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## A Note From Your Alliance

The St. Petersburg Arts Alliance belongs to you, so making authentic connections with our community is fundamental to our mission! We are committed to ensuring your involvement with SPAA is valuable and rewarding. With your help, we are committed to listening and learning from you to advance the arts within our city.

We are excited to share that we are launching a new membership program! This program will give you access to events, education, collaborative opportunities, and professional development and promote ways to connect artists with art lovers. Art is a magnificent tool for communication, used to connect to others in this world - is essential.

As a St. Petersburg Arts Alliance member - we want to support you along every step of your artistic journey. Whether you're a student artist, a master of your craft, an arts

leader, or an art lover...we want to make your experience with us worthwhile. Aside from our Arts Business Academy (ABA coming in May) and Beyond Arts Business Academy (pop-up courses), we will hold our first ever ABA Summit in July! Our goal is to continue providing you with evocative education - inviting and encouraging your creativity.

Here is the big news! Hats Off to the Arts! This year, we will host our annual Garden Party Brunch at the historic Snell-Bishop Estate. We will honor Bryan & Shanna Glazer as Arts Advocates of the Year! Our Garden Party Chairs are Marie & Steve Beaty and our Honorary Chairs are Sue & Richard Knipe, who generously donated their home for this uplifting experience. So, imagine looking at the bay from every viewpoint, surrounded by fun people, live performances, gourmet bites and libations. It's a perfect blend of humanity, art, nature and history. Tickets & Sponsorships are on sale March 15th!

We enter March with all the hope and promise of spring - fresh ideas, new initiatives and love and gratitude...for the work we do. Join us!

- Terry Marks  
CEO, St. Petersburg Arts Alliance

## A Note from Our Special Guest Writer, Polita Cohen Glynn!

*"For millenniums, humans have told stories to connect, relate and weave imaginative truths that enable us to see one another more clearly with compassion and courage... When we do this, we tap into an ancient power that makes us, and the world, more of who we are: a single race looking for reasons, searching for purpose, seeking to find ourselves."*

- Amanda Gorman, Poet  
New York Times interview. 12/8/22

As you drive down Central Avenue or bike the Pinellas Trail or walk along the waterfront, do you ever ponder what was there before, whether it's 50, 500 or 10,000 years ago? Those are the stories that make me wonder and spark my imagination. Here in St. Petersburg, we have a rich and ancient heritage and we have layers and layers of history under our feet. As a filmmaker, I want to peel back those layers and explore that history, as well as amplify the voices of people working to illuminate the past. But I admit, I am particularly interested in the erased stories that are sometimes buried through social injustice but still impact our present and influence the future.

As a filmmaker, I specialize in documentaries, screenwriting and creative storytelling focused on history, cultural diversity and environment. I like to move between the worlds

of production and filmmaking and the creation of stories, characters and drama. When I moved from Miami to St. Pete in 2021, my imagination was captured biking around the 'Pink Streets' and seeing the Pinellas Point Mound. Who has an ancient Indigenous mound in the middle of a suburban neighborhood? And were there more? What other histories were erased and where can we find those stories? These questions were the seed for Underground History, a documentary film project which explores the connections between the Tampa Bay region's diverse cultural history and emerging community efforts to acknowledge that past in charting the future. The project considers the links between the history and remaining archeological sites of the region's Indigenous Ancestors, the displaced contemporary African American communities and erased black cemeteries, and historic waterways which once created a connectivity for these places and people.

With support from Florida Humanities through my non-profit, Merfolk Media Alliance, and individual artist support from the St. Pete Arts Alliance, my film partner Devin Rice and I completed a work in progress film which we've screened in community settings to gather audience feedback. We are also continuing to film, to bring in new pieces on the historic Angola settlement in Bradenton, the Cuban fishing ranchos and perspectives from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. With support from Creative Pinellas and the National Endowment for the Arts, and in partnership with the St. Pete Arts Alliance, we are adding the voices of spoken word artists and poets to these stories of culture, history and social justice. Underground History Visual Poetry will blend place-based spoken word poetry with filmmaking and public performances to bring artists' voices into the story.

I am extremely grateful for the support from these humanities and arts organizations, as well generous collaboration of the St. Pete Arts Alliance, artists, historians, archeologists and storytellers who have contributed to this work. And I am deeply appreciative of the ancestors who also once appreciated the rich environment of Tampa Bay and left us hints of their world still to discover.

