



Friends of the Arts, Inc.
P.O. Box 506
Orange Beach , Alabama 36561

Kindly Deliver to:



ART LINES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT NEWSLETTER
OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS OF ORANGE BEACH, AL
ISSUE DATE - JANUARY 30, 2025

**OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

OFFICERS

Mary Ellen Davis - President
Fred Armstrong - Vice President
Vivian Hanich - Treasurer
Robin Anderson - Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Coyne	Susie Leatherbury
Fran Drake	Dianne McElroy
Jeanne Fitzgibbons	Kristin Pierre
Tara Gifford	Patricia Riley
Frances Holk-Jones	

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Steve & Dee Burrow	Allen McElroy
Jeanne Duffy	Tommy Werneth
Scott Hardee	

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Desiree Hodge

**HOW TO JOIN**

Head to our website
WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEARTSINC.ORG
for more information and to join us!

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS, INC.
P.O. BOX 506
ORANGE BEACH , ALABAMA 36561

CALL THE COASTAL ARTS CENTER
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 251-981-ARTS (2787)





PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Susan Coyne - Outgoing President:

As we move into 2025, I reflect on all the work, fun and friendships I have made over the years being a member of the Friends of the Arts. I started as a committee member on the Festival of Arts, then as a board member, a Vice President in charge of Membership and finally President. The last two years, we have grown in life members and member involvement. This is not my accomplishment, but everyone on the board. I want to thank the members and board members for making this an enjoyable term. Wishing the new president and officers a successful next two years.

Mary Ellen Davis - Incoming President:

Happy 2025! I'm honored to serve you as the incoming President of the Friends of the Arts. We have an exciting year ahead with plenty of opportunities to pitch in. It is your participation in our active membership that keeps our programs successful! We'll have a donation bar during each of our acoustic series performances, which are happening through February. The Festival of Art in March offers several volunteer opportunities. Susan Coyne has something new and exciting planned this year for the Grand Event, a murder mystery theatre! Fred Armstrong, our sponsorship chairman, will have plenty of sponsorship solicitation opportunities throughout the year, as we kick our fundraising up a notch. Please don't hesitate to seek me out! I look forward to getting to know you and working with you!



Susan Coyne, Outgoing President
Mary Ellen Davis, Incoming President

FESTIVAL OF ART

After a truly successful 50th anniversary celebration last year, we are looking forward to even more exciting things for our 2025 show. Among the several new components are the Literary Arts tent featuring local poets, fiction and non-fiction authors. Additionally, the Performing Arts area will be split into two spaces so that a variety of new performers can be showcased. And don't miss the Music Stage with a few new fresh sounds along with our returning favorite bands. Innovations like these, partnered with our dedicated volunteers, help make this the award winning festival that it is! We expect over 15,000 guests for the weekend and hope you will join us as a Patron or a Volunteer. Information is at:



Deanne Hodge, Director



The Patron of the Arts Program

supports the artists of the Orange Beach Festival of Art by providing dedicated funds to purchase artwork during the event, showcasing the community's commitment to both the festival and its artists. Patrons select a donation level, receive "Art Dollars" to use at the festival to choose their favorite pieces, and help guarantee ongoing interest in the festival. This initiative not only benefits visual artists, but also directly supports performing and demonstrating artists through funds retained by Friends of the Arts. For more information and to access the 2025 Patron of the Arts invitation, please visit:



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2024

Our scholarship program is funded by our Grand Event. We are so thankful we get to contribute to Baldwin County Seniors' college dreams. Last year we contributed \$10,500 to 6 seniors going to college and we hope to do even more this year. 2024 Friends of the Arts scholarship recipient Faith Craig said it best, "Knowing that others believe in my potential encourages me to stay focused and dedicated as I navigate my college journey. I am so thankful to know that there are people out there who care and support the craft of the arts, and I am forever grateful to have a chance to inspire others to grow their crafts as well!" For more information on our scholarship program, please reach out to Fran Drake at frandrake7@gmail.com.



Danielle Woods • Fran Drake

THE GRAND EVENT

Join us for a thrilling evening of suspense, intrigue and crime-solving! Susan Coyne, Chair of this year's Friends of the Arts Grand Event, cordially invites you to an unforgettable True Crime Murder Mystery on April 24, 2025. Through this incising night of murder and mystery we will help generate funding to support artists, art projects and scholarships for our graduating high school seniors in Baldwin County.

