

# Cultural Arts Coalition, Inc

## 2022/2023

# Annual Report



**Students are given books about science topics as they leave the Science Bus**

## Science Clubs



CAC Science Program went very well for the 2022/2023 school year. We served six Science Clubs in Gainesville, including Caring and Sharing Learning School, Cone Park Library, Resilience Charter School, George Washington Carver, and Pineridge community. Some of the places our Science Bus visited, with its interactive stations, were the SWAG community, Santa Barbara Leadership Institute, Carolyn Beatrice Parker Elementary

School, and the Santa Fe College IPS Center. Our volunteers included The Florida Museum of Natural History, Natural Resources Diversity Initiative, Hands On Gainesville, UF Neurology, Dream Team Engineering, and UF Wildlife Society.

## Earth Day



Earth Day Celebration was hosted at Caring and Sharing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year with all grades attending. Students at Caring and Sharing once again stepped up to emcee the event performances of poetry, dance and music, along with special remarks by Anna Prizzia, the Alachua County Commission Chair. A special Essay Contest had two winners - their theme was "Invest In Our Planet." Trees were donated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year by Alachua County Conservation Trust and planted by the students.

Special guests included Chair Anna Prizzia, CAC's Board Chair Yvette Clarke, and Sister Ayoka and Papa Ni leading the invocation.

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival



This year's event was held April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> At Santa Fe's Downtown Blount Hall. Vendors included food, clothing, jewelry, books, art and lots of information. The kids had fun in the two bounce houses on site, along with facepainting and arts and crafts.

The Festival kicked off with the Opening Reception on April 28th at the A Quinn Jones Auditorium. Poets, dancers and singers entertained the 80 plus attendees. The event was sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta sorority (since 1990) and Omega Psi Phi fraternity (since 1998).

During the Opening Reception, Caleb Thomas was awarded the Patricia Hilliard Nunn Cultural Ambassador Award.

Special tribute was given in memory of Lavern Porter and Patricia Hilliard Nunn.

Festival sponsors were: City of Gainesville Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Shands, Donnelly and Gross Attorneys at Law; UF Center for Arts Migration and Entrepreneurship; SPARC 352; Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi.



## Environmental Ambassadors



The Environmental Ambassadors program began June 27<sup>th</sup> and ended July 28<sup>th</sup>. The program served 10 students ranging from 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Topics covered were energy, water, food and climate change. Tours included a cattle farm, an organic vegetable farm, the biomass energy plant, solar tours, Leveda Brown Transfer Center, UF College of Journalism, Silver River tour, and a creeks tour.

One example of a food desert tour was in assessing the number of grocery stores in the Millhopper community and Butler area on SW 34<sup>th</sup> and in all of East Gainesville (east of Waldo Road). There was only one. Ambassadors also got to talk to managers and staff about how much of their products are produced locally. Wards had had the most while some of the products in other stores were shipped from other countries. Ambassadors were asked to look at this as an energy issue.

The Ambassadors visited two universities - Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU) and Bethune Cookman University (BCU). At FAMU they met with staff, professors, and representatives from the School of the Environment. There was quite a bit of interest from the Ambassadors in FAMU itself and the Environmental School.

The Youth Climate Summit was held at the Blount Hall and was attended by more than 80 individuals. The Ambassadors took care of 95% of the responsibilities of the Climate Summit including registration, MCing, Speakers, small group leaders, lunch and again the performance. Youth representatives from Caring and Sharing

Greater Duval Summer Sling Program, Young Leaders for Wild Florida and the Green Team from Jacksonville.