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*Polita Cohen Glynn is a filmmaker and director of Merfolk Media Alliance. As a media writer/producer, she creates films and stories which explore ideas about social justice and equity with a focus on history, cultural diversity and nature. Her independent films have been funded by the State of Florida, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and Florida Humanities. She received a 1996 Individual Artists Fellowship in Media Arts from the State of Florida, a 2015 Sundance Screenwriters Fellowship, a 2022 St. Pete Arts Alliance Artist grant and a 2023 Creative Pinellas Beyond Placemaking NEA artist award. Merfolk Media Alliance has also received support from Florida Humanities for Underground History, a film which explores stories of erased communities in St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay region, revealing layers of history under the city.*

*In 2021, Glynn moved from Miami to St. Petersburg and is super happy to be part of this community. She received her B.A. in American Studies from Bennington College, Ed.M. from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and studied film and television production at the University of Miami School of Communication.*

## Current Activities at SPAA



### Join us for ArtWalk! March 9, from 5–9PM

Discover wonderful surprises, visit your favorite artist, or find a new one. Make an evening of it and stop for dinner, drinks or dessert at a local restaurant.

[Learn More About ArtWalk!](#)



### Hats Off to the Arts! May 5, from 11AM–2PM

On Sunday, May 5, 2024, the SPAA will host our third annual Garden Party Brunch, celebrating the impact of the arts on the growth of our city. Join the waitlist to be the first to know when sponsorships & tickets go on sale!

[Join the Waitlist](#)

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[Click Here to Explore the SPAA Events Calendar!](#)



Next month, we will reveal an outstanding artist that will create a new design for the Kahwa Coffee Canisters! It is top secret now, but we know you will not be disappointed. In the meantime, please consider purchasing a gift of one of the [four coffee canisters](#) that are in your local Kahwa store or online. Net proceeds of the canister benefit the [St. Petersburg Arts Endowment](#) at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

## St. Petersburg Arts Endowment

This endowment, established in 2015, helps maintain the integrity of the City of the Arts as a catalyst for sustainable growth. We want to ensure that we preserve what drew people to St. Petersburg in the first place. The St. Petersburg Arts Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is an investment that will allow us to support our arts and cultural community in perpetuity. The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay invests and manages the funds.

The St. Petersburg Endowment will generate earnings that will be used to [support the arts and artists in St. Pete.](#)

Support the Arts Alliance!



Explore St. Petersburg's nine museums

**Opportunities** for professional and emerging artists covering the entire Tampa Bay area, along with National & International calls!

within one City of the Arts in the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance's "**A City of Museums**" **Video Series**!

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## Welcome New Members!

*Juan Alonso Studio*  
*Michael Baker Glass Art, LLC*  
*Prism Arts, Inc.*  
*St. Cate Fine Arts*  
*Kostar Kustoms, LLC*  
*Moonlit Creations*

***Become an SPAA Member!***



Your **partnership** with the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance is an investment in this vibrant community that values creativity – and does everything possible to allow the arts to flourish.

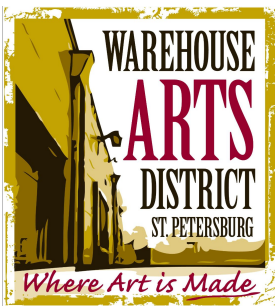
## Arts Around Town

**THE DEUCES LIVE**  
THE ART & SOUL OF ST. PETE

### Upcoming Events on the Deuces

**Art in the Park** - Join the Deuces on March 9 for their monthly Art in the Park Exhibition at the Deuces Corner Park!  
Stay up to date with what's happening in The Deuces by following them on **Facebook**

### Upcoming Events at WADA



The Warehouse Arts District Association's mission is to build and sustain a vibrant arts community in St. Petersburg, Florida that supports the success of all artists and the community at large through a broad spectrum of tools, including community revitalization, marketing, advocacy and educational programming.



#### Upcoming Events at the Edge District

The EDGE Business District Association is an award-winning nonprofit organization that plans, promotes, and advocates to sustain an eclectic, vibrant EDGE District community while preserving the district's unique historic character.



#### Upcoming Events at the Grand Central District

The Grand Central District is home to over 450 locally owned and operated independent businesses, merchants, restaurants, bars, art galleries, professional services, and health and wellness providers.

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## SPAA's Mission

The St. Petersburg Arts Alliance is the umbrella organization serving this vital arts and cultural community. We do so by driving arts-related economic development and funding, advocating for art and artists, educating at all levels and facilitating the growth of our City of the Arts.



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Forward

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