



KEY WEST ART CENTER & GALLERY ESTABLISHED 1960

Dear Friend of the Key West Arts Community,

What did Cary Grant, Tennessee Williams and Key West have in common in 1960? The Key West Art Center & Gallery, now the oldest artist member organization in the Florida Keys.

The Art Center was born in the 1930s as an offshoot of the Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA), which brought artists and writers to Key West. When the nonprofit Key West Art Center opened its doors at the 301 Front Street location in 1960, Tennessee Williams was the first patron to purchase a painting. Not long after, Cary Grant also bought a painting at the gallery.

Today, nearly 50 Keys artists exhibit and sell their art, take part in classes, and find an artistic community at the iconic Mallory Square building that dates to the 1890s. Visit our website and come down and see our gallery and meet our artists-some of Key West's favorites. Read about our history and stories from past years and check out our events. We host the annual Old Island Days Art Festival and the Key West Craft Show, as well as many community art talks and shows held at the gallery.

In these pandemic times, it has been a struggle to fund needed building repairs. With the help of grants and gracious support from people like you, we have in recent years repaired the roof, shored up the front balcony, made our back entrance ADA accessible, replaced the second-story flooring and stabilized the interior stairs. And still there is so much to do! Our next goal is to repair and repaint the aging wood frame exterior. We plan to revitalize and enhance the front display window and entrance, re-imagine and upgrade our dated interior exhibit space & sales area, and much more. We want to modernize but still retain and emphasize our WPA history!

Today, as the City of Key West hopes to create a revitalized post-pandemic Old Town Key West and Mallory Square, we ask your help to make the Art Center and its iconic home once again a centerpiece of those efforts. With your contributions we can maintain this storied building and preserve the Key West Art Center and Gallery's mission of serving local artists and community.

Our fundraising endeavor advances this mission that has always been at the heart of the Art Center; to support, encourage and showcase our Florida Keys and Key West artists. Since the WPA first planted the seed of Key West as an arts mecca, art has been central to our city's celebrated story, its economic success, and future. Just as it has throughout the past sixty years, Key West Art Center & Gallery will continue to take its part in promoting and sustaining the city's deep-rooted arts heritage.

Sincerely,

Nancy Henning

Nancy Henning-President and the Members of the Key West Art Center & Gallery

Key West Art Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; all contributions are tax-deductible.

Checks can be made payable to **Key West Art Center**; note **Donation-KWAC Building Fund**.

Visit our website for more information and to Donate by PayPal: keywestartcenter.com **Thank You!**