



# CULTURAL ARTS COALITION

## *Annual Report 2020/2021*

### Science Clubs

Even though Covid was alive and well, CAC served 6 clubs during 2020/21 school year. Club sites included Greater Duval Neighborhood Association, Oak Park Village, Caring and Sharing (3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade), and Pine Ridge.

Due to Covid, all club meetings were conducted outside with mask, practicing social distancing and sanitizing materials chairs and tables after each meeting. No staff or volunteers contracted the virus while providing exceptional science experiences for the students.

Students at Caring and Sharing got to participate in a space project with JP Aerospace. They put objects into ping pong balls and the balls were launched into outer space to see how the objects would be affected by the atmosphere.

Our Science Bus initially rolled out in April visiting the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where kids got to experience the science bus and we participated in Planting a tree.

Since then, the bus has also visited SW Food Park, Kids Count and Alachua Community Center. We thank the hundreds of students who have visited our bus, the artists who painted the bus and the volunteers who helped create the science stations on the bus.



### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival was held virtually on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. vendors from not just local but also Australia, Nigeria, Canada. New York, Texas, Georgia and Arizona and California. We were able to create Festival paraphernalia as tee shirts, hats and face mask. Also due to working virtually, the event with performers and vendors were online for an entire week. Plans are underway for 2022 Festival dates are April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.



## Environmental Ambassadors



The Environmental Ambassadors met from July 6<sup>th</sup> thru Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 7 high school students: Wrex Loudor, Audrey Mosley, Kalise King, Arielle Livingston, Jay'Marlon Wilson, Sydnee Stocker, and Ivandro Alvira.

They toured local farms, springs, kayaked in the Matanzas River, visited Butler beach, and took a boat tour of Silver River. They got a behind the scenes look at Laveda Brown Transfer Center, and UF's Journalism program. During their energy week, they received a special tour of a solar



farm that contained over 350,000 solar panels, and a home right here in Gainesville

that's being powered by solar. They also volunteered at Repurpose Project to really understand how much we can reuse and reduce energy simultaneously. They took a Thrift Store tour to look at places to take reusable items. They



learned the (black) history and of the area that is now Gainesville's Depot Park, and how the land was contaminated, then treated to become what it is now.





## **Wilhelmina Johnson Center Summer Programs**

This summer, Black Girls Club was held at the Wilhelmina Johnson Center. Girls from the age of 8 to 18 met with volunteers for dance, poetry, history, cultural enrichment and self esteem. CAC sponsored a fieldtrip to Santa Fe Zoo and the culminating event was held at the Thomas Center.

## **Youth Discussion on Violence in Gainesville/Alachua County**

As a result of the increase in youth violence in Gainesville, Cultural Arts Coalition hosted a discussion with youth about gang violence at Wilhelmina Johnson Center. Students attributed the violence to: lack of youth activities and lack of mentors for youth; easy access to weapons; and adults not listening to youth. A couple of these young people were featured on NAACP Radio talk show to discuss how they are feeling as youth in Gainesville. Students have also been invited by Alachua County Board of County Commission to address teen violence.

## **Youth Environmental Youth Summit**

More than 30 teenagers gathered at Wilhelmina to discuss Environmental issues of their concern. Topics varied from air pollution, water contamination, clean-energy alternatives, bio-mass, climate change, animal maltreatment, and so many others. Participants broke into small groups to come up with activities and solutions they could create and become involved with to make the environment safer. These ideas were introduced to Commissioner Arreola who is with the City of Gainesville.



## Program Sponsorships

NAACP's Alachua Countywide Discussion on moving towards 100% clean energy. The topics of discussion are clean energy, weatherization, food systems, and equity.



NAACP ALACHUA COUNTY

### Transitioning to 100% Clean Energy

A Countywide Discussion

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25  
9:00-1:00 PM ET

Bring your favorite Lunch!

Register:  
<https://tinyurl.com/CleanEnergyAlachua>

Topics of Discussion  
PARTNERS

Clean Energy, Weatherization, Food Systems, and Equity

**Speakers:**  
**Denise Abdul-Rahman**  
Field Organizer, NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice  
**Marianne Schmink**  
Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC)  
**John H Nix**  
NAACP Alachua FCJ  
**Ennis Leon Jacobs, Jr., Esq.**  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

**Moderator:**  
**Jacques Werfelgh**  
Florida Field Organizer, NAACP FCJ  
The event is free, donations: [naacpdcjgm@gmail.com](mailto:naacpdcjgm@gmail.com)



## Earth Day

Cultural Arts Coalition sponsored Earth Day at Caring and Sharing Learning school. All students participated. They sang, danced, and a couple of them made a speech about how important it is to take care of the environment.

Teachers gave speeches to encourage their students and attendees of this event the value of preserving the earth. Alachua County Conservation Trust provided trees that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class planted.

### Staff:

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