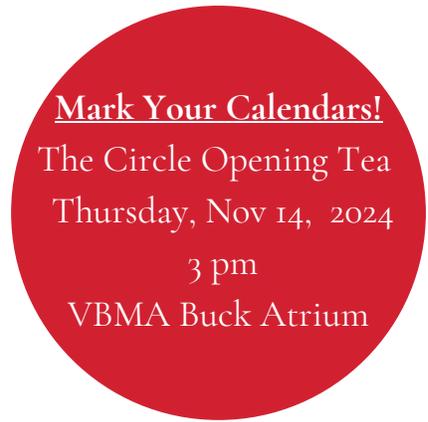


www.vbmuseum.org/thecircle



E-Newsletter Volume 8 - May 9, 2024

Greetings and Thank You!

Dearest Circle Members,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Steering Committee Chair for the past two seasons. Together, we have accomplished so much!

I'm thrilled to announce that at our Closing Reception on April 11th, we raised enough to fully fund our top three program selections! We introduced a new voting system that allowed members to vote for multiple programs in ranked order, and after funding our first three selections, we had enough funds left to partially fund a fourth! You'll find a listing of the programs selected in the "Program Observations" section below, and the exact amounts funded in the "Finance" section. Our accomplishments of the 2023-2024 Season:

- Welcomed more than 40 new members
- Increased our sustained financial impact by 20+ percent
- Set record attendance at our meetings and special events
- Revamped our Program Observation process and implemented a new voting system
- Developed a Finance Committee to ensure our financial health as we grow
- Fully funded three programs and partially funded a 4th
- Published six comprehensive newsletters and expanded our website
- Provided seven member-only events
- Introduced alternative paths for directed giving
- Established an Executive Committee to guide us into the future

We will continue to grow our support of the VBMA educational programs that touch our hearts, and provide our community with the profound educational, emotional, and healing benefits that access to art provides. As we grow, we are committed to maintaining, promoting and supporting the member-to-member, and member-to-VBMA connections, that we refer to as the "specialness" of The Circle.

Trudy Hoffman



I want to personally thank our 2023-2024 Steering Committee for their outstanding work and for continuing in their current roles:

- Diane and Mary, Hospitality Co-Chairs, provide the beautiful, welcoming, and delicious backdrop for our meetings.
- Joy, Finance Chair, implemented a brand-new financial system which provides the support we need to achieve our goals.
- Lori and Anne, Program Observation Co-Chairs, guided our reimagined and more informative Program Observation process. Plus, many thanks to them for proposing and administering the new voting system used in our final meeting.
- June Fitzgerald will continue to manage our members-only events, in the new position of Special Events Chair, while Catherine Cooke's term has ended. Thank you, Catherine and June for a wonderful season of special events.

Cathy Cronin, our Communications Chair for the last five years, is stepping down. Cathy and Pam Larrick were co-authors of our strategic plan in 2022. Thank you for getting us off to a great start. Cathy stayed on the Steering Committee for an extra two years, at my request, to implement the communication initiatives necessary to move us forward: our first brochure, our first webpage, our tribute and in-memoriam giving opportunities, and a strong team that will be able to continue that work. Cathy, we thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts.

I also want to welcome two new members of the Steering Committee for the 2024-2025 season:

- Jean Spaulding Kjellman is our new Membership Chair. Jean has been performing many of the Membership Chair functions for a while now but is formally stepping up to the role for the 2024-2025 Season. Welcome Jean!
- Stuart Weismiller is taking the helm as Communications Chair after serving on the Communications Committee for the past year. Welcome Stuart!

Lastly, I'd like to introduce our newly established Executive Committee.

2024-2025 Executive Committee



Pictured from left to right: Susan Von Hagen - Legacy Chair, Stuart Weismiller - Communications Chair, Lori Lazorik - Program Observation Co-Chair, Trudy Powers Hoffman - Immediate Past Chair, Robyn Orzel - VBMA Director of Development and Joy Ann Coll - Finance Chair (not pictured)

This smaller Executive Committee will help guide our growth and meet our funding goals while maintaining the unique characteristics of The Circle. Some of the goals for the Executive Committee next season are to survey the membership on how The Circle can improve on establishing our governance processes and developing a future leadership pipeline and nominating process.

Again, I am humbled and deeply grateful to have served as your Executive Committee and Steering Committee Chairs for the past two seasons.

With deep appreciation,

Trudy Powers Hoffman, Chair

2024-2025 Steering Committee



Pictured from left to right: Anne Golensky - Program Observation Co-Chair, Mary Wright - Hospitality Co-Chair, Stuart Weismiller - Communications Chair, Trudy Powers Hoffman - Immediate Past Chair, Lori Lazorik - Program Observation Co-Chair, Susan Von Hagen - Legacy Chair, June Fitzgerald - Member Special Events Chair, Jean Spaulding Kjellman - Membership Chair, Diane McGinn - Hospitality Co-Chair, Joy Anne Coll - Secretary/Finance Chair

Hospitality

Diane McGinn & Mary Wright

The closing meeting for The Circle ended on a high note. The Hospitality Committee was busy greeting members and guests, many of whom had blue ribbons attached to their name tags indicating that they were new members...a record number this year! We had more than 100 attendees with five guests and one guest immediately joined at the end of the reception.

