

He said Englewood is a perfect spot for nonprofits and volunteer-run organizations because of the abundance of volunteers available.

“There’s a lot of people who have time on their hands that would like to volunteer for something they are interested in and passionate about,” Munn said.

Bayside Arts would eventually turn into a self-sustaining organization with the ability to earn grants as Munn progresses with his idea.

“I want to help art groups large and small come together,” he said. “We’re starting with the musicians.”

With community, art and connectivity in mind, Munn is excited to see where this will go.

“Englewood has been so many things, but I think it’s time for it to become a cultural destination,” he said. “I do this for the love of my

“ *I really want to see people support our school programs. That’s one of my goals next year — finding a way to fill those seats at the schools.*

- Sydney Martin,
The Artists Colony

community.”

**ENGLEWOOD
CREATIVE ARTS**

quences among community members.

Englewood Creative Arts has similar goals, but through the creative arts and self-expression.

Stage manager and Director of Community Alliances Jeff Dillon was enthusiastic to explain what the group has planned along with what he would like to see happen.

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“We’re just starting out,” Dillon said. “Right now, it’s about community awareness and thinking of ideas



SUN FILE PHOTO BY JESSICA ORLANDO
Guitarist Silvano Stasolla plays during Englewood’s Jimmy Buffett tribute at a Wednesday’s @ 5 session behind the The Old Florida Outdoor Center and Gallery on West Dearborn.



PHOTO BY JOHN MUNN
Artists and community members alike flood Dearborn Street during Discover Dearborn.

A new arts alliance has joined the mix in Englewood.

Englewood Creative Arts is a grassroots group that seeks to provide mentorship, education and acceptance through foundational classes in all mediums of art.

It’s under the umbrella of the Englewood Community Coalition, which was originally funded by the Centers for Disease Control to combat alcohol and drug-related conse-

for programming.”

What makes ECA unique is the focus on creating programming rather than the presentation.

Similar to The Hermitage artists retreat on Manasota Key, ECA wants to provide a professional program in which all community members can partake in and explore the arts.

The format would focus on professionally driven circumstances.

Mentors and volunteers would help guide students through classes over a period of time. Options could range from summer programs to school-year programs.

At the end of the classes, the students will have the option of presenting what they’ve learned.

“We want the programming to be accessible and affordable through scholarships for all financial demographics,” Dillon said. “Englewood has a focus on retirement, so we want to broaden the horizons for artistic programming.”

Dillon wants to see more diversity in art forms within the community like theater, creative writing and improv.

“Kids and adults are welcome — there’s no such thing as a bad idea,” he said. “This is a safe and creative

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY ECA
Jeff Dillon represents the Englewood Creative Arts group during Red Ribbon Week at Englewood Elementary School.



environment that will help develop foundational tools.”

ECA also has a strong focus around collaboration and support with the other artistic entities in the Englewood area. Partnership is emphasized.

“We want to create relationships with the other alliances,” he said. “We’re here to help and support not compete with others.”

For more information about ECA, visit englewoodcreativearts.org to learn how to help or participate. Call 941-681-0091 for questions and information as well.

ARTISTS COLONY

The Artists Colony isn't necessarily



Musicians Silvano Stasolla, Beth Travers, Bob Santolanni and Paul Dirks play for the crowd.

SUN FILE PHOTO BY JESSICA ORLANDO

tribute to The Eagles.

“We want to have music that is middle-of-the-road, something that everyone likes,” he said. “Jimmy Buffett has something that everyone can like.”

Munn has a passion for music, and a long career in the music industry.

“Music is my passion, so I figured I’d start there,” he said.

Bayside Arts would be under the umbrella of Arts In Paradise, which Munn’s partner Nancy McCune operates.

“Anything you can think of that you can stick the title ‘art’ on it would be welcomed and included,” Munn said. “Art can really be anything — like culinary, plants and healing.”

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