

B-roll, drone footage, still shots (12/19/23 email and cell phone pictures)

## **Overview**

The Arts Council of Alachua County was established in 2018 and was created to serve as a resource for local artists and arts agencies, including all eight small cities throughout Alachua County. Our seven-member advisory board provides arts related recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Recently, we applied for grants to re-grant to local artists and arts agencies. Several members have traveled to Tallahassee during legislative session to educate and advocate at the state level on issues affecting the arts. We also work to promote the inclusion of art in public spaces.

Our mission is to “improve the quality of life of Alachua County residents by increasing exposure to the arts, expanding opportunities for creative expression by local artists, and increasing community resources for the arts.”

## **Art Tag Sales**

Every “State of the Arts” license plate purchased provides funding for the County’s Art Tag Grant program. These grants increase public access to art; contribute to civic pride, tourism, and economic development throughout Alachua County; enhance artistic creativity; enrich public areas through visual arts; and enhance Alachua County as a cultural center – hence the County’s tag line “*Where Nature & Culture Meet.*” To date, we have awarded 27 artists nearly \$40,000 through the Art Tag Grant program. If you love art and want to support our local artists, an easy way to do that is by purchasing a “State of the Arts” license plate at your local Tax Collector’s Office.

## **Art Loan Program**

Alachua County artists can loan their original artwork to the County for public display in the Jack Durrance Commission Chambers. Twenty-two artists have loaned their art to the County for a three-month display. Simply complete and return the application and agreement on our webpage for consideration.

<https://alachuacounty.us/Arts-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Art in Public Places**

Chapter 29 of the Alachua County Code requires 1% (not to exceed \$100,000) of new construction and renovation project budgets for public art. The Arts Council works through a competitive Call to Artist process to assist the County Commission in the selection of art. The County's first public art installation was "The Scales of Hammurabi" in 2003 at the Criminal Courthouse. Our second was 16 years later with "Lady Justice" in 2019 at the Public Defender's Office. Since, we have Commissioned ALI G8R, Tree of Life, Unbridled, Cuscowilla, Let the Legend Live On, Bounce, a Sankofa (in honor of Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn), and six other unnamed works at various County buildings.

Bunker Gear, a bronze sculpture at Fire Station 21, and Lady Firefighter, a bronze sculpture at Fire Station 80, have been commissioned and will be installed in 2024. A Call to Artists for the old Armory, Court Complex, and Pleasant Street mosaic (in partnership with the City of Gainesville) are expected to be released in 2024.

### **Artists Conference**

Planning for our next annual Artists Conference is underway. Our conferences are geared toward artists and focus on topics such as understanding the County's call to artists process, grant writing tips, how to protect your intellectual property, and how to effectively use social media to promote your art. We are always looking for presenters and sponsors, so please visit our website for more information, or to register to attend our upcoming conference. <https://alachuacounty.us/Arts-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Arts Council**

The Arts Council generally meets the first Monday of each month in the County Administration Building at 5:30 p.m. Our meetings are open to the public and we would love to have you join us at an upcoming meeting. Meeting details, agendas, and vacancies can be found on our website. <https://bm-public-alachuacounty.escribemeetings.com/BoardDetails/BoardInformation/1>