

## Cultural Arts Coalition

### 2016/17 Annual Report



### **We Celebrate 38 Years of Continuous Programming**

The Cultural Arts Coalition had another full year. We continued our East Gainesville Science Clubs, had a great Black History Program, celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts Festival and moved into the close of this year with our Environmental Ambassadors Program.

Our Mission is to educate and empower the community by establishing and maintaining community oriented programs through art, culture and social awareness.

We promote African American Culture through the arts and History programming. We also offer educational programs throughout the community.

## Science Clubs

Cultural Arts Coalition hosted Science Clubs in 6 locations: Caring and Sharing Learning Center, Cone Park Library, Wilhelmina Johnson Center, Kelly Community Center and NE Library Partnership.

We had a host of volunteers including, UF Chemistry Club, the Physics Club, Biomedical Engineering Club, Astronomy Club, Food and Nutritional Sciences Club, Science Professors, Retired educators, staff from Florida Museum of Natural History, and Florida Wildlife Conservation.

Students got to go on fieldtrips to: Devils Millhopper, Florida Museum of Natural History, the Harn Museum, Cade Museum, Morningside nature Center and Paynes Prairie. George Washington Carver Club camped overnight at Paynes Prairie enjoying nature trails and roasting smores. This club also planted and harvested a vegetable garden. They pickled some of their cucumbers.





Students shoveled dirt, planted vegetables, fertilized, harvested and made a meal.  
This garden was also used as a science laboratory where Club members learned  
Biology.

The Science Clubs will add a Physics Activity Bus to our program. Courtesy of  
Chris DiSenza. And Vicki Sarajedini with a portable Planetarium. The Club  
members will have fun learning Science, Mission will be accomplished.

### Black History Program

Along with our permanent Black art at Wilhelmina, Dr Patricia Hilliard Nunn, Kenneth Nunn Esq and Ni Solawo. They shared early Egyptian history along with Ghanaian History.

