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Jeff Dillon shows his drums to a young boy. COURTESY PHOTO

There's a new arts organization in town. Launched by the Englewood Community Coalition last October, it is a grassroots entity providing mentorship, education and acceptance through classes in all mediums of art.

The organization, Englewood Creative Arts, seeks to combat alcohol and drug-related consequences through the arts and self-expression. Its mission is to facilitate affordable and accessible creative arts awareness, education and instruction for everyone in the community.

"We're just beginning an explorative, motivational and educational journey that will benefit the greater Englewood area," said Jeff Dillon, director of community alliances.

Presently, Dillon and Executive Director Kay Tvaroch are doing the legwork to spread the word and build relationships. They see the arts as a safe haven for individual expression.

ECA is delving into creative dramatics, improv classes for adults and children, visual and fine arts, creative writing and playwriting, dance and music instruction. Both professional instructors and volunteers guide students.

Dillon and Tvaroch are considering summer and school-year programs. They plan on making the program accessible and affordable for all who are interested. Kids and adults are welcome.

Dillon is a Suncoast native and has worked as a producer, director and actor. He is a trained musician, drummer and percussionist who currently plays with the band Vinyl Recall and subs on drums in the tri-county area.

