

# **Executive Director Report February 2019-September 2019**

Enriching life in Northeast Florida by investing in Arts and Culture

#### WHO WE ARE

- ➤ The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is *your* Local Arts Agency.
- Our role is leading, engaging, advocating, and partnering to support and develop the arts and cultural industries.
- We are working to sustain the health and vitality of arts and cultural organizations, while also providing services to artists, organizations, and communities to make the arts and culture accessible to all.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **Strategy 1: Financial Support**



The **Public Art Program** is being positioned to provide consultations and full project management services not only to the city as legislated by the Art in Public Places (APP) ordinance, but to other public and private interests, as well. These projects outside of those funded by APP will earn income in FY2019-2020 and beyond for the Cultural Council through administrative fees for project administration and management. One such project is currently underway. A piece called Laura's Flower is an aluminum sculpture named after the daughter of Jacksonville founder Isaiah D. Hart, for whom Laura Street was named.

The **Cultural Service Grants** saw an uptick in funding: the Mayor's approved FY2019-2020 budget includes a modest increase of 7% or \$200K. The majority of these dollars will be distributed to the 27 eligible arts and cultural organizations, with \$25K to be awarded to other organizations in a new program.

The 43rd Annual Arts Awards celebrated the arts and showcased the creativity and contributions of eight local individuals who have made their mark on supporting and creating art. Award winners included Christina Parrish Stone, Helen Lane Founders Award; Erin Kendrick, Art Educator of the Year Award; Hope McMath, Robert Arleigh White Award for Advocacy; Donald Bowden, The Art of Giving Award; Keith Marks, Art Innovator Award; Art Republic, Community Impact Award; Baptist Health/MD Anderson, Lifetime Service to the Arts; Ritz Theater and Lavilla Museum, Cultural Heritage Icon.

The **2019** Arts Awards netted approximately to \$50K to support the work of the Cultural Council. In the spirit of our theme LEAP and our new way of working through engagement and partnerships, the Cultural Council realized over \$65k in in-kind products and services donations from vendors such as Sight and Sound, Crop Creative Media, Manifest Distillery, Anthony's Catering, and Biscotti's.



Manifest Distillery is a tremendous partner of the Cultural Council. In collaboration with Brunet-Garcia Advertising, Manifest has designed a *Commedia Dell'Arte Artist Collector's Series* containing examples of the five distinct spirits created inhouse at Manifest Distilling, with bottle and case design that conveys the whimsical, satirical nature of 17th century Italian improvisational theater—the source from which all modern

theatrical character types were born. Featuring Hiromi Moneyhun, Elena Øhlander, Searing Limb, Chris Clark, and Cody William Wicker, these limited edition, five-bottle sets will be produced in a single run to be available exclusively from the Downtown Jacksonville Tasting Room. Proceeds from the series will benefit STAGE Fund, a local non-profit dedicated to the compensation of theatre professionals in Northeast Florida and the enrichment of Jacksonville's cultural landscape. A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the ongoing mission of the Cultural Council.

Jaguar Ticket Program – The Cultural Council is participating in the Jaguars Give and Go Program, a fundraising opportunity for local 501(c)3 organizations in NE Florida to get into the excitement of attending a Jaguars home game and raise funds at the same time! Through a generous donation from the Jaguars Foundation, the Cultural Council is utilizing its tickets as friend-raisers among organizations and artists that have strong partnership potential. The Cultural Council will earn over \$3,000 through this program.

#### **Strategy 2: Broaden Access to the Arts**

The Cultural Service Internship Program, in partnership with United Way, the Mayor's Youth at Work Program and Kids Hope Alliance, took place in June and July. Sixty Duval County high school students were placed by the Cultural Council in 24 arts, culture, community, and faith-based organizations around the city; 6 of those students interned with the Cultural Council. A video documenting a special videography internship with artist Princess Rashid has been produced. Cedric Lewis, Director of Finance, was instrumental in leading this program.

**LEAP** – Leading, Engaging, Activating, Partnering – was the theme of this year's arts celebration week in early September.