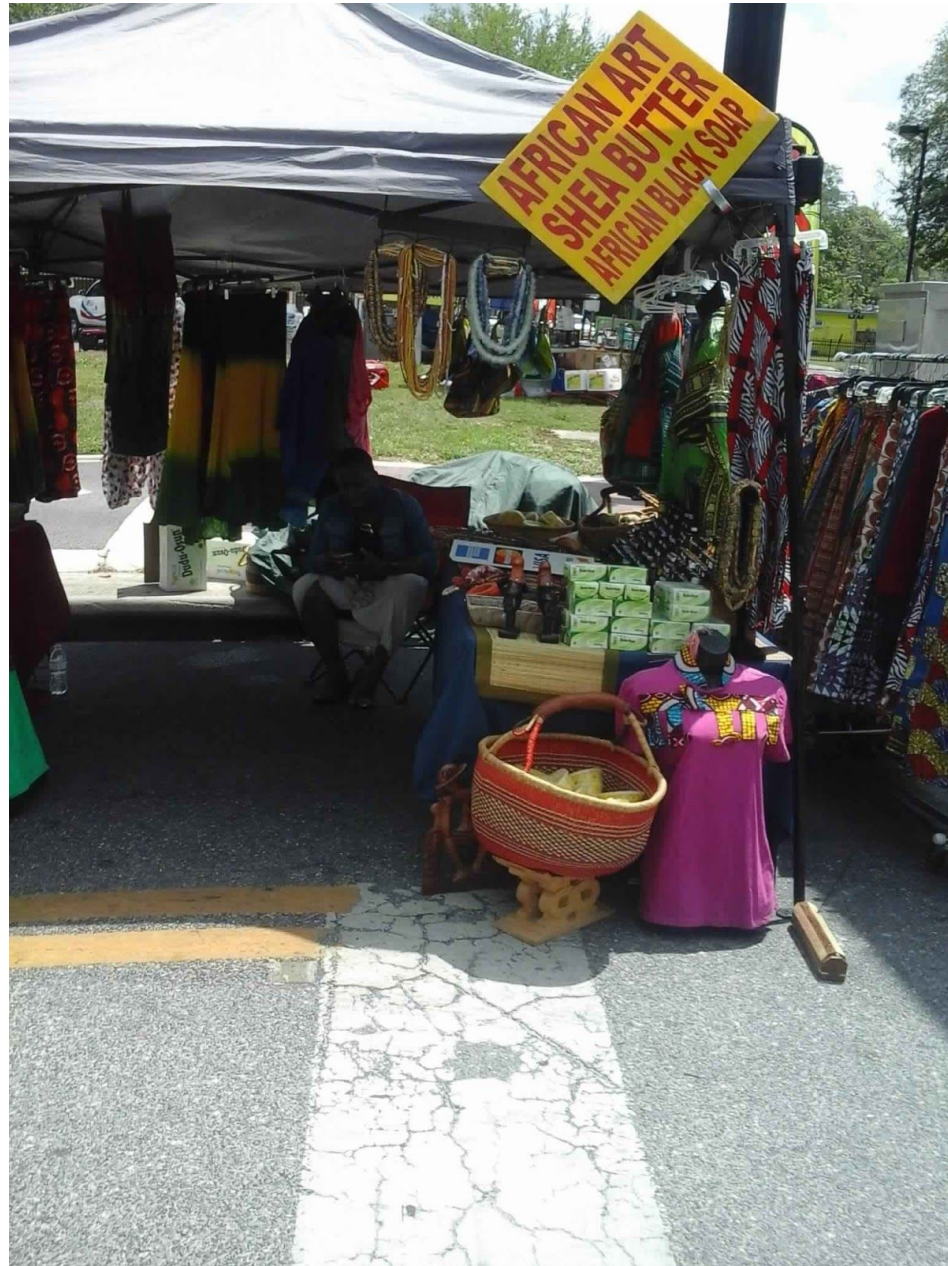




## **38<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival**

The 5th Ave Arts Festival saw an increase in vendor participation. Our stage performances was all day Sat and Sunday. Our Children's area grew with the addition of St Leo games and activities along with a Science activities by XXXXX

Sponsors for this year's Festival were: City of Gainesville Cultural Affairs, City of Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency, Saint Leo University, Fine Farkash & Parlapiano, Santa Fe College, UF Health, Florida Credit Union, Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi and Gainesville Regional Utilities







### **The Environmental Ambassadors**

The Environmental Ambassadors had a very busy schedule this summer. They started with a historical tour of the 5th Ave Pleasant St neighborhood. They met and talked to a resident who was born in the neighborhood and had an uncle who was a doctor during segregation. Her father had started the first taxi service in the community.

They went on to look at water protection and conservation. They toured Murphree water treatment plant and the NE Main Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. During food week they toured Ifas, Alvin Butler Cattle Farm and grocery stores in East and West Gainesville comparing the quality of food being sold.

During Energy week they did a solar energy tour. They also did 2 special projects with Gainesville Regional Utilities. They distributed info in a neighborhood promoting a program (LEEP, Low income energy efficient Program) to help residents reduce their utility bills. Ambassadors also participated in an exercise where a slogan for the program was created. The slogan will be "If your utility bill won't let you sleep, Call GRU for LEEP".



Gainesville's Mayor Poe, Archer Mayor Harris and Chair Ken Cornell of Alachua County Board of Commission took time to talk to the Ambassadors about their plans to protect our natural resources for their generation.



## Wilhelmina Johnson Center



The Wilhelmina Johnson Center has definitely seen an increase in its usage over the year. We have continued to host special events like baby showers, family reunions, birthday parties, and holiday events.

Organizations ie: BASE, NAACP, Entrepreneurship classes, and Sisters Helping Sister have met regularly. Dance, Karate and other weekly classes met throughout the year.

## Funders

Alachua County CAPP

Mike & Leslie May

Lydia B. Stokes Foundation

City of Gainesville Cultural Affairs

Florida Defenders of the Environment

Lon Krueger

Please visit our website at [culturalartscoalition.org](http://culturalartscoalition.org)

Call us at 352-372-0216