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Cultural Council of Volusia County

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Be a 'show off' for the arts

When you put a "State of the Arts" special plate on your vehicle, you are telling your friends, neighbors and visitors you know Florida's cultural climate is on par with our wonderful natural climate.

This attractive specialty plate is a positive way to advertise Florida as a state that recognizes the arts as a major part of our great quality of life. At the same time, funds from the sale of these plates go directly to help promote cultural and heritage organizations and individual artists right at home. For every "State of the Arts" plate purchased in Volusia County, \$20 is returned to local arts agencies to finance a variety of community based cultural programs.

Let others know that Florida really is a "State of the Arts." Stop by your local tag office today and upgrade to one of these plates. Be a "show off" for the arts.

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A newsletter of the Cultural Council of Volusia County

Cultural icon Davidson devoted to arts, community

Longtime Volusia County Cultural Council (CCVC) member and community leader Herbert M. "Tippen" Davidson Jr. died Jan. 23. Davidson, who had served on the Cultural Council continuously since 1989, was chair at the time.

At a meeting of the CCVC Jan. 26, Vice-Chair Bob Dahlen was elected to replace Davidson as chair. Katherine Smith-Williams was elected as vice chair. The Cultural Council is looking at opportunities to honor Davidson for his exemplary leadership.

"It is difficult to find a way to recognize Tippen adequately for the contribution he has made to the quality of life in Volusia County," said Dahlen. "We want to find an appropriate way to keep his vision alive and let those who strive to advance culture in the community in future years know of the groundwork he laid for them."

Davidson, CEO, president and co-editor of *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*, was known throughout the state as a cultural giant. "He was responsible for much of the emphasis placed on the arts in Volusia County," said Mike Fincher, cultural coordinator for Volusia County Government. Davidson was the driving force behind bringing the London Symphony Orchestra, which became the bi-annual Florida International Festival, to Daytona Beach.

Davidson founded Seaside Music Theater and Central Florida Cultural Endeavors, and played a major role in the establishment of the News-Journal Center for performing arts. He served multiple terms on the Florida Arts Council and on boards of numerous nonprofit cultural organizations. His list of honors and accolades is extensive, including an honorary Stetson University doctorate, an honorary Order of the British Empire and recognition as Daytona Beach Area Citizen of the Year on multiple occasions.

Davidson gave his personal commitment and financial support to a wide range of cultural institutions and

programs. Having a deep belief that a local newspaper has a responsibility for improving the quality of life in the community, Davidson led the *News-Journal's* support of more than 180 civic and cultural organizations and events.

Although he worked all his adult life in the family's newspaper, rising to the helm in 1986, he originally trained for a career in music, studying violin and conducting at the Juilliard School of Music. His love of music and theater never waned. He directed numerous shows at Seaside Music Theater and often took the baton to conduct symphonic programs produced by Central Florida Cultural Endeavors. He often spoke with the great pride of two proud accomplishments – conducting the pops performance of the London

Symphony Orchestra at the Florida International Festival in July 2005, and conducting "Beauty and the Beast" for the opening of the News-Journal Center in January 2006.



(Photo courtesy of Daytona Beach News-Journal/Jessica Webb)

LEADING THE WAY -- The late Tippen Davidson conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in July 2005.



AN IMAGE TO BEHOLD -- World-class art and cool jazz made for another successful IMAGES art festival in Riverside Park, New Smyrna Beach, in February.

A new vision begins for DeLand Museum of Art

On Jan. 17, Wendell Jarrard, president of the Board of Trustees, announced a new name and an expanded vision for the DeLand Museum of Art. At a reception with members from the community and the news media attending, the new name - The Museum of Florida Art - became official.

"After three years of discussion and in response to our quest to become a nationally accredited museum, we have set this institution on the path to become the recognized home of Florida artists," Jarrard said. "However, this name change does not diminish our commitment to DeLand and Volusia County but will enrich the cultural life of our community and our partnership with Volusia County schools."

The museum has undergone several transitions over the years. Founded by the American Association of University Women in 1951, the DeLand Children's Museum was established to provide classes in the arts, sciences, and history for children. Originally the museum

was in a small house, later relocating to a larger, 19th century home to accommodate the addition of adult programs. In 1965, it was incorporated as The DeLand

Museum. In 1985, the museum's mission was redefined to focus on the visual arts, and became The DeLand Museum of Art. It was in the 1980s when the museum began to emphasize the work of living Florida artists.

"The DeLand Museum of Art has been the only museum in the state with a consistent track record of supporting living Florida artists," said Gary Libby, Florida Arts Council. "This name change is very important and a bold step for the museum as it moves into a very specialized area of the market."

