



COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS | TALLAHASSEE/LEON COUNTY

## Staff Reports

### *Summer Callahan, Grants Manager*

Summer ensured COCA had a presence at both *Family Day* (the Friday after Thanksgiving) and the inaugural *Stop @ the Station* (December 1) and that both these events were well-attended. COCA also helped create, organize and co-produced each event. All final reports are approved and all TDT grant contracts except one are signed and returned. The revised application and guidelines were forwarded to the County following the Grants Sub-Committee meeting and their feedback should be returned by the end of January. The National Endowment for the Arts approved COCA's regranting; contracts and payments for this grant are in process. Since TDT collections are increasing, COCA is researching the possibility of adding an individual artist grant.

### *Sam Joslin, Public Arts Manager*

Sam continues to work with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) on the Mural Makeover pilot program, with the first phase launching next week. We secured \$25,000 from the CRA to manage this program with the possibility of more funding in coming years pending the pilot's success. Sam is collaborating with the State DAC to activate their Innovation Gallery space in the RA Gray Building with a local artist and sculptor to be exhibited starting the beginning of February. The next Art in Public Places exhibitions for 2024 start at the end of January in the Airport and mid-February in City Hall, and will continue throughout the calendar year with updates added to the TAG website as well as social media. Creative Tallahassee, the annual all-media juried exhibition, applications are currently open with the exhibition set to open April 5 in City Hall. Creative Tallahassee has a Bicentennial-focused theme this year. COCA received a South Arts Cross-Sector Impact Project Extension Grant for \$10,000 to create more banners for the Bond neighborhood, so Sam is working with the COT partners to confirm the details and timeline of this project. Sam is working with Sahara to assist with Chalk Walk for January 24 on Arts Advocacy Day.

### *Sahara Lyon, Arts Education Manager*

COCA held the Winterfest reception on December 1, 2023 and it was hugely successful. Approximately 250 to 300 people attended, and two ensembles from Buck Lake Elementary and Griffin Middle School performed. Eleven awards were presented to student artists and most students and teachers were able to attend the ceremony. Sahara thanked all the teachers for their participation and mentioned, due to support from the Division of Arts & Culture (DAC) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, teachers received a \$142 stipend for participating. Sahara has gotten all check requests signed and sent to the teachers. Sahara's next event will be Chalk Walk 2024, which will be held on January 24, Arts Advocacy Day, at the State Capitol. Sahara has contacted high school teachers about participating and Florida House Representative Allison Tant has agreed to sponsor the event again this year. Currently 11 groups from 8 different schools have signed up or expressed interest. Sahara and Sam are hosting two Florida State University (FSU) interns this Spring who will be working on both arts education and public art programs, as opposed to previous years where each intern's experience was siloed by area. Sahara attended January's primary and secondary art teacher meetings, sharing COCA information and gathering professional development resources. Later this semester Sahara will be giving tours to Sarah Black Sadler and Carey Fee's classes from FSU.

### *Nick Pavlovik, Business Manager*

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COCA has \$1.3 million in grant contracts for FY24, \$80K in marketing grant contracts and the rest in cultural grant contracts. Payments for the marketing grant contracts have been processed except for one organization. All the first payments (out of two total) for the cultural grant contracts have been processed except for one organization. Advertising and Membership revenues are showing an upward trend and other revenues are increased as result of higher interest rates. Contributions are also higher as result of Duke Energy contribution. The City's annual contracted funds should come through in January. All arts education teacher grants for FY24 have been distributed. There is almost \$2.5 million in the bank account, including funds from the County and the State. Tourism development tax (TDT) collections are expected to increase. Audit for FY23 has been completed and the results will be presented by the auditor during the BOD meeting.

***Samantha Sumler, Marketing & Communication Manager***

In January 2024, Samantha's Bicentennial Newsletter, "Artistic Ambition," will launch. In addition, one article per month in the Tallahassee Democrat will feature an artist or organization that encapsulates "artistic ambition," which will be included in the monthly newsletter. The first "Artistic Ambition" article highlighted the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and their "200 Years" concert. In addition, Samantha will be hosting a "how to" workshop series from February 22 to March 6, which will cover posting events, artist profiles, classifieds, and more to the COCA website. Registration for the workshop series will open on January 18. Social media during the holidays was a success with the "23 Days of Artistry" campaign, which started on December 8 and ran until the end of the year. Posts included all COCA spotlights from the year, our exhibitions, select Behind the scenes/Artist Spotlights, and more. They will announce a new focus later this month for the February Artist Spotlight for Black History Month, focusing on spotlighting Black artists within the community. Lastly, Samantha is looking into revamping how ads are purchased from COCA by implementing a way to buy ads & ad packages on the COCA website. They are meeting with the Artsopolis team to determine more.

# ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE EVENTS

## Bicentennial Edition

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

Creative Tallahassee & the Bicentennial: Call to Artists | Opens Jan 8

Presented by the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)

A Tallahassee Bicentennial Celebration: Portraits of America | Jan 20 - 21

Presented by Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

History at High Noon: Tallahassee in the Twentieth Century | Jan 23

Presented by the Museum of Florida History

Chalk Walk 2024 | Jan 24

Presented by COCA in conjunction with Arts Advocacy Day

Sounds of Cinema | Jan 28

Presented by the Tallahassee Community Chorus

Harambee Festival | Feb 24

Presented by FAMU

The Bard's Bicentennial Poetry Jam | Mar 16

Presented by Southern Shakespeare Company

Lawyers, Guns, and Money: Putting Territorial Laws on Trial | Mar 21

Presented by Theater with a Mission (TWAM)

This list is continually updated. For a full list of events, visit [tallahasseearts.org](https://tallahasseearts.org)