- Designed to engage the community, a series of Public Art Tours walking, bicycling, and by bus –
  were planned through partnerships with Friends of Hemming Park and Jacksonville Transportation
  Authority.
- State of the Arts: Creative Jacksonville, the day-long regional conference designed for arts and business professionals and planned in partnership with University of North Florida and MOCA-Jacksonville is centered on the theme of creativity for creative problem solving.
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arts Awards, recognizing and celebrating eight individuals who work to strengthen the arts and cultural industries in Jacksonville, was held on September 5 at the 841 Prudential building on the St. Johns River. Tickets were intentionally priced to ensure affordability and

inclusivity within the arts and cultural community. Sponsored by PNC Bank and billed as "the Academy Awards meets Project Runway", 250 art and culture lovers enjoyed cocktails by Manifest, edibles by Biscotti's and dancing into the night with DJ NickFresh. Twenty four one-of-a-kind bottles of Manifest vodka, designed and painted by notable Jacksonville artists, were featured and sold. Dolphins, courtesy of both Jacksonville University and the St. Johns River, made surprise appearances.

• The Artist Lecture Series, with the focus on Creativity in Education, featured three events with national speakers, drawing an audience of 75 attendees. Ten Vision Grants of \$1,000 each were granted to teachers and artists. Cedric Lewis, Director of Finance was instrumental in leading this program.

CCGJ public art was the featured banner during the September Thursday night game between the Jaguars and the Atlanta Falcons. 95 South, Quad City DJ's and 69 Boyz Performed.



**Strategy 3: Community Engagement** 

### **Public Art Program**

**Glenn Weiss** joined the Cultural Council in April as its Director of Public Art after more than thirty years assisting counties, cities, museums and community organizations to improve their civic spaces with public art. He has managed public art programs, including NYC's Time Square and has written several public art master plans, including Miami Beach. Glenn has taught architecture and urban planning at Florida Atlantic University and University of Washington. He holds a Master of Architecture from Columbia University in NYC. Glenn brings best practice, thoughtful planning, a collaborative spirit, and

timely execution to the Public Art program. Both the annual and five-year plans are under development.

Ronique Gibson has joined the Public Art Program as a Senior Public Art Project Manager. An architect by training, Ronique brings over a decade of experience as a practicing architect, along with unique experience in home design and staging, project management, and social media.

# Public Art Team Project Portfolio – Glenn Weiss, Ronique Gibson, and Ashley Wolfe:

- Cuba Hunter Park in progress
- Winton Drive and Legends Community Neighborhood in progress
- Yates Building Fountain (funded by City Parks) in progress
- Water Street Parking Garage (funded by DIA) in progress
- Urban Arts Projects (funded by DIA)



Four categories of public art include vinyl wrapped traffic signal cabinets (complete) sculptural bicycle racks (Duuval), 2-D art and outdoor sculpture (Jessie Smith Park in front of Florida Theater)

- Liberty Street/Coastline Drive re-installation
- Main Street Park planning stages
- The Courthouse planning stages

**Every Single Artist Lounge** hosted over 300 artists and art appreciators on the second Tuesday of every month at various locations around the city.

The **Chase Bank Artist in Residence** project placed three artists in corporate residencies where they help create a working environment rich with art, creativity, and non-traditional thinking.

**Expanding and building external relationships has resulted in the** CCGJ being "reintroduced" to over 100 organizations and businesses to include the Mayor and his staff, city council members, leaders of private businesses and non-profit foundations, the CEOs of the Cultural Service Grant organizations and board members. Old relationships were refreshed and new relationships formed. Many doors have been opened for the Cultural Council in Jacksonville; the Executive Director will build upon these relationships in the upcoming year.

Radio, television and newspaper interviews have been instrumental in spreading the word about the Cultural Council - Melissa Ross (WJCT), Angela Spears, I Heart Radio, Kent Justice (WJXT), Tenikka Hughes (WJAX) and the Jacksonville Business Journal.

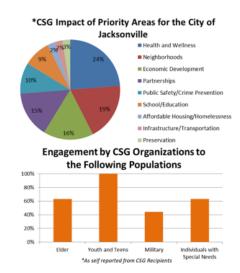
#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

## Cultural Service Grant Program - Amy Palmer, Director of Grants Administration .

Administered on behalf of the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council awarded \$2.5M of the city's Cultural Service Grant (CSG) funding to 27 arts and cultural organizations. These nonprofit arts and culture organizations are employers, producers, consumers and key promoters of Jacksonville. Most importantly, they are valuable contributors to the business community.

Having dinner and going to a show go hand-in-hand. Attendance at arts events generates income for Jacksonville business restaurants, parking garages, hotels, and retail stores. The Americans for the Arts state that an average arts attendee spends \$24.60 per event, not including the cost of admission. On the national level. these audiences provided \$74.1 billion of





valuable revenue for local merchants and their communities. As reported by 2018 CSG final reports.