwin Wallace University where he is majoring in music theatre. In a letter of recommendation, Danny's directing teacher stated, "[He] can work with both

his head and his heart, and express himself with creativity and fearlessness." Upon graduating, Danny plans to audition in New York City.



Colin Leonard

This is Colin's third award of an Arts Advocates scholarship. He will enter his junior year at Oberlin Conservatory of Music studying for a degree in music with a minor in environmental studies. Colin's goal is to improve the world by combining musical performance,

teaching, and composing with his passion for conservation.



Lillian Fox

Lillian is receiving her second Arts Advocates scholarship. She will be a sophomore at the University of South Florida where she is pursuing a double major in studio arts and dance performance. When she graduates in 2026, she plans to audition for ballet and modern

dance companies while continuing her passion for the visual arts.



Wilderley ("Will") Mauricette

Will, who is majoring in film, will enter his senior year at Ringling College of Art + Design this fall. He received a first-place award at a recent film festival as an emerging filmmaker. Will is one of very few students

that completed a full-length feature film ("Monopoly Money") while attending school fulltime. His film was shown at the Sarasota Film Festival and other film festivals around the world.



Maria Medina

Maria discovered her passion for music at an early age in Cuba. Maria graduated from Florida State College at the top of the music program. In spring 2022, she won the FSC Piano Division. Maria wants to integrate Hispanic musical roots in the areas of film scoring and music for media. Her dream is to work on a movie soundtrack.





Emma Pritchett

Emma, a two-time recipient of an Arts Advocates scholarship, is studying at the University of South Florida's School of Architecture. This spring, for her final design course, she produced a mock World Expo pavilion and a musical dome. Emma is particularly interested in

being a role model for young girls to enter the field of architecture.



Mehak Sandhu

Mehak, a graduate of the Booker High School Visual & Performing Arts Program, plans to enter college this fall to major in fine arts. Mehak is focused on the marketing and business side of art and looks forward to creating an online presence in the art world. Her goal is to use

social media to market her work and eventually have her own studio.



Noelle Prouty

Noelle is interested in studying how art influences our understanding of nature. In the fall of 2023, she will enter her sophomore year at the University of Florida Honors College majoring in art and biology. She plans to pursue a career in medical or biological illustration,

perhaps in a museum, hospital, botanic garden, university, or research setting.



Samantha Tanelli

Samantha will enter college in the fall to major in fine arts and illustration. She plans to write and illustrate children's books. Samantha's goal is to inspire people to explore their emotions, reduce anxiety, increase self-esteem, and resolve

conflicts they may be experiencing.



John Quigley

This is John's second year as an Arts Advocates scholarship awardee. John is a military veteran who will enter his junior year at the Ringling College of Art + Design majoring in illustration/digital art, preparing for a career as a concept/storyboard artist. Within his body of work

are pieces that encapsulate moments in time from his military service.



Danae Tran

Danae, who graduated from Booker High School, will major in violin performance. Danae has attended FSU's Music Camp, Sewanee Summer Musica Festival in Tennessee, and the Brevard Summer Institute in North Carolina. At the age of 10, Danae was

selected to participate in the Perlman Suncoast Super Strings Program. Danae hopes to become a member of a prestigious orchestra.

JOIN OUR SEARCH!

THE DREAM

When our founding members began collecting art by Florida artists, they envisioned establishing a special museum to house the collection. In the interim, the Van Wezel and the City of Sarasota generously provided an exhibit space until a museum-style facility became a reality.

The addition of the gallery in the Crossings at Siesta Mall was one step toward realizing this dream. However, Arts Advocates must continue its efforts to interest a foundation, investor, or philanthropist in purchasing or donating a building they own where we may preserve, house, and exhibit this historic and unique collection.

CURRENTLY

In May of last year, The Benderson Corporation purchased the mall where our Arts Advocates Gallery is located. Benderson has not been forthcoming about their future plans for this property, and we are leasing gallery space on a month-to-month basis.

THE FUTURE

The Board of Directors has formed a team to research locations where we might have a long-term lease. We are asking all our members to participate in this search for available properties that meet our requirements. If you have suggestions or recommendations concerning gallery space, please contact Donna Maytham at pavlova03@comcast.net.

- Preferably Centrally Located
- 1,800-2,000 Square Feet of Space
- Adequate Wall Space for Hanging Art
- Air conditioned
- Appropriate For Meetings
- Ample Parking
- Rent/Utilities \$1,500-\$2,000 a Month
- Long-Term Lease

NEW LEADER FOR ARTISTS EXHIBITS

Our well-received member artist exhibits at the Arts Advocates Gallery will continue into next year. Elisabeth (Liz) Trostli is managing this program. Please contact Liz at etrostli50@gmail.com if you are an artist and would like to be considered for this program.



Joan Golub
Editor-in-Chief
joan@artsadvocates.org