The museum's executive director, Jennifer Coolidge, expressed her delight with the museum's new direction and praised the museum's trustees for their vision and fortitude. "As we consider our business model and how we are differentiated in the cultural offerings in the state, our commitment to Florida art and artists makes us unique."



LOOKING DEEPER -- Students enjoy a recent Clyde Butcher exhibit at the Museum of Florida Art, DeLand.

Cultural affairs

Here's what's happening on the cultural scene in Volusia and Flagler counties:

- ❖ Cinderic Documentaries Inc. has received a mini-grant from the Florida Humanities Council to fund "From Classroom to Community: Seville Public School." This \$2,000 grant will be used to complete a photographic study of the school and surrounding community. The project will include oral histories to accompany the photographs and will result in a multimedia presentation and public program in September 2007.
- ❖ Karen Harris joined the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences director of development. She previously served in several positions with the County of Volusia.
- ❖ Seven cultural and heritage organizations were recommended by the ECHO Advisory Board to receive more than \$2.9 million in Volusia Count ECHO funds for a variety of new construction, addition or facility renovation projects.
- ❖ More than 100 individuals from local nonprofit organizations recently attended a workshop at the new News-Journal Center titled "Key Strategies for Successful Fundraising." The program, sponsored by the Cultural Council of Volusia County, was facilitated by Teri Ford Cobean, CFRE, former president of the Bert Fish Medical Center Foundation.
- ❖ Katherine Horn Dickerson of Boca Raton has been elected to a one-year term as chair of the Florida Arts Council. Dickerson first was appointed to the Council on 2001. She is the only Floridian to serve as chair of the Florida Arts Council and the Florida Historical Commission. She received the 1989 Florida Trust Distinguished Service Award and recently was inducted into Who's Who in America.
- ❖ The DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts Inc. recently elected officers to serve on the executive board for 2007. Elected were Brad Strickland, chairman; Steve Blais, president; Mary Beth Harris, first vice-president; Dorothy Dansberger, second vice president; Elysha Dunagan, secretary; and Mary Ann Lawrence, treasurer. They will join DeLand Association and Jeffery Ault of the Sands Theater Inc.

County grants awards to 23 artists

Twenty-three Volusia County artists have received grants from Volusia County totaling \$41,500 in the first year of the Individual Artist Grant Program. The grants, ranging from \$500 - \$2,500, are provided to assist professional artists with tools and programs to assist with career advancement.

"We were highly impressed with the quality of the projects presented by these local artists, and I wish we could fund them all," said grant panelist Kevin Miller, director of the Southeastern Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach. "The selected recipients will be more empowered to move forward in their careers with help from this funding."

The program is funded from revenues received from the sale of State of the Arts specialty license plates. For every State of the Arts plate sold in Volusia County, \$20 is returned to the Cultural Council of Volusia County, which acts as the state-designated Local Arts Agency. These funds are used to support a wide range of cultural and heritage programs within Volusia County.

The artists receiving grants under this program were required to meet eligibility requirements and submit an application detailing how the funds would be used to advance their careers or professional development and provide a detailed project description and budget. Examples of projects being funded this year include attendance at master's classes and workshops, acquisition of specialty art making materials and equipment, purchase of hardware needed for website creation, and portfolio and catalog development.

There were more than 70 applicants for the grants with requests for funding totaling more than \$135,000. The applicants chosen to receive awards were evaluated by a six-member panel of arts professionals from different



A WISH GRANTED -- Carly Hamid, DeLand potter seen here in her studio in DeLand, recently received a Volusia County Individual Artist Professional Development grant for \$2,500 to attend a six-day workshop in May in Bath, England, taught by noted ceramist Sasha Wardell.

cultural disciplines and appointed by the Cultural Council of Volusia County. Each application was reviewed and scored on three major criteria -- contribution to professional growth/career advancement, demonstration of professional commitment and project planning.

Awards were given for visual, performing and literary arts in a variety of genres and media types. Artists receiving grants this year were Joan Baliker, Christophe Cardot, Chris Carlson, Mitzi Coats, Rainey Dimmitt, Lee Dunkel, Alberto Gomez, Kelle Groom, Hillary Gross, Carly Hamid, Margaret Hodge, Jenny Keeley, Charon Luebbers, Joyce McAdams, Harry Messersmith, Ryshel Napoli, Nancy Neeb, Brian Owens, Todd Palmer, Barbara Perrotti, Susan Rowland, Anna Tomczak and Libby Ware.



PROTECTION FOR COLLECTIONS -- Blake Fincher, owner of Gold Leaf Gallery & Framing, presents a workshop recently about the care and preservation of collected art at the Museum of Florida Art. The program was sponsored by the museum and the Cultural Council of Volusia County.