**CAC's Youth Anti-Violence Dramatic Dance Presentation:**  
<https://youtu.be/o1LUmSiMEJU?si=q1JYOR6NoSLLm1iz>

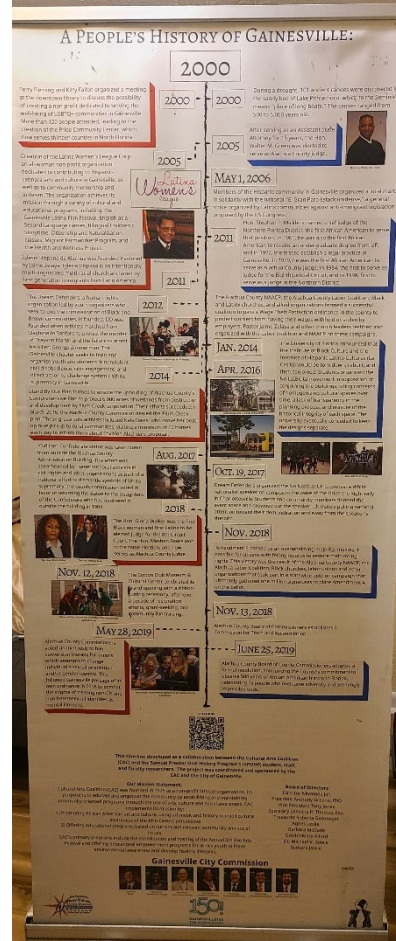
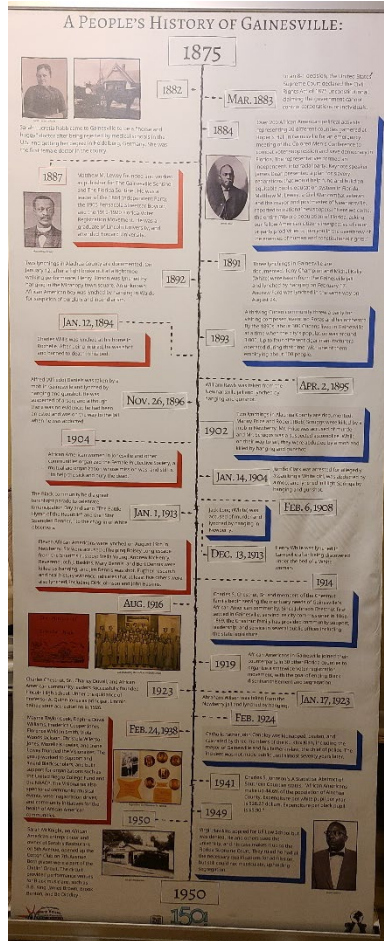
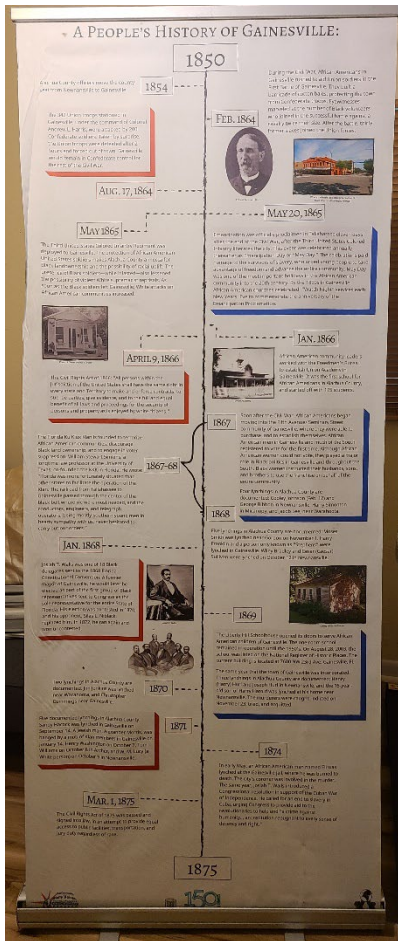
### **CAC Youth Council**

The Youth Council met during the school year bi-monthly. Activities included Game Day at a Game room after which they coordinated a game day at Wilhelmina Johnson Center with food and prizes. Five of the students from the Council became Environmental Ambassadors.



# Alachua County Black History Exhibit

We shared our Black History exhibit with Caring and Sharing, Hawthorne High School, Lincoln Middle School summer program, Kwanzaa celebrations at the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center and at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts Festival. This exhibit was created by Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and chronicles Black history, including the Native Americans, during the 1800s.



## Climate Summit



CAC sponsored our Climate Summit, along co-sponsors Alachua County NAACP and United Church of Gainesville. The event was held at United Church of Gainesville with keynote speaker Jacqui Patterson from the Shirley Chisholm Legacy Project.

More than 200 people attended, 20 organizations tabled and topics covered during breakout sessions were water, food, energy and health. Each session was led by a Mayor of a local city: Jordan Marlowe, Newberry; Jacqueline Randall, Hawthorne; Jiana Williams, Micanopy; Harvey Ward, Gainesville. Alachua County Climate Advisory Committee and Alachua County Environmental Protection Dept presented the Climate Change Vulnerability Study. It was a 95% Zero Waste event.

## Wilhelmina Johnson Center



CAC has been the manager of WJC for more than 35 years. For the first time since we began, the City of Gainesville recommended cutting the funding. Members of the community, along with the Director of CAC, sent emails and made phone calls to City Commissioners. The result was to secure funding for the year. We may need to lobby again next year because, as of now, there are no plans to continue funding beyond 2023/2024.

Programs and activities this year occurring at WJC have included dance classes, workshops, and special events: Lavern Porter Tribute Dancers, Xtreme Christian

Hip Hop, Ministries of Expressive Song and Dance, Three Rivers Legal Services, Science Club meeting, Youth Advisory Council, Environmental Ambassadors, Working Foods, Black Farmers Association, birthdays and other social events.

### **Cultural Arts Coalition**

#### **Board of Directors**

Yvette Clarke President  
Roberta Gastmeyer Treasurer  
Barbara McDade  
Latora Desue  
Ketura Acevedo  
Alishia McDonald

#### **Staff**

NKwanda Jah (Executive Director)  
Marvin Wilson (Science Program coordinator)  
Blessing McKinney (Executive Assistant)  
Carol Mosley (Bookkeeper)  
Cynthia Montgomery (Transportation)  
Vernica Haynes (Transportation)

### **Special Thanks**

Mike and Leslie May (our condolences to Leslie May for the loss of her husband Mike May); Lydia B Stokes Foundation; Dafydd Jones