There was a real feeling of celebration as Trudy Powers Hoffman explained the new voting system which ensured multiple winners for funding this year. The celebration was topped off with delicious morsels catered by Adrienne Drew.

All in all, the meeting was a perfect ending to a great season.

2024-2025 Hospitality Committee



Pictured from left to right: Caroline Taylor, Marilyn Bosland, Diana Hoffman, Mary Wright, Diane McGinn, Susie Kintner, Pamela Siddall, Nora Koontz, Karen Helliwell, Barbara Williams



Program Observation Teams

On April 11th, the overflowing Atrium at the VBMA buzzed with energy and excitement as our members assembled to hear about the goals, history, structure and budget of each of the programs under consideration for funding. The choices presented were: Veterans Program, Senior Resource Association Partnership, Pre-K at the VBMA!, Family Programs, and Alzheimer & Parkinson Association Partnership. These were very difficult choices as all of these programs positively enrich the lives of our community.

This year, a new voting system was introduced, allowing each member to vote for three programs in ranked order. Since the funding for this season increased by

Anne Golensky & Lori Lazorik



more than 20%, The Circle was able to fully-fund three programs after the votes were counted:

Veterans Program

Studio-based art classes offered at no cost to Veterans

Pre-K at the VBMA!

Positive introductory museum experiences for Title I school children

Alzheimer & Parkinson Association Partnership

Art and movement experiences for movement challenged adults

An additional balance of more than \$6,500 was also allocated to Family Programs. All members were delighted that at least two of their choices was selected for funding. Well done, Circle members! The result of all of our efforts is a portfolio of art enrichment programs that are designed to impact all ages of our Indian River County residents. Thank you for living our mission with your generosity and participation.

Veterans' Program
Observation Team



Pre-K at the VBMA! Observation Team with
Director of Education Sara Klein



Alzheimer & Parkinson
Association Partnership
Observation Team



Membership

Jean Spaulding Kjellman



What a wonderful year for the membership team. It was difficult to fit everyone in the picture of the Class of 23-24 taken at our final meeting...and this picture still doesn't include all the new members! Even more amazing is that we had a few guests become members at the final meeting. Our current membership total is 158. Inviting guests and word

of mouth are the best recruiting tools we have to increase our membership. Thanks to all of you who have helped to grow our Circle! Please refer anyone who might be interested in joining to Membership Chair Jean Spaulding Kjellman: jmgsk21@gmail.com and also encourage them to visit our website at vbmuseum.org/thecircle to learn more about us.

Have a wonderful summer!



Finance/Secretary

Congratulations on a very successful year! March 31st marks the end of our season and what a year it was. We are pleased to report we have raised a record \$56,800 to support the Museum's art education programs.

In the near future, year-end financial reports will be issued summarizing the monies raised during the past year as well as the total expenses incurred for meetings and special events. We could not have done that without your most generous contributions! Thank you!

Joy Ann Coll & Sheryl Burge



Special Member Events

Catherine Cooke & June Fitzgerald



Thank you all for your participation in the member only events held this season. “A Night on the Nile” at the Museum lead by our member docents began our special events, followed by a delightful “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” replete with fascinators, scones, and much laughter.

Each of our three tours at the Gallery at Windsor was a delightful day of seeing the rich and colorful abstract expressionist exhibit by Cost Rican artist Federico Herrera, followed by a delicious lunch at the Windsor Beach Club.



Additional events included painting an Egyptian inspired canvas at our “Cork & Canvas” evening (featured in the April newsletter) and a new member cocktail party to wrap up the season. The total attendance for all six events was an impressive 148. All events were filled to the max!

Be sure to keep checking our website at vbmuseum.org/thecircle for more information about next season’s events.



Member Snapshot

Connie Murphy

Meet Marilyn Bosland



Marilyn has a lifelong passion for education. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Education followed by an Early Education Certificate from the University of Chicago. Notably, she was the only lay teacher at Mother of Sorrows School in the Chicago area and then accepted a teaching position in the Paterson, New Jersey school system.

Marilyn and her husband established "Bosland's Learning Plus," a retail store servicing the educational community located in Saddle Brook, New Jersey, and was named "Business Woman of the Year" by the Mayor of Saddle Brook.

She attended numerous conferences, sponsored workshops for teachers, and volunteered as a tutor for the Passaic County Literacy Society where she also served as President for several years. While attending school product shows, she often ran into the late Mackie Duch, a long-time Circle member and the owner of "The Teaching Room" in nearby Morristown, New Jersey.

Upon Marilyn's relocation to Vero Beach, it was Mackie who referred Marilyn to The Circle. Marilyn had an immediate connection with The Circle and particularly loves the programs associated with her passion of sharing the arts with children.

