

# Arts Council of Alachua County

March 3, 2025

5:30 pm

County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room

12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

Pages

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Introduction of New Member - Jacob Case**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes** 1
5. **4th Annual Artists Conference Discussion** 5
6. **National Endowment for the Arts Discussion** 9
7. **Call-to-Artist Update**
  - 7.1 **Animal Shelter**
  - 7.2 **Armory**
  - 7.3 **Court Complex**
  - 7.4 **EPD Conservation Lands Building**
  - 7.5 **Fire Station 21 Bronze Sculpture**
  - 7.6 **Fire Training**
  - 7.7 **Parking Garage**
  - 7.8 **Pleasant Street**
  - 7.9 **Poet Laureate**
8. **Public Comment**
9. **Adjournment**

## Arts Council of Alachua County

Date: February 3, 2025  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room  
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Christian Duran, Amy Koester (Vice Chair), David Morris, Queenchiku Ngozi, David Ruiz, Stephanie Silberman (Chair), and Carol Velasques Richardson

Members Absent: Jacob Case (Alternate)

### 2. Introduction of New Members - Christian Duran and Jacob Case

New member, Christian Duran, was welcomed and introduced himself. Jacob Case will be introduced at our next meeting.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Queenchiku Ngozi second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the Dec. 9, 2024 minutes as presented; Queenchiku Ngozi second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 5. 4th Annual Artists Conference Discussion

Eight (8) Call for Presentation forms were received. The consensus of the Council was to approve all submittals and invite Attorney McThenia to provide a session. A DRAFT schedule will be provided at the March meeting.

### 6. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Discussion

The Council discussed Artificial Intelligence including developing a definition and protecting the integrity of the County's Call to Artists process to ensure original works are submitted, ranked, and commissioned. The consensus was that Chair

Silberman would host a roundtable discussion at this year's Artists Conference on this topic to gather feedback from the arts community.

**7. National Endowment for the Arts Discussion**

The federal government is closely reviewing all expenditures. In an abundance of caution, staff requested the Council to consider an alternate funding plan recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners in the event we are notified that our National Endowment for the Arts grant funding was cut. David Ruiz made a motion to recommend funding a contingency plan in the case the federal government decides not to fund our \$30,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant. The top ranked grants, up to \$14,000 would be funded as follows:

Gainesville Community Playhouse - \$1,500

Gainesville Big Band - \$3,000

Spirit Led Therapy - \$3,000

1000 Voices of FL Inc - \$3,000

Star Center Children's Theatre - \$3,000

C Case - \$500

Amy Koester second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**8. Art Selection Procedure Review**

Our most recent Call to Artists have included the following language which is slightly in conflict with the Alachua County Code:

The Evaluation Team will review the submittals and recommend the top 2-3 artists to the Board of County Commissioners to be invited to develop a conceptual sketch of the mural. The selected artists will each be paid \$150 for their sketch. Sketches will be due within 30 calendar days of notification. The sketches will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final selection of the artist who will be commissioned to complete the mural. The Commission may also choose to reject all submissions and re-advertise the Call to Artists.

Sec. 29.04. Reserved Sec. 29.05. Art Selection Procedure.

The Alachua County Public Arts Program Citizens Advisory Committee ("the Committee") shall make a recommendation to the Board regarding each project. The Committee shall provide two alternatives to the recommendation. The Board may make the final selection from those options presented or any option upon its

own motion. The County Manager or designee shall be responsible for implementation of the Board's action.

Staff recommends requesting the Code be updated to state, "All art selections shall be made in accordance with the procedures contained in the Alachua County Procurement Manual."

David Ruiz made a motion to request the Code be updated as recommended; Amy Koester second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

## **9. Call-to-Artist Update**

### **9.1 Animal Shelter**

This is still on hold, pending a signed land lease with UF.

### **9.2 Armory**

The Commission just approved the contractor who will complete the building renovation.

### **9.3 Court Complex**

Leira Cruz Caliz reported that 10 submittals were received and provided scoring details to the evaluation team. Scores will be due at our March meeting.

### **9.4 EPD Conservation Lands Building**

This project is still on hold.

### **9.5 Fire Station 21 Bronze Sculpture**

The artist expects the sculpture to be delivered in May.

### **9.6 Fire Training**

The Board of County Commissioners selected Doya. He intends to complete the mural in March.

### **9.7 Parking Garage**

This project is still on hold.

### **9.8 Pleasant Street**

The consensus was to advertise this Call to Artists with the addition of an attestation, similar to the one used by *Visit Gainesville - Alachua County*, that their work is original.

**9.9 Poet Laureate**

The Call to Artists was reviewed. The consensus was to advertise through Procurement.

**10. Public Comment**

None

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.