Step into a world of mystery as you unravel clues, uncover secrets, and work together to solve a chilling crime. Just beware! The culprit may be hiding in plain sight somewhere in the room! Or you may find yourself as a Prime Suspect of the Crime! It's an event you won't want to miss!

Mark Your Calendar
The Grand Event is scheduled for
Thursday, April 24, 2025!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

1/30-2/2: Shrek - The Musical
Performing Arts Center • Thu.-Fri.: 7 PM, Sat.-Sun.: 2 PM
\$15/person

2/13: Sunderland Cello Trio
Coastal Arts Center • 6 PM • \$20/person

2/15-2/16: Dream On Reprise: A Tribute to Classic Rock
Performing Arts Center • 7 PM • \$15

2/22: Orange Beach Seafood Festival
The Wharf • 10AM-4PM • FREE

3/8-3/9: Orange Beach Festival of Art
Coastal Arts Center • Sat.: 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun.: 10 AM - 4 PM • Free

4/24: Friends of the Arts Grand Event
Coastal Arts Center • Timing TBD • \$100/person

!!! 2024 EVENTS

2024 was an exceptional year in Orange Beach, filled with events that celebrated our community and our spirit of creativity and art. We are proud to be a part of presenting these events which showcase the very best of what our town has to offer. Included in 2024 were:

- The Acoustic Arts Series offered in January/February featured a series of listening room style performances that highlight local music and at which we provided beer & wine bars and received donations.
- In March, the Festival of Art wowed us with a diverse collection of creativity celebrating art from all over the U.S. We had fun serving as volunteers and promoting the Patron of the Arts program.
- The Grand Event followed, bringing together residents and visitors alike for a grand celebration that set the stage for assisting with education needs in our area. This event is instrumental in providing scholarships for Baldwin County seniors and we're grateful for all the support we receive.
- In October, the Arts Afire fall festival focused on young children and dazzled us with its vibrant exhibitions and interactive activities. We always enjoy being volunteers for this Halloween-style event and providing all the yummy "treats."
- The Frank Brown International Songwriters' Festival brought some of the best songwriters from across the country to our shores, sharing their music and stories in a series of unforgettable performances. We provided funding for the music therapy workshop that was presented by the Freedom Sings USA charity and whose songwriters shared the results during the Frank Brown show.
- The Best of the Vets event in November honored our veterans who are aspiring artists. We are eternally grateful for the servicemen and women we got to meet and we enjoyed providing the bar for their special artist reception.
- As the holiday season approached, the Visions of Christmas performance at the Performing Arts Center filled our town with festive cheer and we provided the refreshments for the performers.
- Finally, Light Up The Arts concluded the year with a breathtaking showcase of light, art, and community spirit that left us all in awe. This is another signature event where we, along with the Coastal Arts Center staff provide Christmas hospitality and cheer to our community.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During 2024, the Friends of Arts had a total of 22 new members join the organization. Of those, 4 joined as Life Members. There were 6 members who changed their status from Annual Members to Life Members. As of January 1st, the total membership stands at 118. The breakdown is:

22 Joint Life **3 Corporate/Community Partners**
7 Individual Life **86 Annual Members**

During the summer of 2024, the Board voted to change to an annual membership renewal. Over the latter part of 2024 and early 2025, all members will see a January 1 renewal. Hopefully by 2026, all members will be on this renewal cycle which will make it easier to track members and to apply payments. Those members who do not renew will be removed from the roster. Your membership is essential for us to continue to provide support for the Arts Center and to provide educational scholarships. We appreciate you being a part of what we do and hope you will invite others to join us!



Jeanne Fitzgibbons
Membership Chair

5/1-5/5: Mary Poppins
Performing Arts Center • Timing TBD

6/26-6/28: Dream On - Tribute to Classic Rock 2025
Performing Arts Center • Timing TBD

8/16: Cello Concert
Coastal Arts Center • Timing TBD

9/20-9/21: Orange Beach Freedom Festival
The Wharf • Timing TBD

10/12: Baldwin Pops
Coastal Arts Center • 5 PM • Free

10/23: Arts Afire Fall Festival
Coastal Arts Center • 5PM-7 PM • Free

11/11: Frank Brown International Songwriters' Festival
Coastal Arts Center • 6PM

11/20-11/22: Visions of Christmas
Performing Arts Center • Timing TBD • Free

12/11: Light Up the Arts
Coastal Arts Center • Timing TBD • Free