Factoid from the Archives

Stuart Weismiller

In April of 2015, members of The Circle voted to support the VBMA's collaboration with The Learning Alliance's "Moonshot Moment" initiative, the goal of which was to have 90% of third-grade students reading at grade level by 2018. The Circle's support enabled teachers from every elementary school and parents from five kindergarten readiness centers to integrate visual arts into the curriculum supporting student literacy.

Communications Update

Cathy Cronin

That's right, we have a new name and a new Chair!

After five years, I am stepping down as Committee Chair and pleased to announce that Stuart Weismiller will be taking over as the new Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee and will also serve on the newly formed Executive Committee. Stuart is an artist and an entrepreneur and her extensive background and expertise in marketing will be asset to The Circle. Congratulations to Stuart and we wish her all the best in her new role.



It's been a privilege working with an amazing team of talented women. I can't thank them enough for volunteering their time and talents and for their dedication and commitment to keeping our members informed and excited about the work The Circle does to support the VBMA art education outreach programs. We've accomplished a ton together and had fun along the way. Cathy Fountain, Sue Van Der Stricht, Suzanne Roff, Connie Murphy & Stuart Weismiller - I couldn't have imagined a better team - you rock! Thank you.

On to business...Any members who like to write, take photos, interview, post on social media, and who may be interested in joining the Marketing and Communications Committee, please reach out to Stuart Weismiller or Cathy Fountain directly.

Many of our new members have questions about The Circle - how to get involved, funding opportunities, etc. With that in mind, we assembled a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** which will be posted to the website under "About The Circle." If you don't find an answer to your question, please let us know and we'll be glad to answer it.

In the News...Congratulations to Elise Geary on her recent show at M. Maison and the Museum Art School.



Don't miss Suzanne Roff's current exhibit at the Galleries at First Presbyterian Church on Royal Palm Point. Her show runs through June.



Look for the *Luminaries* article on The Circle in the May 8th issue of *The Press Journal* which will feature the “Pre-K at the VBMA!” program. Sara Klein talks about her initial idea, and how it was brought to fruition.



Circle friends celebrating milestones together!



If you would like your special event featured, please contact any member of the Marketing and Communications Committee.

2024 - 2025 Communications Committee

Stuart Weismiller, Chair

stuart@weismiller1.com

Cathy Fountain, Chief Editor and Writer

cathy.fountain53@gmail.com

Please share your thoughts and suggestions with us about the newsletter and The Circle web pages. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Please click here to access the Member Directory.](#)

2024-25 Circle Steering Committee Members (as seen on page 2)

Trudy Powers Hoffman*, Immediate Past Chair	(206) 409-2484	trudypowershoffman@gmail.com
Stuart Weismiller*, Communications Chair	(203) 912-3364	stuart@weismiller1.com
Diane McGinn, Hospitality Co-Chair	(414) 778-2116	dianemcginn14@gmail.com
Mary Wright, Hospitality Co-Chair	(305) 336-4566	mlwdiwvero@gmail.com
Susan Von Hagen*, Legacy Chair	(772) 559-7332	susanvonh@msn.com
Jean Spaulding Kjellman, Membership Chair	(207) 632-7585	jmgsk21@gmail.com
June Fitzgerald, Member Special Event Chair	(772) 205-2265	jfitzgerald@sorensenrealestate.com
Anne Golensky, Program Observation Co-Chair	(203) 525-2671	annegol@aol.com
Lori Lazorik*, Program Observation Co-Chair	(772) 979-2548	lori.lazorik@gmail.com
Joy Ann Coll*, Secretary/Finance Chair	(772) 589-7148	jacoll1118@aol.com

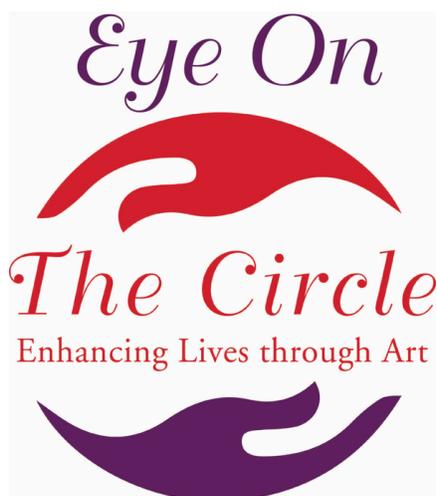
*2024-2025 Executive Committee Members



The Circle 2024-2025 Event Calendar

Thursday, November 14, 2024	3 pm	Opening Tea	VBMA Buck Atrium
Wednesday, January 15, 2025	10 am	General Meeting	VBMA Holmes Great Hall
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	9 am	Breakfast/Guest Speaker	VBYS
Wednesday, March 12, 2025	9:30 am	General Meeting	VBMA Holmes Great Hall
Thursday, April 10, 2025	3 pm	Closing Reception/Final Vote	VBMA Buck Atrium

Dates are subject to change, please check our online [event calendar](#) for the most current information.



www.vbmuseum.org/thecircle