## FOURTH ANNUAL ARTISTS CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

*"Where Nature and Culture Meet"*

Friday, April 25, 2025

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Extension Auditorium

22712 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL 32669

Name: Harley O'Neill / Kristin Kozelsky Reed / Tessa Skiles

Agency/Title: Spatially-Fed

Address: 303 ne 8th ave

City/State/Zip: Gainesville/FL/32601

Daytime Telephone: 3526810033

Email: hello@spatiallyfed.org

Please check one:

30 Minute Presentation

45 Minute Presentation

60 Minute Presentation

Session Title: Early-Stage Community-Centered Research for the Sarah's Sweetwater Greenway Loop

Brief Description of Proposed Session (2-3 sentences):

This early-stage community-centered research investigates the feedback gathered during the Sarah's Sweetwater Greenway Festival, an event hosted by Spatially-Fed to engage residents in the development of a proposed greenway loop project. Drawing on innovative arts-based methods, the project uses thematic and content analysis to uncover key themes related to community connection, historical preservation, inclusivity, and local economic growth. In collaboration with neighborhood leaders and artists, Spatially-Fed has also created initial renderings that creatively reflect these community insights for the City of Gainesville architect. This presentation offers a case study of the dynamic intersection of arts, civic capacity, and urban planning, while highlighting the importance of inclusivity and local voices in shaping the future of creative public spaces.



## FOURTH ANNUAL ARTISTS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*“Where Nature and Culture Meet”*

Friday, April 25, 2025

9 am – 1:30 pm

Extension Auditorium

22712 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL 32669

<b>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</b> Sponsored by <b>TBD</b> Registration Open, Networking, and Continental Breakfast	8:45 am – 9:00 am
<b>MEETING ROOM A</b>	9:00 am – 9:10 am
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Chair Charles S. “Chuck” Chestnut – Alachua County Commissioner Chair Stephanie Silberman - Arts Council	
<b>MEETING ROOM A</b>	9:15 am – 10:15 am
<b>(SPARC 352) Space for People Arts Research and Creative Community Collaborations</b> Carla S. Lewis – UF Center for Arts Migration and Entrepreneurship Join SPARC for a dynamic story circle showcasing the SPARC 352 Humanities in Place Project, featuring powerful video highlights of past work. Then, get moving with an interactive dance activity led by a local choreographer!	
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM A</b>	10:20 am – 11:05 am
<b>OpenGov: Submit a Call to Artist</b> Leira Cruz Cáliz – Alachua County BoCC Learn how to navigate OpenGov and successfully submit a Call to Artist response in this hands-on session led by Alachua County Procurement. From release to final proposal, discover how OpenGov streamlines the process. Bring your laptop for an interactive experience!	
<b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM C</b>	10:20 am – 11:05 am
<b>Quality of Life</b> Myqueal Lewis – Queality Productions Discover how NAACP Award-winning director and FAMU Social Work graduate Myqueal Lewis merges his passion for filmmaking and social work to create powerful, love-filled narratives. In this session, he’ll share his journey with Queality Productions and how film can be a force for change. <b>How to be an Industry Disruptor and gain followers</b>	



<p>Corey T. Williams – Superior Moves Records, LLC          With over 20 years as an industry disruptor in media, art, and entertainment, Corey has challenged norms and earned recognition for his unique approach to television, painting, and poetry. Now, he’s seeking support for his next bold projects—two films, <i>The Battle of Gainesville (The B.O.G.)</i> and <i>Guns in Da Swamp</i>—with screenplays ready to share.</p> <p><b>Khoury Family Center for the Arts - DANB Updates</b>          Judy Skinner - Dance Alive National Ballet          Get the latest updates on the Khoury Family Center for the Arts, including exciting opportunities, benefits, and community impact. Hear highlights from the upcoming 2024-25 season and a sneak peek at what’s ahead for 2025-26!</p>	
<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM A</b></p>	<p>10:35 am – 11:35 am</p>
<p><b>Mapping Alachua County's Arts</b>          Kim Tanzer - Artist, Architect          Explore 75 years of artistic legacy in Gainesville and Alachua County in this engaging panel discussion, uncovering the connections between artists, institutions, and creative movements. Join artists, curators, and collectors as we trace themes across media, genres, and generations to better understand our region’s rich artistic history.</p>	
<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM C</b></p>	<p>10:35 am – 11:35 am</p>
<p><b>The making of a more accessible contemporary art space--Pennant Place</b>          Flounder Lee – Curator/Director, Pennant Place; PhD Candidate, University of Plymouth, UK          Discover Pennant Place, an outdoor contemporary art space created as part of Flounder’s practice-based PhD project, redefining how art is experienced beyond traditional galleries. With 10 exhibitions to date, this unique space invites pedestrians and bikers to engage with art in an open, everyday environment.</p>	
<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM A</b></p>	<p>11:35 am – 12:05 pm</p>
<p><b>Disabled Creatives Alliance Pilot Program: Garden of Self</b>          Jennifer McCloskey – Disabled Creatives Alliance          Discover the Garden of Self project, a groundbreaking initiative supported by the Gainesville chapter of the Awesome Foundation, blending art, wellness, and disability advocacy. This session will showcase insights from the Disabled Creatives Alliance pilot program, global disability-centered wellness research, and a hands-on art activity, concluding with key findings that align with ACAC’s mission.</p>	
<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSION – MEETING ROOM C</b></p>	<p>11:35 am – 12:05 pm</p>
<p><b>Early-Stage Community-Centered Research for the Sarah's Sweetwater Greenway Loop</b>          Harley O'Neill / Kristin Kozelsky Reed / Tessa Skiles – Spatially-Fed</p>	





