

# Cultural Arts Coalition

## 2024-25 Annual Report



### Science Program

During the School term we served more than 120 children at 5 sites. Those sites included Caring and Sharing Learning School, Wilhelmina Johnson Center, St Barbara Leadership Institute, Resilience Charter School, and Passage Christian Academy. Our volunteers came from the University of Fla, Santa Fe College, retired teachers, and groups who wanted to share a science activity.

Working Food continued to work with the George Washington Carver Club learning chemistry, biology, entomology and food sciences in the garden. They prepared delicious meals using ingredients from the garden, pickled cucumbers, and studied the growth and population of worms from their 4-

year-old compost bin. They visited Grow Hub where they created art using natural colors made from plants. They also visited Nicoya Farm and UF's Field & Fork garden.

George Washington Carver Science Club had an end of the year sleepover at The Drury, a local hotel. Snacks were donated and we had a parent who joined us.

Marvin Wilson, our Science Program Director, continues to build relationships with site staff as well as our volunteers.

These volunteers are retired educators, college students and individuals who have a passion for science and want to share with our children.



### **Mike May Internship Program**

This was our second school term providing teens with paid internships. We had 6 interns who placed at 7 sites we consider Green Job sites. These sites included Alachua County Environmental Protection, Community Weatherization, Florida Museum of Natural History, Nicoya Farm, Alachua County Solid Waste, Reuse Planet and Cultural Arts Coalition Science Club. The students were enrolled in Eastside High, Gainesville High, and Bucholtz.

### **Sister City**

This year we worked with Gainesville Sister City in Ho, Ghana. We helped to provide 30 desk sets and sponsored for the second year an Earth Day Essay Contest. The school was Mawaku Girls High School and our winners were Georgina Obodai, Edinam Vorsah, and Angela Adzornu.

CAC is one of the organizations representing the Gainesville-Ho Sister City Program. A delegation from Gainesville visited Ho and the Mayor at that time along with his staff.

A new Mayor Honorable Stephen Adom has been sworn in as Ho Mayor. We met with him and his staff via zoom and he is presently reviewing our MOU that was agreed upon with the previous Mayor to make any changes he would recommend.

Dr. Broadie, Santa Fe College President has agreed to reach out to the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho to begin developing a relationship with the school.

### **Science Bus**

Our Science bus visited not only schools and events in Gainesville but we also were able to take the bus to Hawthorne, Archer, Micanopy, Newberry, High Springs, Alachua, Waldo and Bradford County hosting more than 250 children in these surrounding municipalities.

Each student received a book after touring the Science Bus. We incorporated games and prizes into our bus visits.



## Matthew Lewey Intergenerational Celebration

More than 100 people attended a tribute to Matthew Lewey at the Thomas Center during Black History Month. CAC was a sponsor. There were educators, religious representatives, labor, a judge, lawyers, a postmaster, newspaper reporters as well as a good representation from UF College of Journalism, and others.

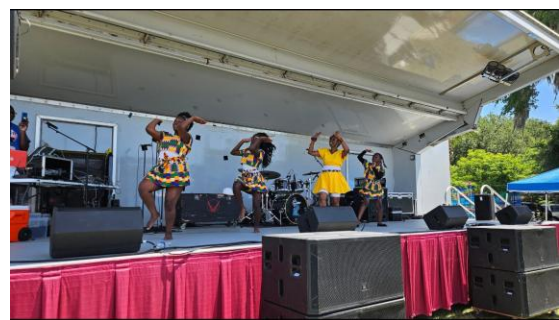


## 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival

This was our 45<sup>th</sup> year of presenting the Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festival. The Festival again was lead by Courtney Scott. We recognized Barry McCloud for his unwavering contributions to music and film, Angela Terrell for her long time and continued work with our youth and Wanda Lloyd founder of Smooth Flava. Our Festival was held again at Santa Fe College Blount Hall.



We want to make space here to say that since the Festival we lost one of our giants in the local and national artists world, Alyne Harris. Alyne has been in more than forty 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Arts Festivals, we will miss her and always hold her up. CAC gave a proclamation that was read at the services and sent flowers. NKwanda visited and took her flowers a week before her passing.





## Environmental Ambassadors

The Environmental Ambassadors program was funded by donations this year due to funding loss of Children's Trust. Ambassadors were able to tour one of our springs, went kayaking in Matanzas River, toured FAMU and visited Nix and Butler

Farms, had a solar tour, and toured a food desert. Thanks Mr Terrell Jenkins with Santa Fe ACHIEVE program for sitting down with our Ambassadors and explaining how to prepare for college.



## Empower Coalition

As a partner of the EMPOWER Coalition, we have been able to help 5 homeowners make needed repairs to their homes. The neighborhoods that are involved are Duval, Sugarhill/Springhill and the SWAG communities. CAC received a grant to assist these neighborhoods with Community Engagement events.

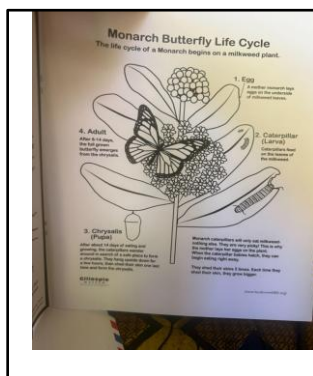
After more than 15 years of use our 2001 van was no longer serviceable, CAC was able to purchase a van. When we are transporting our children, we always want to have reliable transportation. With the help of Community Foundation and a couple donations, this was made possible. The van serves our Science clubs, our Mike May Internship Program and the Environmental Ambassadors.



## **Black Children Book Week,**

CAC partnered with Lynx for a special event at the bookstore with members of George Washington Carver Science Club.

Donations made it possible for each club member to buy 2 books each. Destiny Henderson, a young Black female author, met with our students.



## **Coloring Books**

CAC created a coloring book of pollinators in an effort to help teach the importance of our pollinators. Melissa Desa selected the graphics for our coloring book.

## **Special Thanks to:**

Jeanne Galligan

Lydia B Stokes Foundation

Leslie May

Dafydd Jones

Richard and Susan Allen

Cynthia Gainey

Dotty Failsby

Jackie Davis

Community Foundation of North Central Florida

Allegany Franciscan Ministry

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