<p>Explore how arts-based research is shaping the proposed Sarah’s Sweetwater Greenway Loop through community feedback gathered at the Spatially-Fed festival. This session highlights key themes of connection, preservation, and inclusivity, showcasing collaborative renderings that bring local voices into the future of Gainesville’s public spaces.</p>	
<p><b>MEETING ROOM A</b></p>	<p>11:35 am – 12:30 pm</p>
<p><b>TBD</b> Samual Hannah – Gray Robinson</p>	
<p><b>MEETING ROOM A</b></p>	<p>12:30 pm – 1:30 pm</p>
<p><b>Group Photo &amp; Lunch</b> Sponsored by <i>Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL</i></p> <p><b>Ethical Use of AI in Arts</b> Stephanie Silberman – Arts Council Chair Join a thought-provoking discussion on the ethical use of AI in art and creative spaces, exploring its impact on originality, authorship, and artistic integrity. Artists will discuss the balance between innovation and ethics, addressing how AI can empower creators while ensuring fair practices in the evolving digital landscape.</p>	

**From:** [Kimberley Mullins](#)  
**To:** [Gina Peebles](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Art Tag Grant Update  
**Date:** Friday, February 7, 2025 9:51:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [250x80-solid\\_1d829c46-8f9d-4188-a3fb-6f9ac2866e6b.png](#)  
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Gina,

I do have one question, would I be considered since I have the same score as CCase if the budget is cut?

Kim Mullins

Sent from my boost Samsung Galaxy A15 5G  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Gina Peebles <gpeebles@alachuacounty.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2025 8:47:45 AM  
**Cc:** Ashley Baird <abaird@alachuacounty.us>  
**Subject:** Art Tag Grant Update

We still haven't heard from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) on your grants. In case the Federal Government decides not to fund our \$30,000 grant, our budget will be reduced to \$14,000. Therefore, the Arts Council voted Monday to fund only the top ranked projects totaling \$14,000 as our contingency plan. Fingers crossed, that doesn't happen, but I wanted to provide you with a worst case scenario update.

If that happens, the following would be funded:

Gainesville Community Playhouse - \$1,500  
Gainesville Big Band - \$3,000  
Spirit Led Therapy - \$3,000  
1000 Voices of FL Inc - \$3,000  
Star Center Children's Theatre - \$3,000  
C Case - \$500

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

**Gina Peebles, CPRP**  
Assistant County Manager - Chief of Staff

County Manager's Office  
12 SE 1st Street • Gainesville • FL • 32601  
352-337-6279 (office) • 352-538-8265 (mobile)



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					Carol	Christine	Queenchiku	Stephanie	Total
<b>Mini Grant (\$3,000 Max)</b>	<b><u>Visit Gvl</u></b> <b><u>\$10,000</u></b>	<b><u>NEA</u></b> <b><u>\$30,000</u></b>	<b><u>Art Tag</u></b> <b><u>\$4,000</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>					
Gainesville Community Playhouse	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -		\$ 1,500.00	1	3	3	2	9
Gainesville Big Band	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	11	5	6	1	23
Spirit Led Therapy	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	6	12	1	16	35
1000 Voices of FL INC	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	10	16	7	3	36
Star Center Children's Theatre		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	7	1	9	19	36
C Case		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	9	17	4	11	41
K Mullins	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	14	19	2	6	41
F Walton	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 1,000.00	26	8	5	7	46
H Todd		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	12	6	21	9	48
Greater Gainesville International Center		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	2	2	20	28	52
C Nguyen		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	25	9	15	4	53
D Adams		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	8	20	17	10	55
Music Arts Program for Youth, Inc.		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	5	25	8	17	55
M Montano		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	16	23	10	13	62
C Williams		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	29	4	16	14	63
T Ho		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	18	24	13	8	63
L Piekarski		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	3	21	28	12	64